Generally Against Sin

Some of you may be aware that David Elrod and I preach one Sunday a month at the Noah congregation. I have the first Sunday and David has the second Sunday, and in his concern that we might preach on the same topic two Sundays in a row, he used to ask me what I had preached on. And since I can pass up no chance to aggravate him, I would reply, 'Sin!' And having satisfied his curiosity, I would add, 'And I was generally against it!'

It sounds really ridiculous to hear a preacher say that he is only generally against sin. But don't we all act this way from time to time? How many of us are in total agreement with God's laws? I want to take a survey sometime of people's answer to the question: 'If given the chance, what one commandment would you change?' In the early days of printing the word 'not' was left out of one of the ten commandments. That edition sold like hotcakes; I'll leave it to you to figure out which commandment it was.

I don't want to sound condemning, for I am certainly in the same boat. But as we grow in the faith, we must grow in our agreement that the Goodness that God represents and attempts to instill in us through his laws is perfect. Can we look at God and his Goodness as we might an object of art and say, 'Perfect!'? Can we not recognize that all that God has asked us to do and be is part of one whole?

We look at the example of David, a man whom God said was after his own heart, and we might look at what he had to say. In Psalms 119 we find a great tribute to the Goodness of God's Law. In verse 97 we read, 'Oh, how I love thy law!'. And in verses 104 and 128 he says, 'I hate every false way!'. How do we stand? Are we only generally against sin?

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