

Are Some Sins Worse Than Others?

Psalm 19:12-13: (NASB) ¹²Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. ¹³Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me...



Let's start by stating the obvious. Sin is bad. To act in accordance with sin is to act in a way that is not only contrary to the will of God but is also damaging to our standing before God. It is obvious that if we want to be pleasing to God then we need to focus on managing our misdeeds. So, how do we do that? Are some transgressions worse than others? Can we find solace in the thought that "at least my sins are not as bad as that guy over there." What do we need to do

to rein in our misdoings and to continually clarify our conscience? Should our focus be on totally avoiding what we think are really big sins or on avoiding all of the little trespasses that never seem to quit?

Sin permeates into all parts of our lives. The good news on this difficult subject of sin and its many faces is that we are NOT left to struggle through figuring the whole thing out. Answers exist.

Romans 5:18: (NASB) So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to ALL men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to ALL men.

One transgression (Adam) put everybody into inherited sin. One act of righteousness (Jesus) put those same people into a position to be redeemed from sin.

Let's get the larger context of our theme text in order. This Psalm is about the works of God:

<u>Psalm 19:1</u>: (NASB) The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

<u>Verses 1-6</u> are about the bigness of God's creation and focus in on the earth.

<u>Verses 7-9</u> specify God's methods for dealing with His human family (we will touch on these verses soon.)

The next two verses reveal the profound value of God's methods for dealing with his human family:

<u>Psalm 19:10-11</u>: (NASB) ¹⁰They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

Here is the answer. God's methods are not only desirable, they are the necessary warnings and safeguards for a successful life in serving Him.

Theme text fully quoted:

Psalm 19:12-13: (ASV) ¹²Who can discern his errors? Clear <5352> thou me from hidden <5641> faults. ¹³Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous <2086> sins; Let them not have dominion over me: Then shall I be upright, and I shall be clear from great transgression.



There are five important points in those two verses:

- 1. We cannot figure all of this out on our own.
- 2. Some of our sins are hidden.
- 3. Some of our sins are presumptuous.
- 4. They can easily gain dominance in our lives. We need to be careful.
- 5. All sins are certainly NOT THE SAME. Some are internal, and some are external.

In this series of audio clips, the speaker makes arguments that the "sins" he speaks about are not really our fault.

)) Pride, The Seven Deadly Sins, The School of Life

• Pride. It can appear as if we end up boasting and grandstanding because we are so pleased with ourselves. Far from it. Boasting is only ever a response to a feeling of invisibility. We badly need to thrust forward our own importance because behind the scenes our very right to exist seems so much in question. We see it as almost inevitable that others will think ill of us unless we urgently and dramatically assert our greatness. That is why, of all people, the proud don't need to be told they are terrible; this is precisely what they secretly think they are already. They need encouragement to feel a more genuine pride in their own merits than to be spared the manic impulse constantly to call them to the attention of others.

There could be circumstances where someone is compensating for feeling inferior, but what about people who are proud because they have legitimately accomplished something great and it becomes overriding for everything else? That is the kind of pride to which the Scriptures refer.

We have "hidden" faults and we have "presumptuous sins."

Hidden (secret): Strongs #5641 to hide (by covering), literally or figuratively

It could be that we cannot see our hidden sins, or they are sins we are covering on purpose so no one else can see them.

Presumptuous: Strongs #2086 arrogant, proud, insolent, presumptuous



Our sins are revealed in either a personal and inward way or in a public and outward way.

Either way is a cause for action!

We are going to break sin down into categories. No matter which category we are dealing with, it is dangerous. All sin needs forgiveness, action, recognition and correction.



If sin is revealed inwardly or outwardly, how many ways do we end up expressing that revealed sin?

The different ways sin is revealed is just the beginning. Now we need to look at how we go about expressing the sin that is in us. Once we identify what it is we are doing we can get on with the business of managing the madness.



