

What Does the Bible Teach About Secret Sins?

Introduction:

- A. Psalm 19:12-14
- B. Sin is powerful -- "One great power of sin is that it blinds men so that they do not recognize its true character." (Andrew Murray)
- C. Sin is pervasive -- "Secret sins commonly lie nearest the heart." (Thomas Brooks)
- D. Sin is progressive -- "He that avoideth not small faults, by little and little falleth into greater." (Thomas a Kempis)
- E. Secret sins are the most dangerous of all:
 - 1. We often do not notice their presence
 - 2. If we know of them, we easily rationalize them
 - 3. If we have worked to keep them secret, we live in confidence that no one will find out and try to help us overcome them
 - 4. Because they are secret, we have no one who knows of them who will help to protect us from them
 - 5. They remain inside us, until like a hidden cancer in our body, they destroy our spiritual health, often terminally. They are more likely to lead us to the reprobate mind than any other sin.
 - 6. Arrogant, presumptuous sins are symptoms of the reprobate mind, not the cause
- F. What are "secret sins"? The Bible speaks of two kinds:
 - 1. Sins that are concealed from others
 - 2. Sins that are committed in the heart

I. SECRET SINS CAN BE SINS THAT ARE CONCEALED FROM OTHERS

A. Secret sin is not sin that you might have committed. This kind of sin is one where you know that you have violated the Law of God, but for one reason or another you have rationalized it away and have kept it secret. This kind of sin is one that is ongoing and usually requires a tremendous amount of cover-up or additional sin just to keep it secret.

B. Secret sin seems manageable in the beginning. However, when it is found out you have to lie to cover it up, and soon you have more things to juggle than you can keep up with. This kind of sin does not just happen on one fine morning. It is the result of a sustained practice of compromise.

- C. Sin seeks secrecy - Eph. 5:12; Psalm 90:8
 - 1. The thief, sensuous, murderer, false teachers, etc., all want anonymity - John 3:20-21
- D. These kinds of secret sins will not likely remain secret - Num. 32:23
 - 1. Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11
 - 2. Jonah - Jonah 1:1-15
 - 3. David and Bathsheba - 2Sam. 12:1-14 (Secret sin breeds additional sin)
 - 4. Gehazi - 2Kings 5:23-27
 - 5. Achan - Joshua 7:10-26

- E. All secret sins, frequently unknown to others, are known in complete detail by God - Matt. 6:4, 6, 18; Psalm 69:5
- F. Secret sins burden the offender's soul - Psalm 32:2-5, 38:4
 - 1. "Take heed of secret sins. They will undo thee if loved and maintained: one moth may spoil the garment; one leak drown the ship; a penknife stab and kill a man as well as a sword; nay, there is more danger of a secret sin causing the miscarrying of the soul than open profaneness, because not so obvious to the reproofs of the world; therefore take heed that secret sinnings destroy not our good beginnings." (Jeremiah Burroughs)
- G. All secret sins will be exposed in the Judgment
 - 1. Ecc. 12:14; Luke 12:2-5; 1Tim. 5:24
 - 2. "Every clout (i.e. a piece of cloth) will cover our sores, but the finest silk will not cover our sins." (Henry Smith)

II. SECRET SINS CAN BE SINS COMMITTED IN THE HEART

- A. Ez. 8:12 - These kinds of secret sins can consist of:
 - 1. Impurity of thought - Matt. 5:27-28
 - 2. Improper motives - Phil. 1:15-16
 - 3. Impious attitudes - Luke 15:25-32
 - 4. Injury of the conscience - Rom. 14:23
- B. Although secret sins take place in the heart, they are still sins
 - 1. 1John 3:15; Matt. 5:21-22
- C. Sins in the heart often find expression in overt action - Prov. 4:23, 23:7
- D. Remember: God knows what is happening in our hearts - 1Kings 8:39
 - 1. Psalm 139:1-2; Jer. 16:17; Luke 12:2; Heb. 4:13
 - 2. The omniscient God cannot be deceived nor does He fail to know all things. Our secret sins are "in the light of his countenance" (Psalm 90:8) and all things are naked and open to His eyes (Heb. 4:13). We are never out of sight from God.

III. INDISPUTABLE FACTS REGARDING ALL SINS

- A. God knows about our sins - Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13
 - 1. We incapable of hiding anything from Him.
- B. God hates our sins - Prov. 6:16-19
 - 1. It offends Him; He will not simply look the other way.
 - 2. Why do people look the other way when they see crime or harm happening to another?
 - a. They do not care about the victim, or
 - b. They feel powerless to do anything about it.
 - 3. For one to suggest that God will look the other way when they sin is tantamount to saying that God does not care about them, or that He is powerless to address sin
- C. God has a plan for our sins - Prov. 28:13; 1John 1:9; Psalm 32:5
 - 1. He requires that we be honest about our condition. He expects our confession and repentance.

- D. God will punish our sins - Gal. 6:7-8
 - 1. There is a price to pay for disobedience, always.
- E. Sin always impacts those around us - Ecc. 9:18; Psalm 119:136
 - 1. No one sins in a vacuum. Your sins and mine have the ability to drastically lower the spiritual temperature of the church, our family, our community. What affects one can infect all.
- F. Sin hinders God's work in our lives and in His church - Matt. 13:58
 - 1. When we allow sin to rule in our hearts, God will not work in and through us.
- G. Sin will be addressed - 1 Cor. 11:31; Num. 32:23 - "Rest assured, your sin will find you out."
 - 1. Either you and I will deal with our sins, or God will deal with them. Either way, they will be handled

Conclusion:

- A. All secret sins can be forgiven - 2Chron. 6:29-31, 7:14