

## The Reason

There are many reasons for many things, but 1,000 years from now only one thing will matter, "Am I sitting the smoking section or the non-smoking section?" I'm not trying to be glib, but honest. Jesus said, "**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**" (Matthew 16:26)

**The reason** Jesus came to earth was to "seek and save that which was lost" – us! (Luke 19:10) Most people don't *feel* very lost, but that is immaterial. Most people don't feel very *lacking*, but that is also immaterial. Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote, "'There is none righteous, not even one," (Romans 3:10). Likewise in Romans 3:23, "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Several times in scripture God gives us a reality check in the form of a sin list. Galatians 5:19, 20 is one example. In that list we see ourselves,  
Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you...."

That's bad enough, but notice the *outcome*:

"that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:21)

Sonship and inheritance are predicated on salvation – forgiveness of all those things we *all* have done which might otherwise keep us out of the kingdom.

Now we see the real reason Jesus came full of grace and truth (John 1:14). We see the real reason He came to seek and save that which was lost. *So that we might inherit the kingdom of God!*

It's as if someone asked Jesus, "How much do you love me?" And Jesus spread out His arms and said, "This much" – and died on the cross so we can live with Him forever. In that one act Jesus is telling us, "I love you so much I'd rather die than live without you." The one question left is, "Do you love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength?"

-Ray Wallace