

Allergic To Sin?

by Wayne Goff

Apparently my grandson, Gabe, is allergic to quite a few things blooming just now. He came in the church building recently with a swollen eye and had a hard time seeing. His grandmother began to worry and fret, but Gabe just shrugged it off and said, "It's allergies, grandma!" My brother was allergic to a lot of things growing up: grass, dog hair, cat hair, horse hair, etc. I think the doctors identified 36 different allergies which he had before he gave up looking. Basically, David could either stay in the house in plastic wrap, or just deal with it. Today they have a few more medicines to treat the symptoms, but it's still kind of miserable. All of this got me to thinking: "What if man were allergic to sin?" For example, every time you told a lie, your tongue would swell up. Every time you gave somebody a dirty look, your eye would water and swell. Every time you said some bad word, your lips would blow up like a balloon! Do you think people would learn to quit sinning? I don't think so. They would just go to the doctor to try to find a cure! "Hey doc, what hab you got foa a swowen wip!?"

God made man a free moral agent. He gives him choices. Now that doesn't mean choices are without consequences. They are not. But God doesn't always punish immediately for our sins. He wants us to learn from them, repent of them, and stop doing them. But sometimes it takes us a long time to realize the vanity and emptiness that comes from a life of sin. The apostle Paul said, "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:27). God wants us to regulate our own lives because we agree with Him that it is the right thing to do.

Now in some cases, we are allergic to sin. Consider 1 Corinthians 6:18: "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he commits sexual immorality sins against his own body." Yes, there are physical consequences hovering around fornication -- kind of an allergy, if you will. Does that stop people from committing fornication? No sir, it does not. They just go to the doctor in the hopes of finding a cure. How sad.

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