

The Correspondent



SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsvillecoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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It Doesn't Say Not To - Renn Ferguson

Since the dawn of time men have made excuses as to why they did not obey the Lord (Genesis 3). Some make the excuse of “well, God didn’t say not to”. Sometimes we use the silence of scripture as an excuse to do whatever we want. However, is that excuse going to be accepted by God? Let’s look at an Old Testament example and try to learn from it. Leviticus 10:1-2 is the passage at which we will look. Here it is recorded, “Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.”

The first thing that needs to be brought out is the sin of Nadab and Abihu. Their sin, as stated in the verse, was offering strange fire before God. In Leviticus 16:12-13 we see what type of fire God had commanded them to use. Nadab and Abihu as it says, offered strange fire. This simply means a fire that was not from the proper place. In giving them this commandment God only gave them the authority to take the fire from one place. God did not have to sit there and tell them to not get it from a camp fire, or a cooking fire, or any other place one might find fire. He told them where to get it and that rules out any other imaginable option. When we study this example we see the obvious error of these two men but many fail to apply the same concept to themselves.

This truth is no different today. Just as God commanded Nadab and Abihu to use a certain fire for the burning of incense He has commanded us to sing. Ephesians 5:19 states, “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.” Paul writes something very similar in the book of Colossians “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16). God has very explicitly commanded us to sing, just as He explicitly commanded the priests to use fire from the altar for burning incense. We see Nadab and Abihu, taking the Lord’s silence to mean that they could do what they wanted. Many do the same today.

Our God does not have to list every single activity on this earth that is sinful. “It doesn’t say not to” is not an acceptable excuse. He has told us what He expects and what He authorizes in our lives and in worship. Let us not take liberties where there are none, but do the things that God has given us authority to do, nothing more, and nothing less.