

DEALING WITH THE SIN IN OUR LIVES #2

The Consequences of Unrepented Sin - Pt. 1

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I. Introductory Remarks.

In last week's message we began to look at the subject of sin and how we as Christians are called to deal with it in an effective way. We saw that all Christians do sin, because we have two natures. We have the new nature that does not sin and cannot sin and we have the old nature that wars against this new nature. The reason we sin is that the old nature wins battles from time to time.

Does the fact that all Christians sin give us a license to continue in known sin? Or does God expect us to turn and repent from known sin and walk in victory?

Romans 6:1-2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

In this message today I want to talk about the consequences of continuing in known sins once God reveals to you that they are sins that need to be repented of. This message should put the fear of God into all of our lives concerning sin.

Proverbs 16:6 *In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.*

The fear of God comes from knowing that there are consequences for continuing in sin once God warns us that we are to repent of a particular sin in our lives. If we persist in the sin we will begin to sow to the flesh and the flesh will reap corruption from the sin. As a result our sins will eventually be found out by the fruit of our lives.

Galatians 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

Numbers 32:23 *"But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out."*

II. Various Consequences Of Unrepented Sin.

- **Unrepented Sin Defined:**

Unrepented sins are those sins that the Bible clearly states we are to repent of when we come to Christ. If we fail to repent of these sins, then they are unrepented sins such as immorality, drunkenness, filthy language, covetousness, evil desires, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, lying, theft, hatred, jealousies, dissensions, murders, etc.

There are also areas in which God has convicted you personally of which must be repented of eg. attitudes, sins of omission etc. Now that we understand this, let's look at some of the consequences of not repenting when God is leading us into repentance. (Colossians 3:5-10)

1. Sin Brings Loss of Christian Joy.

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

One of the fruits of coming into the kingdom and knowing Jesus is the joy we have in the Lord. When we continue to walk in sin, whatever it may be that God is convicting us of, we will be robbed of the precious joy of the Lord and as a result we begin to lose the strength we have in God.

It is impossible to be happy and joyful when you have unjudged, unrebuked, unconfessed sin in your life. Sin brings the smiting of the conscience. It brings the rebuke of the Holy Spirit.

- **The example of David - Psalm 51:8-13.**

In Psalm 51 we have the heartbroken prayer of David after his sin with Bathsheba. Remember, David tried to cover his sin for a time, but was rebuked by the prophet, Nathan.

Psalms 51:8-9 Make me to hear joy and gladness, That the bones which You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

Psalms 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me with Your generous Spirit.

David had been weeping over his baby who died because of his sin. He had been weeping over his own lost fellowship with God. He begged for the cleansing of his heart anew, a renewal of a right spirit. He begged for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Then he said, "Restore unto me the joy of Your

salvation." David had lost the joy of his salvation.

David knew that only with cleansing from sin, only by the comfort of the Holy Spirit, only by being upheld and helped to walk straight, could he have the joy which ought to go with salvation.

Anyone who claims that he can go into sin and have no burning of conscience, no unrest of soul, no conviction by the Holy Spirit, gives evidence that he does not know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why do you think Peter went out and wept bitterly after denying Christ? His sin took all his joy. Sin will take your joy, too, if you allow it to go un-judged and unconfessed in your life.

2. Sin Quenches & Grieves The Holy Spirit & His Ministry In Your Life.

Ephesians 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

1 Thessalonians 5:19 *Do not quench the Spirit.*

One of the ways in which the Holy Spirit is quenched and grieved is when we allow sin to go unrepented in our lives. It prevents Him from performing His ministry on our behalf. The word "quench" means to put out (as a fire or light): Extinguish, to terminate.

Isaiah 63:10 *But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them.*

In order for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to be fully released in our lives He must have possession of our will. He must own us as it says in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own..."

Sin loses much of the help of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life. John R. Rice writes in his book, "When A Christian Sins", "The Holy Spirit lives in every Christian's body. Yet, when a Christian sins he sometimes loses all contact with that same Holy Spirit. It seems as if the Holy Spirit, like an ill-treated and offended guest, shuts Himself up in His own small room in the heart and does not enjoy the fellowship of the inmate who has so grieved Him and wronged Him!

The blessed Holy Spirit does not leave when a Christian sins, but His work is

certainly hindered."

Some of the things that the Holy Spirit does for us are as follows:

- gives us assurance of salvation,
- speaks to us,
- opens our understanding to the things of God,
- guides and directs our lives, imparts life,
- strengthens our inner being,
- enables us to pray according to the will of God,
- produces Christ-like fruit in our character,
- calls us to service and ministry,
- guides us into our ministries,
- empowers us to witness, imparts spiritual gifts
- and guides us through our personal struggles.

Can you afford to lose His anointing in these areas because of unrepented sin? It happens!

3. Sin Brings Reproach on Christ, The Church & The Bible.

One of the worst things that the sin of a Christian does is to bring reproach on the cause of Christ and upon the name of Christ. How Jerusalem must have buzzed with gossip when Peter denied the Lord, cursed and swore and quit the ministry!

When the prophet Nathan rebuked David for his sin, he told him that his sin had brought reproach and had given his enemies an opportunity to blaspheme.

2 Samuel 12:13-14 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

The sins of the preacher who falls are blazoned on the front pages of newspapers. eg. Jimmy Swaggert - Newspaper headline. "Jimmy Had A Whore". The sins of a normal Christian believer are held up in his own family and in his own community against Christ and the Gospel by those who are the enemies of God. eg. of person beating his wife, who was on school board. What shame and reproach the failure and sins of God's people bring on the whole cause of Christ!

4. Sin Causes God to Turn a Deaf Ear to Your Prayers.

The Bible is quite clear in the fact that God delights to hear the prayers of His people. We are plainly invited and promised, in *Matthew 7:7* "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*"

Most Christians live far below the level of joy and usefulness and provision which God intended His children to have, simply because we do not take everything to God in prayer and ask our Heavenly Father for what we need. But we are plainly warned that sin shuts up Heaven to our prayers. In *Isaiah 59:1-3* we find this solemn statement:

Isaiah 59:1-2 *Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*

Lamentations 3:42-44 *We have transgressed and rebelled; You have not pardoned. You have covered Yourself with anger and pursued us; You have slain and not pitied. You have covered Yourself with a cloud, that prayer should not pass through.*

Any known sins such as un-confessed, un-judged, un-forsaken sins make it so that God cannot honorably and righteously give us many of the things we ask for and need. God cannot put Himself in the position of endorsing our sins when He answers the prayers of sinning Christians who do not judge their sins and do not turn from them.

III. Concluding Remarks.

As we can see, unconfessed sin that has not been repented of really hinders our walk with the Lord and brings reproach to those around us. All of us should continually search our ways to see if there is anything hurtful in us.

Lamentations 3:40 *Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD;*

Next week we shall continue to look at some more consequences of unrepented sin such as God's chastisement, the vulnerability to Satan's deceit, how it prevents us from entering into the fullness of the kingdom blessing and how unrepented sin can lead to blaspheming the Holy Spirit and loss of salvation.