

### Don't Make Room For The Devil

The past 2 Sundays I have been talking to you about the metaphor, "Jesus is the bread of life". In this final sermon on the subject I want us to consider how we can fill ourselves up on the bread of life so there is no room in hearts for the devil and sin.

How many of you have been to the Olive Garden Restaurant, or the Red Lobster, or Ryan's Steakhouse. In each of those places they offer you free bread in some form. The garlic bread sticks at Olive Garden, the cheddar bay biscuits at Red Lobster, and the homemade rolls at Ryan's are all mouthwatering, tempting, can't get enough of them good, if you know what I mean. That's the kind of full that I'm talking about when I say that we should fill ourselves up on the bread of life so that there isn't room in our hearts for the devil.

You see if we are Christians and our lives are full of Christ, then we when choose to do something that is of the devil such as steal, lie, commit adultery, or give into lust, then we must make room for that in our hearts. We do that by reducing the presence of Christ in our minds. We push him aside, or take him out of our bodies and store him in our prayer closet. In a sense we say to Christ, "Hey I'm just going to set you aside for a moment until I'm done with this sin. Then I'll take you back into my heart and you can forgive me, Okay?" We are not actually making this conscious choice but that's the dynamic that must occur in order for us to sin. Now Satan sees this and grabs this opportunity to fill that space where Christ just was. Because as it says in I Peter 5:8 your enemy the devil prowls about like a roaring and ravenous lion looking for someone to devour. He looks for any opening, any weakness

and suddenly, BAM! You don't have room for Christ in your life.

Look at Eph 4:25-5:1

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands that he may have something to share with those in need. 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. CHAPTER 5 1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children (NIV)

Here Paul has described in these few verses exactly what I am talking about. He said it 2000 years ago but the principle is just as true today. If you are full of Christ, the bread of life, then you won't have room in your life for sin. Now you may say our society has changed and what was a sin back then is no longer a sin. I have to answer really. Do you really believe that? Or isn't it just that Satan has a stranglehold on this society and in his cleverly scheming and deceitful way has turned our society into one that thinks some sins are now okay? Satan is so slick and oily with his temptations and his words that it doesn't take long for him to make sin seem as attractive

as a bright shiny red delicious apple hanging on the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. His tools are more sophisticated today than in the past. Today Satan has access to movies and television, the internet and other forms of digital technology. None of these in themselves is sinful, but in the hands of a sinner these devices become floodgates of pure evil.

We think somehow we know better than God. We think somehow we are more righteous than God that we can cohabit with evil and not be effected by it. When we think that way we are thinking just like Satan the Devil.

So remember the words of Jesus in  
John 6:53-57

53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.  
(NIV)

Get your fill of Jesus. Believe in him with such vigor that there is no room in your life for anything but that which glorifies God. If you do then there won't be any room in your life for the devil.