

"Principles of Sin"

Part #4

"You, too, can become a good* sinner!"

* (NOT "good" at *doing* it, but "morally good" through *repentance and trust*.)

Principle #10:

ALL sins will be shown for what they are.

- You cannot get away with sin!
- You cannot hide sin forever!

The sins of some people are obvious, going ahead of them to judgment. The sins of others follow them there.

1 Tim. 5:24 (GW)

THE ISSUE:

People lie...

It's still SIN.

God doesn't.

It's just a "mistake"!

It really isn't that bad!

In the right situation, it could even be a good thing to do!

All sin will be exposed and judged for what it is.

- Whether hidden or obvious.
- Whether we admit it is "sin," or just call it a "mistake" (since we have a tendency to lie about it).

For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Eccles. 12:14 (NIV)

Good will also be exposed and judged for what it is.

- But until we repent of our sins and begin following Jesus, even the best of our "good" is tainted with sin.

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Romans 7:18 (NIV)

For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

Psalms 51:5 (NLT)

SIN is SIN, even if you choose to "redefine" it.

The devil... like a roaring lion
(1 Peter 5:8)

BUT I DIDN'T CALL IT SIN!

IT WAS STILL SIN! AND YOU TASTE DELICIOUS!

Principle #11:

Watch your attitude about sin, regardless of "sin size"!

- We DARE NOT have a complacent attitude toward sin, even the "little" or "hidden" sins!
- If we aren't dealing with them, they will grow.

Remember our "ICEBERG" illustration?



• Different types of sins may need different responses; but they are all sins.

The "BIG" sins

We can't just say, "I'm sorry," and go on as though nothing happened.



- The consequences of such sins tend to be more widespread than the act itself.
 - Dealing with the damage may take quite some time.
 - Some damage may be life-long ... or even eternal.
- The "little" attitudes and actions that led up to the "BIG" sin also need dealt with.
 - This may also take some time.

The "little" sins

We can't just pretend they don't exist.

- They might not seem to hurt other people as much as the "BIG" sins do.
- But they:
 - Are a reflection of sinful attitudes.
 - Often grow into "BIG" sins.
 - Earn us eternal death, if we don't repent (even if they don't hurt anyone else).



For both types:

Whether or not we see the horrible consequences is not the issue.

I don't see it hurting anyone!

Either way, it is still sin!
And still turns us into "lion food."



Principle #12:

Don't try to use "grace" as an excuse for sinning!

- It does not work.
- Such an attitude means you haven't yet experienced grace.

"Grace" = "undeserved kindness."
It's the reason people can be saved.

For it is by **grace** [= God's undeserved kindness] you have been saved, through faith ... *it is the gift of God*
Ephes. 2:8 (NIV)

- **The CONSEQUENCES OF GRACE:**
 - **NOT:** To enable us to sin.
 - **RATHER:** To enable us to NOT sin.

"Grace"
as an excuse for sin?



IMPOSSIBLE!

- This isn't love for God. It's hate for God!
 - It's loving things that caused Jesus to die and to experience the pain of hell-fire!
 - It's the attitude of an unsaved person, not of someone who has experienced God's grace!!!!
- If this is your attitude, you need to repent of your sin, before your heart becomes so hardened in sin that you lose the ability to repent.

It just CAN'T happen!

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that **grace** may increase?
By no means! **We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?**

Romans 6:1-2 (NIV)

TYPICAL EXAMPLE:
SUCH PEOPLE AREN'T SAVED... THEY'RE GODLESS!

... godless men, who change the **grace** of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude 1:4b (NIV)

A WARNING:

When people refuse to love the truth, God may give them the lie they crave.

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2 Thes. 2:10b (NIV)

For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Thes. 2:11-12 (NIV)

People who experience God's free grace won't treat it like this!



Jesus paid for our sins with his own blood.

But I got it for **FREE**; and there's more for the asking!

People who experience God's free grace won't treat it like this!

How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished

- who has trampled the Son of God under foot,
- who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him,
- and who has insulted the Spirit of **grace**?

Hebrews 10:29 (NIV) *

* (Read the whole passage, to see how serious this is.)

QUIT STEPPING ON ME!

I'M HAVING FUN!

