

HAMARTIOLOGY (15)

(Sin Way #2) - Personal sin may be involuntary .

Perhaps an example of this would be someone who didn't know the truth of **I Corinthians 6:1-8** in which it clearly says that it is wrong for one believer to take another believer to public court. It would be possible for one to do this and not know it was wrong. In such cases, the sin would be involuntary in that it would be committed in ignorance.

Sin Area #5 - Personal sin as it relates to incrimination before God:

(Incrimination Area #1) - Personal sin is a sin that incriminates self .

All personal sin will be judged and makes one accountable to God. All personal sin incriminates self.

(Incrimination Area #2) - Personal sin may be a sin that incriminates others .

This is a very grave matter in the mind of God; one that makes one highly accountable to God. To cause another to sin is very serious - **Matthew 18:1-7; Luke 17:1-2; Romans 14:21; I Corinthians 8:9-13; I Timothy 5:22.**

Sin Area #6 - Personal sin as it relates to degree of sinfulness:

(Sinfulness Degree #1) - Personal sin may be greater .

(Sinfulness Degree #2) - Personal sin may be lesser .

There is no question that the sin issue is very personal; and when the sin is committed, it may be greater or lesser depending on what the sin is and who is committing the sin. For example, a leader who sins is much more responsible and accountable than a newborn Christian. From a legal standpoint, the physical act of murder is worse than the mental act of murder (**James 2:9-11 / I John 3:15**).

All sin makes one guilty and accountable to God; however, there are certain factors that make one more accountable.

Accountability Factor #1 - The amount of knowledge .

One factor that makes the sin greater or lesser is knowledge. The more one knows, the more accountable one is. There are many passages that teach this Biblical truth - **Matthew 11:20-24; 23:14.**

Accountability Factor #2 - The amount of condemnation .

Every culture and every society deems some things more condemnatory than others. These things are primarily determined by God-ordained leadership (**Romans 13:1-4**).

HAMARTIOLOGY (16)

There are certain things that will not only bring the condemnation of God, but also the condemnation of society (**i.e. I Peter 4:15**).

Both of these factors clearly establish that sin may be greater or lesser. Condemnation for murder is much greater than condemnation for speeding. God-ordained government determines this to a great degree; however, God's Word also sets forth the same principle (**I Corinthians 6:18**). It is also clear from the Word that self-judgment and discipline are keys to keep from moving into the "greater" sin areas (**I Corinthians 11:31**). In some areas, at some time, every believer will fail, which is precisely why God gave the provision of **I John 1:9**. However, **a central key to keeping sin from escalating to a greater level is immediate self-judgment and confession**. Without an honest self-analysis, one's lesser sin has the potential to become a greater sin.

Sin Area #7 - Personal sin as it relates to one's spiritual condition:

(Spiritual Condition #1) - Sin may be committed by an unbeliever.

1. The unbeliever may be a heathen. **Romans 1:21-22**
2. The unbeliever may be moral. **Romans 2:1-16**
3. The unbeliever may be religious. **Romans 2:17-29**

(Spiritual Condition #2) - Sin may be committed by a believer.

1. The believer may be spiritual / mature. **I Corinthians 2:15; Hebrews 5:14**
2. The believer may be carnal / fleshly. **I Corinthians 3:1**
3. The believer may be a babe / new believer. **I Corinthians 3:1; Hebrews 5:13**

Sin Area #8 - Personal sin as it relates to judgment:

(Sin Judgment #1) - Personal sin may be judged in this life. **I Corinthians 11:29-32**

(Sin Judgment #2) - Personal sin, if not faced, will be judged in eternity. **II Corinthians 5:10**

It should be observed that the primary focus of God's judgment in this life is specifically aimed at the believer. When God judges a believer in this life it is actually a proof of sonship (**Hebrews 12:5-11**).

Sin Area #9 - Personal sin as it relates to God's forgiveness.

(Relational Way #1) - Sin may be unforgiven.

If sin is not faced and dealt with in the prescribed manner of the Word of God, God will not just overlook it and it will not be forgiven.