

“It’s Nothing Until I Call It”

Bill Klem, one of baseball’s greatest umpires, said after being shown a photo of a blown call, "Gentleman, he was out because I said he was out." Perhaps one of his most famous sayings was, “It ain’t nothing until I call it.” In the game of baseball, umpires have the luxury of determining whether a player is out or safe. He, and he alone, determines what is a strike or a ball.

Unfortunately, people have developed the idea that sin is not sin unless that is what it is called. This concept was aired on a network television morning show a few years ago. The topic being discussed concerned teen-age pregnancy. The concern was not over the sexual permissiveness of teenagers, but that teens should be educated on how to prevent pregnancy. One of the panelist suggested that, “Responsible sex among teens was abstinence.” I thought if these people are serious about this matter, this would be a great idea on which to elaborate. However, a psychologist on the panel said, “Some people think it (premarital sex) is wrong”. In other words, sin only becomes sin if we say it is sin.

Sin is a Bible subject. God determined what sin was and revealed it to us in His Word. The apostle John recorded, “Every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4). The Bible says if we sin, we break God’s law. God has spoken concerning sin and its consequences. “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties, envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21). Jesus said, “Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

The Bible is true. Men may say, “I don’t believe it”, but whether we believe it or not, does not in any way change the truthfulness of God’s word. Truth is not dependant upon our reception of it.

Umpires have the right to determine a ball or strike, but when it comes to the sin question, God makes the call.

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