

THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN

To sin is to act or think outside the ways of lasting life... that is, outside of the Gospel. Sin is deceitful for many reasons...

we may be enticed to sin for purposes which appear pleasurable,

we may sin because we are weak ,

or we might sin because we are ignorant of God's advice.

*These reasons for sin have one result... they threaten our relationship with God and need to be removed. This is done through the knowledge of right and wrong and the application of repentance and forgiveness. As the scripture promises... **1JOH 1:7** ...the **blood** of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanseth** us from all sin.*

However, there is another side to sin which is far more deceitful than what we may think! Many struggle trying to come to terms with their own sins, but there is a bigger threat than that... the biggest threat is the sins of others... the sins that we won't forgive. That is right... the sins of others that we won't allow to be resolved according to the scriptures. We are very quick to claim our rights regarding forgiveness, but may be less than charitable when it comes to others sins. We read malice and predatorial behaviour into other peoples shortcomings while being a lot less judgemental towards our own failures or weaknesses. This is the greatest deceitfulness of sin... to be hypocritical with our judgements.

We often demand our rights, but refuse to offer others their rights.

MAT 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your **hearts forgive** not every one his brother their trespasses. *Not only are we commanded to forgive, but it has to come from the heart! Our attitude is more important than our words.*

All offences must be forgiven or the sacrifice of Christ is useless in your life

MAT 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. *Our own sin will accrue within us if we cannot come to terms with the sins of others. This will result in loss of joy, negativity and judgemental attitudes towards or brethren and the church. We then become judges of all... rather than servants of all.*

God makes allowances for the weak and poor in spirit.

LEV 12:8 And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean. *We also need to show this type of wisdom, and exercise it according to Paul's commands... **ROM 15:1** We then that are **strong** ought to bear the infirmities of the **weak**, and not to please ourselves. When we judge others we place ourselves above them, thus we claim strength and imply weakness... if this be the case, then we are commanded to support the weak if confession and repentance is offered. What are the weaknesses of the weak? it can only be sin.... if people don't yield to temptation they can hardly be qualified as being weak!*

God goes another step when he reveals the extent and nature of sin.

JAM 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: *treating others as ourselves often applies to the above verses... we need to offer them the mercy we seek ourselves.*

9 But if ye have respect to persons, *(this can also apply to lack of forgiveness)* ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. *Again, we see that sin comes very easily... and all sin has the same consequences.*

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and **yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.** *The smallest sin brings the same judgement as the major sins... this is sobering. All sins carry the same results.*

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. *Our attitudes and actions have to be in keeping with the principles of the gospel... it is important that we forgive, as we receive the greater blessing... even more than the person we are forgiving.*

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. *This simple principle highlights the theme of our talk... you reap what you sow.*

In Conclusion

HEB 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. *We depart from God by failing to exercise the gospel... it is critical for our spiritual health to understand the nature of God and the depth of his mercy.*

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. *As we have seen... the deceitfulness of sin has many faces. It would be a shame if we perished because we failed to forgive someone else for their sin. When we understand the heart of God, we understand the great value of his mercy and grace.. those who abuse the mercy of God will get away with nothing... it would be foolish being caught out on the sin of another... don't be deceived by self righteousness... God is your strength... he will judge.*