I have been studying the Scriptures since I was 26-years-old, but one of my biggest fears was bringing reproach to our heavenly Father. If I sinned outwardly, I would misrepresent Him. I realized there is no difference with inward sins because that still brings shame upon Him and me. I do not want to bring reproach to God.

That fear can help us stay out of trouble.

Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden, but it is forbidden because it is hurtful.

— Benjamin Franklin

Are there specific doorways sin uses to enter our minds and hearts, so it can be expressed? Yes:

1 John 2:15-17: (KJV) ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Even though there are many things in the world that are attractive and many things that are good, we are to love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.



In these three actions all sin is conceived, developed and expressed, but all sin need not to have all three.

Sin is either inward or outward and is expressed in three different ways. In any sin we look at there will be some type of combination.

Back in 600 AD a list was compiled of "seven deadly sins" as a tool to keep people in line. They are not specifically listed in the Bible with this title, but we will refer to them to add to our conversation.



Let's begin with one of those seven deadly sins.

(1) Envy, The Seven Deadly Sins, The School of Life

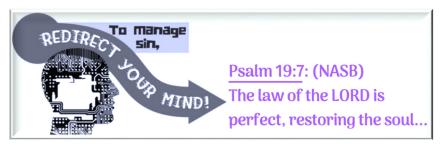
• Envy. Envy is a graceless way of confronting an idea that is, in other contexts, fundamental to decent ambition as well as modesty of character: the notion that we are incomplete, imperfect. Envy grows from the legitimate insight that others have something to teach us - mixed together with a degree of inaccuracy and panic about what this might actually be. Envy should, in a perfect world, be our teacher. We should note when it strikes us, sift through its confused signals and use them to work out our direction and purpose. The solution isn't to be made to feel guilty for our envious attacks. It is to be helped to understand what is truly missing from our lives.

He is saying, "If you are envious, that is a good thing," and he is giving us justification, which is wrong. Justified envy leads to jealousy. We do not want to justify things that are sinful.

The context of our theme text already gave us God's methods for dealing with our sins:

<u>Psalm 19:7-9</u>: (NASB) ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

We will examine these as tools for overcoming sin throughout the rest of the podcast.





Here is a difficult example of redirecting your mind: Jonathan and Rick both have experienced Alzheimer's disease with their dads. People with Alzheimer's get stuck in patterns of thinking and their world becomes very small. Their long-term memory is intact, and their short-term memory is not. They often focus on something from the past and cannot get it out of their head. One of the tools to help manage this is to redirect the patient with Alzheimer's Disease to think about something else. Sin is like Alzheimer's, it gets us stuck on things and we cannot get out. The answer is to "redirect."

The Law is God's overall proclamation for mankind for all ages and that is His Love and Justice:

<u>Romans 5:8-9</u>: (NASB) ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through him.

Jesus is the embodiment of the Law of God and therefore our sins can be given to him. This restores life both now (for God's chosen ones) and later for the rest of the world. The Law of God is perfect.



What is the importance of the blood of Jesus in relation to the Law of God? We are made right by his sacrifice. His blood is better than bleach. We have the robe of Christ's righteousness and when we sin, we put a spot on our robe. Jesus' blood whitewashes or bleaches it out when we ask for forgiveness.

Let's look at some different opinions on what the Bible says is the worst sin.

(1) Gossip, What Does the Bible Say is the Worst of All Abominations, Rick Renner

• Proverbs 6:16, where God talks about the seven abominations that He hates more than any other abomination. Listen to what He says, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a

lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." Now you may ask, "Of all of those abominations, which is the worst?" Well, the Bible says, God hates all of them. In fact, the Bible says, they are



all abominations. Here is the amazing thing, when you come to Proverbs, chapter 26 in verse 25, it says all seven abominations are in the heart of a gossip; which elevates gossip to the worst of all abominations.



<u>Matthew 5:29</u>: (NASB) If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell (Gehenna).

