

Romans 14:12: "So then each one of us will give account concerning himself to God."

I cannot count the number of times I hear people say to me, "I did not know that was a sin." I mean it literally amazes me how often I hear this. I not only hear it from people who I only meet while doing ministry, but also from close friends and family. It actually reminds me of a story.

Anyone who is around me for any period of time starts to get my excitement for BMX racing. One of my friends allowed his son to race with me and he was hooked! I still remember...it was about his third race. I get a call and he tells me his son was disqualified during one of the heats. Of course, not being there, I asked what had happened. He told me his son had impeded one of the riders going down the last straight in the rhythm section. Now, the ABA has a very strict rule about this and there is no compromise or protesting.

My friend, obviously not knowing of the rule, went to protest the ruling. He pleaded ignorance on behalf of his son as neither of them knew of this rule. My friend debated from every angle. He even debated the fact that this rule takes the racing out of racing. Yet it is for the safety of the riders; that is why the ABA is so strict on this ruling he was told. Then, he was finally told that it was his responsibility, and his son's, to know the rules.

Trust me when I say this, we have every, and I mean every, opportunity to know the rules of racing. First, we are given a rule book. Now most of us honestly have not read it. While the book is rather small it looks as if it is 10,000 pages. Second, we have rider's meetings each and every race where they verbally tell you the rules over a loud speaker. So if you can't read then you can listen so you have no excuses. And just for those who are thinking "what if you're deaf?" Well, we had a kid at our track that was deaf, a 16x, and some one came in and signed it for him. Trust me; they take the rules and you knowing them pretty seriously.

All of this made me think about coming judgement one day and how many of us may try to say "I just didn't know it was a sin to do that." It says we will have to give an account for our actions. I imagine that God will not just blow it off and say, "It's okay, you didn't know. You just didn't have the opportunity." As we are all aware, we have plenty of opportunity to know.

We have a "rule" book and it's called the Bible. And just as with the ABA's rule book, unfortunately, most of us haven't read it. We also have "riders meetings" as well. This is called fellowship. These are the times we get together and study the Word of God. It may be Sunday mornings, Wednesday, or any mid-week Bible study where we get together and enjoy learning about God.

One day we will all stand before God and have to give an answer for all of our actions. We will not be able to use the excuse "I didn't know." We have opportunity, so please take advantage of it. Start today by reading your Bible and learning the Word of God. Second, begin to fellowship and attend Bible studies and worship services as well so you can again learn more of God.

**Prayer;** *Father God please forgive us of our purposeful ignorance, our lack of desire to know you more and the unwillingness to grow a deeper relationship with you. Draw us close to you and help us to not only desire to know you more but to actually know you more relieving us of all of our ignorance about you. Thank you for being so kind and patient with us during this process, and help us to realize that each and every action matters and make us aware of them.*