

WHEN A CHRISTIAN SINS

Psalm 51

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INTRODUCTION: LIFE AFTER SIN

One of the most amazing things about becoming a Christian is the relief you feel because you are forgiven.

? What does grievous sin in the life of a Christian mean?

? How should a Christian deal with sin in his life?

Psalm 51 gives us three answers.

I. ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SIN

A. ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT SIN IS

1. Transgression, v. 1

Your sin takes something God has not given you.

2. Sin, v. 2

When you sin, you miss the mark of God's standard.

3. Evil, v. 4

This word means "Cold."

When you sin, you coldheartedly do what you want with little or no concern for anyone else.

4. Iniquity, v. 2

David doesn't make excuses for any of his sin.

5. Wrong Ideas About Sin

- a. Sin isn't a mental disease or disorder
- b. Sin isn't sin unless I get caught.
- c. Sin isn't sin if others are doing it.
- d. Sin isn't sin if I don't admit it.

B. ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT SIN DOES

1. Sin Offends God, v. 4

God is the only one so holy as to be offended by our sin.

2. Sin is as God Judges It, v. 4

God is the one who gets to define how bad sin is.

Psalm 119:137

Righteous are You, O Lord, And upright are Your judgments.

5. What Sin Isn't

- a. The severity of sin doesn't depend on how it affects you.
- b. The severity of sin doesn't depend on how many people got hurt.
- c. Sin is only bad if I think it is.

C. ACKNOWLEDGE WHENCE SIN COMES

1. Sin is Inherent, v. 5

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

2. Sin is My Fault, v. 3

II. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S GRACE

A. A WORK OF GOD...

1. Cleaning, v. 7
2. Healing, v. 8
3. Hiding, v. 9

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

B. ...IN A HUMBLE HEART

1. A Right Heart, v. 17
3. Ways We Distort God's Grace
 - a. Penance, v. 16
 - b. Behavior modification

Matthew 12:43-45

III. EXPERIENCE TRUE FORGIVENESS, VV. 10-15, 18, 19

A. PERSONAL REWARDS

1. A Stable, Noble spirit, VV. 10-12
 - a. Make me stable

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

- b. Give me your spirit
- c. Make me noble (give me opportunity)

Psalm 110:3

- 2. An Opportunity To Teach Others, VV. 13
- 3. An Opportunity For Worship, VV. 14, 15
- B. PUBLIC REWARD, VV. 18, 19
- C. ONE WAY THE WORLD DISTORTS FORGIVENESS

CONCLUSION: A DANGEROUS REACTION

Psalm 51 shows us how to deal with our sin and live in victory afterward. Each wrong way that people deal with sin with sin comes from the same wrong reaction to sin in their lives.

Guilt

a feeling of having done wrong or failed in an obligation.

Guilt tells you that you did something to violate another person's standard. Guilt is outward focused.

Embarrassment

a feeling of self-consciousness, shame, or awkwardness.

Embarrassment is all focused on me.

? How do we know David wasn't embarrassed about his sin?

Isn't it time we started living in victory rather cowering in fear?