Jesus did not mean to literally tear your eye out. This is symbolic language and Jesus is saying we need to alter something about ourselves if what we *see* is going to cause us to sin.

What happens with these *sins* of the mind? They cause damage to us and cause us to move in the wrong direction. These sins of the mind are not visible to others.

How do we overcome? Who will know if we overcome?

<u>Hebrews 4:15-16</u>: (NASB) ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.



¹⁶Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus understands. It helps to talk to someone who knows what you are going through.



Prayer:

The foundation of God's Law for solving sin is Jesus' ransom.
The power of this ransom is available by way of prayer, especially for those who seek to follow Jesus.



We need to be specific with our prayer. "Lord, please forgive me for these wrong thoughts and help me to overcome them. Help me to replace them with goodness and righteousness."

How do we deal with sins that are more about actions and not just in our minds?

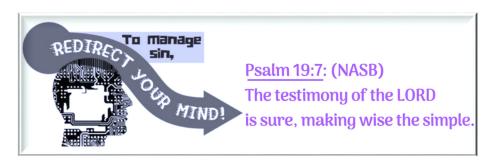
Managing the challenges of our thoughts is just the beginning of managing sin in the rest of our lives. The two points thus far about redirecting our minds and prayer are helpful but they are just an introduction, for the battle against misdeeds covers all aspects of our existence.



Sin is like ants. They are hard to get rid of. You set up a trap and they keep coming back. You need to redirect your mind.



My dad had Alzheimer's Disease and he passed away a few years ago. He would get upset over was his mom not being around (since she passed away). It would make him cry. He would always ask about her. Instead of answering the question about where she was, I would say, "Dad, did you read your morning devotional text for today?" Even before he would answer, I would say, "Let's read it." I would open the book and he would read it and get very excited. Sometimes two minutes later he would ask about his mom and start to get upset. I would say, "Dad, did you read your morning devotional text for today?" His eyes would get wide and sometimes we would literally repeat the same things three times in ten minutes. He needed to be redirected. Instead of crying, for the moment he had something to rejoice in.





When God gives witness to His ways, that witness is fact. These facts are always built upon the foundation of God's plan of love and justice.

God's testimony about this was and is clear:

<u>2 Peter 1:17-18</u>: (NASB) ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to him by the Majestic Glory, this is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased ¹⁸and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. (The vison on the Mount of Transfiguration.)

God testified and bore witness to Jesus as His son being the epitome of solving the problem of sin and death.

- (The Seven Deadly Sins, The School of Life Remember his thoughts are, "They may be sins, but they are not really our fault."
 - Wrath. The mean angry things we say when we're upset are almost never truly meant. They are the result of panic and anxiety. We call someone a stupid fool because we are, that moment, terrified. We shout because we feel we're fighting for our lives. Therefore, instead of being repeatedly told how appalling it is to be angry, we of course know this quite well already; what we need is someone to demonstrate a proper understanding of our underlying fears. "You must be scared," is the kindest but also the most effective response to any angry outburst; it puts its finger on what is really going on. We need others to appreciate our fragility, not berate us for our roars.

We do not agree. People get angry. It is not acceptable when we express emotion outside of personal discipline and allow the emotion to rule us instead of ruling the emotion.



<u>Matthew 5:30</u>: (NASB) ³⁰If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell (Gehenna).

Jesus is not saying, "Take a knife and cut your hand off." He is using dramatic symbolic language to get our attention.

These are more publicly discernible sins of action. What happens with this kind of sin and how do we overcome?

We are actually sinning, not just thinking about it:

<u>1 John 1:6-9</u>: (NASB) ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷but if we walk in the light...the blood of Jesus,



His son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John is saying, if we say we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness ...if we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves. If we say these things and do not do them, we are living a lie and being hypocritical. What do we do to manage that hypocritical activity?



