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Evening Service

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## The Heinousness of Sins

### **Abstract:**

There are many examples in the Bible of how some sins are more heinous than others. The Pharisees were a prime example of how they would have known Jesus was the Messiah and yet they chose not to believe in him, then plotted to kill him. Their's was not a sin of simple omission or ignorance, but of premeditated disobedience.

Other kinds of sins are not so obvious. How many times do Christians knowingly sin and then presume Grace to cover it up? At worst, this kind of behavior gives cause to question confessed salvation, at best permanent damage to one's life and the lives of others. God does forgive our sins, but there still are consequences. Abraham was forgiven for striking the rock, but as a consequence, he never set foot in the promise land.

This evening's sermon examines the Westminster Confession of Faith's Larger Catechism #151 which address the degrees of Sin.

### **Westminster Confession of Faith Larger Catechism**

Q. 151. What are those aggravations that make some sins more heinous than others?

A. Sins receive their aggravations,

1. From the persons offending if they be of riper age, a greater experience or grace, eminent for profession, gifts, place, office, guides to others, and whose example is likely to be followed by others.
2. From the parties offended: i if immediately against God, his attributes, and worship; against Christ, and his grace; the Holy Spirit, his witness, and workings; against superiors, men of eminency, and such as we stand especially related and engaged unto; against any of the saints, particularly weak brethren, the souls of them, or any other, and the common good of all or many.
3. From the nature and quality of the offense: if it be against the express letter of the law, break many commandments, contain in it many sins: if not only conceived in the heart, but breaks forth in words and actions, scandalize others, and admit of no reparation: if against means, mercies, judgments, light of nature, conviction of conscience, public or private admonition, censures of the church, civil punishments; and our prayers, purposes, promises, vows, covenants, and engagements to God or men: if done deliberately, willfully, presumptuously, impudently, boastingly, maliciously, frequently, obstinately, with elight, continuance, or relapsing after repentance.

## Scripture References:

**Numbers 15:27-30** 'Also if one person sins unintentionally, then he shall offer a one year old female goat for a sin offering. (28) 'The priest shall make atonement before the LORD for the person who goes astray when he sins unintentionally, making atonement for him that he may be forgiven. (29) 'You shall have one law for him who does *anything* unintentionally, for him who is native among the sons of Israel and for the alien who sojourns among them. (30) 'But the person who does *anything* defiantly, whether he is native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from among his people.

**Galatians 2:11-14** But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. (12) For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. (13) The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. (14) But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

**Jeremiah 3:1-5** *God* says, "If a husband divorces his wife And she goes from him And belongs to another man, Will he still return to her? Will not that land be completely polluted? But you are a harlot *with* many lovers; Yet you turn to Me," declares the LORD. (2) "Lift up your eyes to the bare heights and see; Where have you not been violated? By the roads you have sat for them Like an Arab in the desert, And you have polluted a land With your harlotry and with your wickedness. (3) "Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no spring rain. Yet you had a harlot's forehead; You refused to be ashamed. (4) "Have you not just now called to Me, 'My Father, You are the friend of my youth? (5) 'Will He be angry forever? Will He be indignant to the end?' Behold, you have spoken And have done evil things, And you have had your way."

**3 John 1:9-10** I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. (10) For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire *to do so* and puts *them* out of the church.

**Proverbs 2:13-14** From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; (14) Who delight in doing evil And rejoice in the perversity of evil;

**Zechariah 7:11-12** "But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing. (12) "They made their hearts *like* flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

## **Notes:**

Sin always begets more sin and the wage of sin is death. So it would seem utterly foolish to knowingly sin against God yet we all have done it and continue to do it. It's a very effective tool the Satan uses to diminish our effectiveness.

We can never perfectly uphold the Law, but we should never take the gift of Grace for granted. Our sins may be forgiven, but our presumptions of that forgiveness will not be forgotten and will bear fruit against us.

As you listen to, think about the sins that come to mind. Did you have opportunity to stop them but chose not to? Did you refuse Godly counsel because it wasn't attractive at the time?

Pray to have this desire to sin converted to a desire to obey, God will honor your request if you truly wish to mortify your sins.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the desire for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email [chuck\\_ezell@yahoo.com](mailto:chuck_ezell@yahoo.com).