

***Intro:***

READ WLC Q&A 151:3: “From the nature and quality of the offence”. Character of sinner or sin.

Main Point of Text: God holds the sins of arrogance as worse than the sins of ignorance, with more severe punishments.

Sermon Point: *Don't take God for granted.*

***Move 1: Don't ignore God's Holy Commandments.***

LC: “if it be against the express letter of the law”:

- *Clarity.* Moral Law (Ex. 19-20). Natural Law (Rom. 1:26-27): LC: “light of nature” (1 Cor. 11:14-15). Ignorance of law no excuse, but worse when you know the rules, acknowledge, yet break.
- *Quantity.* “break many commandments, contain in it many sins”. Col. 3:5: covetousness is idolatry.
- *Severity.* “scandalize others, and admit of no reparation”: Ruin lives beyond repair/restoration.
- Psalm 119:11; John 14:15.

***Move 2: Be committed sons of God, and don't break your family commitments.***

LC: “and our prayers, purposes, promises, vows, covenants, and engagements to God or men”: *hypocrisy.*

Unlike James 5:16, Ps. 66:18: *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.* Jer. 42:1-7, 20-22: people asked for mediation, then betrayed it. Chastisements are meant to make you better children, not worse: Heb. 12:6-7.

***Move 3: God warns you not to rebel like spiritual bastards, but instead repent.***

Heb. 12:8. LC: “if against means ... judgments ... conviction of conscience, publick or private admonition, censures of the church, civil punishments:” Discipline by God, self, family, Church, State designed to restrain sin. Jer. 5:3: *O LORD ... thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.* Prov. 29:1; Titus 3:10-11; John 15:22.

***Move 4: Let God's warnings lead you to humble, sanctified restraint.***

LC: “if not only conceived in the heart, but breaks forth in words and actions”: Js. 1:15-16: *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.*

LC: “if done deliberately, willfully, presumptuously, impudently, boastingly, maliciously, frequently, obstinately, with delight, continuance, or relapsing after repentance”: *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.* (Jer. 6:16) Presumption: steps all over/over God’s grace

Watch out: 2 Pet. 2:20-22 (quoting Prov. 26:11) Numbers 15:30-31

- Context is a contrast to vss. 27-29. Vs. 28: atonement possible w/ ignorant omission/commission.
- Vss. 30-31: arrogant commission warrants only severe punishment. “Cut off”: death.
  - “presumption”: “in hands lift” (Lit. Hebrew: an idiom). Shake fist in face. Or, “talk to hand”
  - See what happens next!: vss. 32-36; thus vss. 37-41. Covenant people/awareness.
  - LC: “against mercy”: Rom. 6:1-2, 15! Don’t be ... *ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.* (Jude 1:4)
  - Heb. 10:30-31: ... *The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

***Conclusion:***

Pray: Ps. 19:13-14.

***Don’t take God for granted.***