Honesty and confession before God:

Admitting there are dark consequences of our sins and honestly confessing them. Forgiveness is available if we are willing to do what it takes to find it!

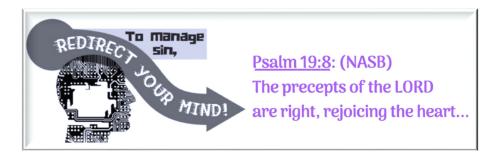
Seeking forgiveness is not just a quick general prayer at the end of the day. We need to confess our specific sins through prayer and sometimes testify outwardly to our brethren and request prayers and support to help overcome those sins. This gives us accountability.



So far, we have seen potential for inward sin of the eyes and an outward sin of the flesh - is one type of sin worse than the other?

Inward sin most often affects our self. Outward sin can affect ourselves and others. Sin in the New Testament means "to miss the mark." <u>Luke 6:45:</u> Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. The question is, "Where is your heart?" Are you willing to grow and fight the sin or is your heart saying, "Oh, that's just me!" That is such a devious statement because what you are saying is, "I say I am a Christian, but I am perfectly content to not act Christlike in certain circumstances because of where I come from."

We need to put up barriers to prevent us from temptations and our weaknesses. We must redirect our minds. Sometimes we can redirect our minds by doing something else.



Literally, the precepts (the appointed plans of God) are a cause to rejoice.

<u>Habakkuk 2:2-3</u>: (NASB) ²Then the LORD answered me and said, Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. ³For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.



Let's go to another opinion of the worst sin.

(1) Pride, What is the Worst Sin, Northridge Church

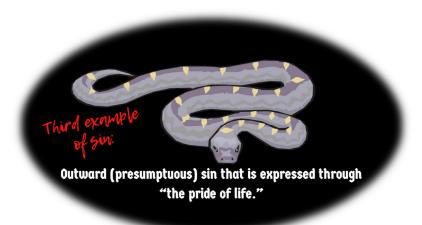
• You want to see the sins God hates? That first verse is a real verse. There are six things that God hates and seven are detestable to Him. Here's what they

are: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, false witness who pours out lies, and a person who stirs up conflict in the community. Pride, because that's what God hates more than anything. A proud look, haughty eyes - internal pride. And so often in a legalistic culture sexual sin is treated as



the worst sin, when the sin that God lists as the one He hates most is pride.

In one of the previous audio clips the opinion was gossip is the worst sin. This gentleman thinks pride is the worst sin.



<u>Matthew 5:21-22</u>: (NASB) ²¹You have heard that the ancients were told, you shall not commit murder and whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court. ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, you good-for-nothing, shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, you fool, shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell (Gehenna).

These are *sins of emotion and reckless judgment*. What happens with this kind of sin?

So far, we have sins of the mind, sins of action and sins of emotion - which sin is the worst?

Trying to quantify which kind of sin is the worst may be a difficult exercise. Let's be careful, for answering this question may bring us down a road that says I am safer with the lesser sins. Instead let's focus on the fact that NO sin is safe, and ALL sin needs response from us and forgiveness from God. We need to disrupt the pattern of sin and call a spiritual time-out.





)) Sloth, The Seven Deadly Sins, The School of Life

• Sloth. Laziness is really fear. We can't bear to get down to our work, because if we were to apply ourselves, we risk terrifying humiliation. We might not succeed as well as we'd like, we might find a task too hard, we may realize we're not yet equipped to undertake it or be mocked by the world. These aren't failings so much as hugely understandable worries. Behind our inaction is anticipated disaster; a catastrophizing mind. We will begin at last when the fear of doing nothing at all trumps the crippling fear of doing something badly.

He is saying, "It is really not your fault, you are just afraid." There *may* be circumstances where that does apply, but in general if you are being slothful, you need to be corrected. If you are slothful or lazy on your job, your employer does not say, "What are you worried about?"