Many Scripture passages warn us that such an attitude cannot work!

Then why do you think I've said it so many times?

It doesn't really mean that!

Too many passages to ignore or "explain away"!!!!

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.

1 John 3:9 (NIV)

Instead, grace teaches us to not sin!

For the **grace** of God that brings salvation ... **teaches us to say "No"** to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ...

Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

- Those who prefer to sin bring judgment upon themselves.

Why not say ... "Let us do evil that good may result"? **Their condemnation is deserved.**

Romans 3:8 (NIV)

"Didn't people in the Bible sin?" **OF COURSE!**

- All it proves is that people are sinners.
- It does NOT cancel God's commands, or prove that we can get away with sin.

The woman caught in adultery

GO AND SIN NO MORE!

- She was NOT told: "Don't worry. I'll forgive you each time you do it!"



What many church-goers seem to prefer:

Have all the "fun" you want ... and I'll forgive you!

Many have this woman's attitude toward toward sexual sin:



This is the way of a woman who commits adultery:
She eats, wipes her mouth, and says, "**! haven't done anything wrong!**"

Proverbs 30:20 (GW)

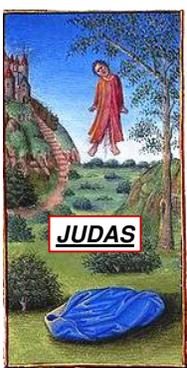
Peter's denial of Jesus

- In a panic, Peter spoke without thinking.
- Once he realized what he had done, he:
 - repented,
 - never did it again, and
 - eventually became a leader in the early church.



Consider the contrast:

- We also read about **JUDAS**, who sinned deliberately.
- Once he realized what he had done, he:
 - did NOT repent,
 - hung around for a while, and
 - eventually disappeared from the scene.

David and Bathsheba

- David committed adultery and murder ONE TIME in his life (~70 years). *It did NOT characterize the normal way he lived.*
- He was *severely disciplined* by God. The rest of his life was filled with sorrow, anguish, and a destroyed family.
- DAVID REPENTED AND NEVER COMMITTED THIS SIN AGAIN.



I know I shouldn't be looking...

Wasn't David "a man after God's own heart"?

- YES! But it was because *sin did NOT characterize his life.*

... David, a man about whom God said, 'David son of Jesse is a man after my own heart, **for he will do everything I want him to.**'

Acts 13:22b (NLT)

- We can't use David's *one-time* sin to excuse our *all-the-time* sin. We may be a person "after someone's heart," **but it won't be God's heart.**



A man after my own heart!

* (Not his actual appearance – 2 Corinthians 11:14.)

Since David was a genuine *follower* of God, he experienced the *discipline* of God.

"The Lord disciplines everyone he loves. He severely disciplines everyone he accepts as his child."

If you aren't disciplined like the other children, *you aren't part of the family.*

Hebrews 12:6, 8 (GW)

- If you *claim* to be saved, yet God does not discipline you when you dive into sin, *you have a good reason to be concerned.*

YOUR MISSION: ATTENTION!

- Scripture is *filled* with encouragements, exhortations, commands and *warnings* related to how we are to live as God's children.
- We might not like the warnings; they might not fit our views. But if we want to be saved...



YOUR MISSION: ATTENTION!

PAY ATTENTION TO THE WARNINGS!

Instead of explaining-away, ignoring or arguing about the verses you don't like ...

DO WHAT THEY TELL YOU TO DO!

Then you will have nothing to fear.

- In most instances, their meaning is quite clear, *as long as you pay attention* to:

- the context,
- the meanings of words, and
- how the words relate to each other.

IN OTHER WORDS:

- Treat them the same way you should treat *all* Scripture.

**God gave us Scripture,
not so we could *feel good* about ourselves,
but so we could *be truthful* about ourselves.**

"You disciplined me, and I was disciplined.
I was like a young, untrained calf.
Turn me, and I will be turned,
because you are the Lord my God.
After I was turned around, I changed the way
I thought and acted.
After I was taught a lesson,
I hung my head in shame.
I was so ashamed and humiliated,
because of all the stupid things I have done
ever since I was young."

Jeremiah 31:18b-19 (GW)

Credits (1)

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