The Spiritual, Physical, And Social Consequences Of Sin

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Sin will keep one from going to Heaven (Rev. 21:8). Sin separates one from God (Isa. 59:1-2). The wages of sin is spiritual death (Rom. 6:23). Every person of accountable age has sinned (Rom. 3:10, 23). Were it not for the death of the Savior and the establishment of His church there would be no hope of Heaven for any accountable person. God has declared that the soul that sins shall die (Ezek. 18:20), and man does not have the power or authority to pardon such a verdict. It is only by the blood of Christ that one can have his sins forgiven; no other blood will suffice (Heb. 10:4; 9:12; Eph. 1:7).

Every person has the opportunity to be forgiven of the spiritual consequences of sin. The Father has promised to forgive any sin if one will confess and repent of such sin. John says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Luke makes it clear that one must repent or perish (Luke 13:3). Repentance is not being sorry that you were caught in sin. Repentance is not sorrow in and of itself, but "godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation" (2 Cor. 7:10). When godly sorrow convicts a person of his sin, he will make haste to cease (turn from) that sin. When one genuinely repents and seeks forgiveness from his sins, God immediately forgives him of such sins.

One who confesses and repents of his sins is obligated to live like a penitent person. John told the multitude of Jews that were coming to him to be baptized to "bring forth therefore fruit worthy of repentance" (Matt. 3:8). A change in one's life must be demonstrated, and it must continue to be seen. People cannot know one's heart or mind but they can observe one's actions, and thus determine whether the repentance was sincere or not. Only time will tell whether or not one will continue to refrain from the sin of which he has repented.

What about the physical consequences of sin? They exist just as surely as spiritual consequences do. The devil only advertises the glitter, momentary excitement, and pleasure that sin can produce. What Satan does not tell is that sin may result in physical damage to one's emotions, mind, and body. Confession and godly repentance does not erase the scars that sin leaves behind. There is no guarantee that the scars of sin will ever heal.

Some sins are deeper rooted and of a totally different nature than other sins. It is true that in one sense all sins are the same - a transgression of God's law or lawlessness (1 John 3:4). Liars and fornicators who fail to repent will both reside throughout eternity in "the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone... " (Rev. 21:8). The sin of adultery, however, a form of fornication, can have more serious consequences and impact more people than just a casual lie even if committed only once. If a marriage is dissolved not for a trivial reason but because the husband is guilty of adultery, the wife if innocent can scripturally put away her husband (Matt. 19:9). The scripturally put away person, even though he genuinely repents of his sin, forfeits his right to remarry and must live a celibate life to save his soul (Matt. 19:10-12). Children are affected in a terrible way as a result of the breakup of a marriage. If this person chooses to move and attend another congregation, do the elders of that congregation have the right to know about his marital status? Do those not yet married and looking for husband have a right to know that this person is not scripturally eligible to enter into a marriage?

What about people who are guilty of child molestation? For some such a sin becomes a way of life for years before they are caught. Old established habits, especially practices of this nature, are very difficult to break. Psychologists and psychiatrists tell us that only 4 to 6% conquer and overcome this sin. Can it be done? Absolutely! Let us suppose, however, that one sincerely repents of child molestation and desires to practice such no more. Let us also suppose that everyone is willing to forgive this person. Now, the question -would you choose the one who was once guilty of lying or the one who was once
guilty of molesting kids to baby-sit your children? Do people who have children have a right to know that this person has been a child molester or pedophile for a number of years?

There are greater social consequences that occur as a result of certain sins. Would you agree to and would it be wise to put your sons under the oversight of a scoutmaster who was a former homosexual? Would you agree to and would it be wise to put your young children under the oversight of a day care manager who was a former child molester? Do you believe you have the right to know about the sins of the scoutmaster and the day care manager even though they have repented of those sins?

Yes, the consequences and the need to know of some sins are far greater than for other sins.