Let's continue to outline the last sin of the last segment - sins of emotion and reckless judgment:

<u>Matthew 5:22</u>: (NASB) ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, you good-for-nothing, shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, you fool, shall be guilty enough to go into fiery hell (Gehenna).

(SOURCE: BIBLICAL COMMENTARY BY ADAM CLARKE)

ANGRY: ... THAT ANGER WHICH LEADS A MAN TO COMMIT OUTRAGES AGAINST ANOTHER,
THEREBY SUBJECTING HIMSELF TO THAT PUNISHMENT
WHICH WAS TO BE INFLICTED ON THOSE WHO BREAK THE PEACE.

GOOD FOR NOTHING: TO BE EMPTY. IT SIGNIFIES A VAIN, EMPTY, WORTHLESS FELLOW, SHALLOW BRAINS, A TERM OF GREAT CONTEMPT.

THOU FOOL: ... A REBEL AGAINST GOD, THIS TERM IMPLIED, AMONG THE JEWS,
THE HIGHEST ENORMITY, AND MOST AGGRAVATED GUILT.

Those three phrases were deeply insulting terms during Jesus' time.

Please see the Bonus Material for commentary on the supreme court.

In our society we are being taught, "How I feel is the most important thing." That is wrong. What is right is the most important thing.

Sins of emotion and reckless judgment can truly break others as well as ourselves and are presumptuous and pride-driven:

<u>James 5:13-16</u>: (NASB) ¹³Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.



If something is not right, you need to get help. Sins of emotion are outward sins that can cause much damage, not only to us, but to those around us.



Mutual trust and confession:

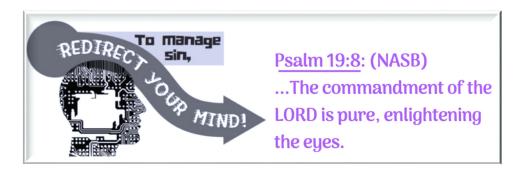
Honesty with our weaknesses to others can be hard. Seek those of spiritual maturity and understanding and this honesty can be a healing balm!



Finding someone to talk to can be scary. What is most important? Someone we trust? Someone we admire spiritually? Someone in a position of leadership? Someone tolerant?

Definitely someone we trust, who is discreet, and we admire spiritually. Maybe someone in the position of leadership, it depends on the situation. Someone honest, which means they may not necessarily give us the answer we want, but the answer we need. It is important to confide in someone who is supportive and really listens. Have you ever shared your trial with someone and before you know it, they are talking about themselves or someone they know? You step out on a limb and share and then it feels like maybe you should not have.

Reminder: You need to redirect your mind. Sometimes changing your location might help. Leave the situation or the scenario.



What God has commanded gives us clear sight in a foggy world.

All that we need regarding God's commands for us, we have received through Jesus:

John 15:12-15: (NASB) ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Jesus tenderly commands us *to love one another*. Part of redirecting our minds is understanding that the commandments of God, through Jesus, open our eyes. If we focus on loving one another, there is no room for acting in a sinful way.



(1)) Idolatry, What is the Worst Sin, Robert Carr

But believe it or not the worst sin in the Bible, very clear that we see especially in the Old Testament in places like Exodus and Deuteronomy, and we see that up and down the entire Bible; the worst sin in the Bible is actually something that we take for granted today, even though it surrounds us and is common. That sin is idolatry. If you study your Scriptures, you will see that the absolute worst sin in the Bible is idolatry. Which is the reason why God gave Moses idolatry and its

prohibition against idolatry as the very first commandment: you shall not have false gods before Me.

God's commandments start with "Have no other god before me" and "Thou shall not make graven images," and the last commandment talks about not coveting, which is also a form of idolatry. Idolatry is a big enough sin that it encompasses a lot of other sins. So, it may be near the top of the list.



Ephesians 4:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality (lust of the eye) for the practice (lust of the flesh) of every kind of impurity with greediness (pride of life).

