

Living Life to the Fullest Part XXXVIII The Devastating Effect of Sin 1 John 5:16-17

Never before had he experienced such feelings of rage. He had always seen himself as a mild-mannered, rational, deliberate person, which would have been confirmed by anyone who knew him. But this was something new, different, and beyond the range of even the unexpected. As deliberate and controlled he might be, this was an emotional intrusion for which he could never have been prepared.

Even in this reportedly safe place, purposely decorated in a non-threatening décor, he could hardly contain what could only be termed as wrath. Try as hard as he might to hide his anger, hurt, and pain (that which strikes with a sickness in the pit of the stomach), his passion could not be hidden from the counselor who could not miss the fingers viciously digging into the fabric of the arm rest of the chair.

He could not believe he was here of all places. This was for the insecure and helpless, not for those who are confident, in control, and self assured. But here he was feeling empty and powerless to keep from striking back and protecting all he lived for, the love of his life.

“Jim, can you tell me what’s wrong?” inquired the counselor. It was only after what seemed like hours and with a few shredded threads under his fingernails that Jim looked up with red, moist eyes and said. “I just discovered my wife has been unfaithful.” After a few more moments of silence, now with tears rolling down his cheeks, Jim said, “I cannot understand my feelings of anger, rage, wrath, passion toward something I would have never have thought possible. I am so deeply hurt, feel so betrayed; I want anyone who has had anything to do with this to feel the fear of my presence and the pain of what this is doing to me, and yet doctor, I love my wife so much and so want her back, but I don’t understand my wrath.”

The words of the counselor were profound and carefully chosen. With what seemed reverent compassion he said, “Jim, you are feeling exactly what God feels when we are unfaithful to Him. It’s a result of SIN. All of the terms you have used to describe your hurt are terms God used to define His hurt when we are unfaithful to Him, whether through a careless look or act, a flagrant abuse, or an insidious passion. The effect of sin against God always incites within him jealousy, wrath, anger, judgment, and even death and *that*, not in spite of but because of His love for us who sin every day of our lives. And like you, He loves us so much and wants so badly to have us back in His arms.”

Perhaps even more difficult to understand is not so much the wrath of God toward sin, but the grace of God toward us the sinner. Know this for our sure, sin has a devastating effect on everyone around us and especially on God.

LIFE RESPONSE:

1. This week **MEMORIZE** and **MEDITATE** on Psalm 32:3-5 “*When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’: and You forgave the guilt of my sin.*”
 - (a) Write this passage on a 3x5 card and place it in some visible place.
 - (b) Meditate daily on this passage in context of the chapter.
 - (c) Ask the Lord to allow you to recognize specific areas of sin in your life that would bring offenses and pain to God, fellow Christians, and yourself.
2. What should be our primary motivation to *not sin* and yet when we do sin, *to confess sin*. See Psalm 51:1-4; 10-12; Isaiah 53:4-11.
3. Would you agree that most of our concern about sin, forgiveness, confession, etc. is directed to its effect on others or ourselves rather than how it affects God? If we were to focus on sin as an affront and offense to God first how would it bring substance and effect our initiative to confess and correct sin in our own lives and sin toward others?
4. Someone has said, “If we are praying for another we are less apt to criticize and be judgmental of that person.” What is our responsibility toward those who we believe are “*missing the mark*” or sinning? See 1 John 5:16; Galatians 6:1-4.
5. What would our church look like if we took *sin* as seriously as God does? How would this affect our marriages, families, and culture?

Living Life to the Fullest
Part XXXVIII
The Devastating Effect of Sin
1 John 5:16-17

“Sin buries the name, melts the estate, pulls away near relations like limbs from our body. Sin is the Trojan horse out of which a whole troop of afflictions comes.”

- Thomas Watson, The Mischief of Sin, 1671

THE PASSION OF GOD

Love incomprehensible

Spiritual
Unconditional

THE POISON OF SIN

Love violated

What is sin? ἁμαρτία – missing the mark

What is its effect? Death Romans 6:23

John Henry Jowett (1864-1923) wrote:

Sin is a blasting presence, and every fine power shrinks and withers in the destructive heat. Every spiritual delicacy succumbs to its malignant touch....Sin impairs the sight, and works towards blindness. Sin benumbs the hearing and tends to make men deaf. Sin perverts the taste, causing men to confound the sweet with the bitter, and the bitter with the sweet. Sin hardens the touch, and eventually renders a man “past feeling”. All these are Scriptural analogies and their common significance appears to be this – sin blocks and chokes the fine senses of the spirit; by sin we are desensitized, rendered imperceptive and the range of our correspondence is diminished. Sin creates callosity. It hoofs the spirit, and so reduces the area of our exposure to pain.

Sin in our culture is not seen as an acceptable diagnosis for man’s problems between himself and God or himself and others.

Three Relational Effects of Sin

- Within Ourselves Psalm 32:3-5
- With Other Believers Galatians 5:13-15
- With God Himself Psalm 51:1-4

Given the effect of sin it leaves man in a dilemma.

Man’s dilemma? For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God

God’s grace? He has dealt with the issue of eternal separation/eternal death. Eph. 2:1-8

Two classifications of sin

1. Sin unto Death - Divine discipline

Old Testament	Leviticus 10:1-7	Nadab and Abihu
	Joshua 6-9	Achan
	2 Samuel 6	Uzzah

New Testament Acts 5:1-11 Ananis and Sapphira
1 Cor. 5:1-5 Immorality
1 Cor. 11:30
1 John 5:16 Warning NOT to make inquiry judgments about reason for death.
Don't Ask

2. Sin NOT unto Death
Prayer – Responsibility of each believer for each believer.
Purpose: protection – purity - intimacy

THE PROVISION OF GRACE

Love purified

1. Experience of Security
Romans 8:1; 1 John 2:1-2
2. Prayer of Intercession
Romans 8:26-28
3. Ministry of Reconciliation
Galatians 6:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

PRAYER

Father in Heaven,

Thank You for Your incomprehensible and unconditional love You demonstrated by sacrificing Your son on the cross for each of us.

Thank you for the total forgiveness of my personal sin - past, present, and future – by personally placing my trust in the sacrifice of Christ.

I ask that You create in me a growing sensitivity to the sin that I allow to daily invade my life.

I ask that You will enable me to share Your same hatred and disgust toward every sin I face.

I ask that You will make me sensitive to encourage and pray for those who are influenced by the destructive force of sin.

I pray in accordance with Your Word and Your will and I thank You for hearing me and granting my request as You have promised.

I pray for the purity and intimate love You desire in us and for us for Your glory.

In Jesus Name, Amen