Playing “King’s X”

As we walk through life a constant and nagging question keeps raising its ugly head, “Why do so many people do what they know is wrong?” It’s not merely a problem of the worldly heart; it’s the bane of the Christian also.

We see the problem of king David’s tryst with Bathsheba. We see it in Paul’s plaintiff cry in Romans 7. And we see it in ourselves. Like Paul, we struggle with the knowledge that the very thing we want to do goes undone; and the very thing we don’t want to do keeps sneaking back into life. (Romans 7 – read it all.)

The reasons are legion. For king David, the core problem was lust. For Peter it was fear (when that he denied he knew Jesus). For Diotrephes it was the love of attention (3 John). For Demerius the silversmith it was love of the money made from selling idols (Acts 19:24ff). For Jonah it was his hatred for another race of people (the Ninevites).

The mind ***not*** focused on Jesus seeks ways to play “King’s X.” Remember the childhood plan to suspend the rules temporarily? You are playing “tag,” and you need to go the bathroom, so you yell, “King’s X”! Magically, the rules are suspended until you return. You get the picture.

Then comes the adult version. You are playing life by God’s rules, but suddenly you feel a temptation that ***seems*** too strong to resist. You know better, but you allow your heart to yell, “King’s X” and think you have temporarily suspended God’s rules.

The sin doesn’t ***seem*** to be all that bad. The slight bending of God’s rules just doesn’t feel all that serious. The last few times you did, you didn’t see any really bad consequences. So, the “King’s X” ploy starts to become a regular part of life.

Scripture to the rescue! Here’s an idea. Eyebrow pencil. (Yes, eyebrow pencil!)
It’s my modern version of writing God’s words on the doorpost. The modern application is this: with a cheap eyebrow pencil, write on your bathroom mirror, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap,” Galatians 6:7.

Every morning when you get ready to start your day, there is God’s word (the real power – Romans 1:16) strengthening you to face the day with no “King’s Xs”!

Get real. Grow deep. Face the face in the mirror. Seek the Face on the cross.

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