These are *sins of a deadened conscience* and may perhaps be some of the most difficult to manage. What do we do?

Having bad personal history creates a real mess. What are the most important things to combat it?

Let's face it, most of us look back on our lives before we came to Christ and we shudder. Sometimes we look back on experiences even after we came to Christ and we still shudder. In every case one of the most important resolves to put in place is this: "That was then, this is now!" Our past should contribute to the future, but it need not influence the future.

Sometimes our greatest sin can be our greatest turning point if we fight to overcome it. When we learn from our mistakes, we can be more sympathetic to others. There is great value when we fight the battle against sin.



Back to managing our deadened conscience dilemma. The next verses in Ephesians answer it.

Ephesians 4:20-24: (NASB) ²⁰But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹if indeed you have heard him and have been taught in him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²²that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (Have integrity of thought and deed in your Christian walk.)



Reaffirm your transformed life!

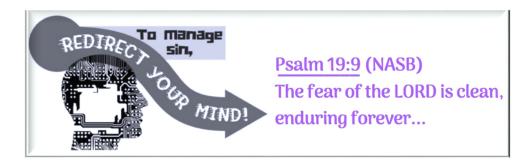
If you have been called to follow Christ, then you therefore have been given a higher spiritual conscience! Let it be your guide.

People who have had a deadened conscience can have a revitalized conscience if they plant the new seeds.

(1) Greed, The Seven Deadly Sins, The School of Life

• The powerful urge to take more than our fair share is really a reaction to a feeling of deprivation; we've felt so neglected and vulnerable, we require ever more. Our fear is so entrenched, we're trying to keep it at bay by grabbing as much as we can, as quickly as possible. To others, we may look already advantaged and privileged; inside we just feel desperate.

Greed is not okay. We need to stand up against these things.



Reverence for God in all of His ways is an eternally enduring characteristic:

<u>James 3:17-18</u>: (NASB) ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Wisdom from above - that is the way to deal with sin in our lives.





<u>1 Corinthians 6:9-11</u>: (NASB) ⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

All of the things listed in the previous Scriptures are *actions*. They are things we do outwardly and presumptuously. We do not want people to jump to conclusions on any piece of this. For example, we are *not* saying if someone is gay they cannot get into the kingdom of heaven. It is the *practicing of those things*.



Another example: Fornicators will not inherit the kingdom of God. If you are sleeping with your boyfriend or your girlfriend and you are a Christian, God is not pleased. That may sound harsh, but sin is harsh. These are actions done in a variety of ways that keep us away from godliness.

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. You may have been that way, but it does not mean you have to stay that way. "That was then, this is now!" It is not just our previously messed up conscience that we need to be aware of, it is also all sins of our earthly habits that need to be put in check. They should have no place in any Christian's life.

1 John 2:1-2: (NASB) ¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.







Accept that there is no compromising with sin and go to our Advocate!

There are no compromises with sin. We are either allowing it or we are not.

Another way to redirect your mind is to back up, reset and talk out loud to yourself.





Psalm 19:9: (NASB)

...The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

God's judgments ARE righteous and His judgment calls followers of Christ.

<u>Isaiah 41:10</u>: (NASB) Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely, I will help you, Surely, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

All sin is revealed inwardly (hidden) or outwardly (presumptuous). It manifests in the lust of the eye, lust of the flesh and the pride of life and all sin works in the following patterns:

- sins of the mind
- sins of action
- sins of emotion and reckless judgment
- sins of a deadened conscience
- sins of our earthly habits

We discussed many things to help us win the battle. Do not look at others and their sins, look at your own and work on them.

Are some sins worse than others? Yes. The worst sin for YOU is the one you struggle with the most. Make the decision to rise above sin.

So, are some sins worse than others?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!





