

What Part of the Bible Are You Ignoring?

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We have so many rationalizations and excuses for overlooking and ignoring commands from God's word. Sometimes it is not easy to make sense of Scripture. Parts of it seem downright weird or even horrific. The story of Judah and Tamar, God's interaction with Hosea and Gomer, and any story using the phrase "*devoted to destruction*" come to mind. They are the stories you don't see in children's Bible story books, or if they are included it is with some serious sanitation and airbrushing. Those passages get ignored because they gross us out or break our fragile understanding of God.

But there are other portions of Scripture we ignore in an entirely different way — commands that are uncomfortable or seemingly impossible to follow. It is so easy to willfully overlook them; much easier than learning how to reconcile them to our life and God's reality.

To name some: "Love your enemies." "Forgive 70x7 times" (that means ALL of the time). "Bless those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you." "Honor you father and mother." "Children, obey your parents." "Give to any who ask of you." "Lay down your life and follow me." "Husbands, love your wife as Christ loves the church." "Do not covet." "Serve God, not money." "Do not commit adultery" (which includes willfully lusting). "Consider others before yourself." "Judge not lest you be judged." "Take up your cross and follow me." And so on.

We have so many rationalizations and excuses for overlooking and ignoring such commands. So often, our mindset is that of a transaction: Every disobeyed or ignored command is a debt owed, and we simply can't pay them all back. We're in over our heads, and it feels impossible to face our wrongs and admit them.

But we must, and it's good and freeing when we do because we are not settling accounts with God; we are being restored in relationship. God's grace and forgiveness far surpass our willful ignoring of His commands (that's in the Bible too, don't forget). His grace is so great that the debt we do owe was paid already so that we can be free to come to Him for forgiveness, as children.

So be brave and ask yourself, "*What parts of the Bible do I ignore?*" Then trust God's grace for understanding and forgiveness as you would trust a good father, a perfect father. He gave us Scripture to show us as much of Himself as we can handle. It is for our good, our peace, even if we can't riddle it all out. We can trust the parts that tell us of His mercy, goodness, sovereignty and forgiveness. We can rest in the parts that tell us of redemption at the cross and the coming of a perfect helper to teach and grow us (the Holy Spirit). When we rest in these parts of Scripture, we will begin to improve at all those hard commands and come to terms with those tricky parts.