Join us next week for our podcast on June 25, 2018: Is the Hell of Christian Tradition Taught in the Bible? Part III

Bonus Material:

Counting other people's sins does not make you a saint. — Anonymous

Did perpetual happiness in the Garden of Eden maybe get so boring that eating the apple was justified? — Chuck Palahniuk, Survivor

There is a charm about the forbidden that makes it unspeakably desirable. — Mark Twain

A sin takes on new and real terrors when there seems a chance that it is going to be found out. — Mark Twain, The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg

How do we define sin?

In the Old Testament there are two words most often translated sin.

Sin: Strongs #2403 an offense (sometimes habitual sinfulness), and its penalty, occasion, sacrifice, or expiation; also (concretely) an offender

Sin: Strongs #2398 properly, to miss; hence (figuratively and generally) to sin; by inference, to forfeit, lack, expiate, repent, (causatively) lead astray, condemn

No mystery so far.

Now, the New Testament:

Sin: Strongs #264 - to miss the mark

Matthew 18:21-22: (KJV) Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin <264> against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Sins: Strongs #265 sin, evil deed

Romans 3:25: (KJV) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins <265> that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Sin: Strongs #266 - from 264 - to sin equivalent to 264

<u>Matthew 26:28</u>: (KJV) For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins <266>.



Seven Deadly Sins: We alluded to five of these in the podcast - what is their history?

Pride
Avarice (Greed)
Envy
Wrath
Lust
Gluttony
Sloth



Are there Scriptures that label them as such? No. Then where did this list come from?

An historical answer from Wikipedia:

The seven deadly sins, also known as the capital vices or cardinal sins, is a classification of vices (part of Christian ethics) that has been used since early Christian times to educate and instruct Christians concerning fallen humanity's tendency to sin. In the currently recognized version, the sins are usually given as wrath, avarice, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony. Each is a form of Idolatry-of-Self wherein the subjective reigns over the objective.

The Catholic Church divides sin into two categories: venial sins, in which guilt is relatively minor, and the more severe mortal sins. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a mortal or deadly sin is believed to destroy the life of grace and charity within a person and thus creates the threat of eternal damnation. Mortal sin, by attacking the vital principle within us - that is, charity - necessitates a new initiative of God's mercy and a conversion of heart which is normally accomplished within the setting of the sacrament of reconciliation.

According to Catholic moral thought, the seven deadly sins are not discrete from other sins but are instead the origin ("capital" comes from the Latin caput, head) of the others. Vices can be either venial or mortal, depending on the situation, but "are called 'capital' because they engender other sins, other vices.

Beginning in the early 14th century, the popularity of the seven deadly sins as a theme among European artists of the time eventually helped to ingrain them in many areas of Catholic culture and Catholic consciousness in general throughout the world. One means of such ingraining was the creation of the mnemonic acronym "SALIGIA" based on the first letters in Latin of the seven deadly sins: *superbia*, *avaritia*, *luxuria*, *invidia*, *gula*, *ira*, *acedia*.

Let's round out the brief discussion on <u>Matthew 5:22</u> adding the "penalties" Jesus alluded to:

Matthew 5:22: (NASB) But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, you good-for-nothing, shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, you fool, shall be guilty enough to go into (fiery Gehenna).



(Source: Commentary by Adam Clarke) Supreme court - the council συνεδριον, the famous council, known among the Jews by the name of Sanhedrin. It was composed of seventy-two elders, six chosen out of each tribe. Shall be in danger of the judgment ενοχος εσται, shall be liable to the judgment. That is, to have the matter brought before a senate, composed of twenty-three magistrates, whose business it was to judge in cases of murder and other capital crimes.

Finally, a few more Scriptures to encourage us as we deal with sin:

<u>Isaiah 1:18</u>: (NASB) Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.

<u>1 Peter 4:1-4</u>: (NASB) ¹Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. ⁴In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;

<u>Isaiah 40:28-31</u>: (NASB) ²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. ³⁰Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, ³¹Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

Life is SO much better when we look up for help rather than following our sinful natures.

