



DEGREES OF SIN


Study Day:

Tulsa Christadelphian Ecclesia



DEGREES OF GUILT


“It is usual to judge the heinousness of a sin solely with reference to its effect on humanity. Even those who have grasped the principle that sin is the transgression of God’s law almost always fall into the error of supposing that the worst sin must be the one



which most harms our neighbors;
and from this assumption it is not
a very long step to an attitude of
toleration of indifference towards
all sins which do not appear
harmful to anyone”

Conviction & Conduct

Islip Collyer, pg. 90-91



➤ The degree of sins have very much to do with our responsibility to Divine Law.

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” –James 4:17



“It is true that some sins are more serious than others, but the comparison must not be made by reference simply to the well-being of humanity. There are some transgressions for which God has in a special sense expressed His abhorrence, and which may therefore be regarded




as exceptionally offensive. Apart from this, the depth of a man's guilt is determined, not by reference to the degree of harm he does to other men, but by the *degree of deliberateness* with which the law is violated. In other words, *sins of presumption are always worse than sins of infirmity.*" C&C, pg. 91

➤ The Scriptures acknowledge degrees of reward & punishment.

Luke 12:47-48 “And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes,





*shall be beaten with few stripes.
For unto whomsoever much is
given, of him shall be much
required: and to whom men have
committed much, of him they will
ask the more.”*

**PRIVILEGE BRINGS GREATER
DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

Mat 25:15-21 *“And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey...And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents:*





behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.


His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”



“The more deliberate the disobedience, the more serious the sin. The full apprehension of this fact will explain much in the Bible that has been the cause of stumbling. The Israelites complained that the way of the Lord was not equal, and many modern critics have re-echoed the charge.” C&C, pg. 93



“The man who reasons according to the flesh sees inequality in this...One who has grasped the elementary principles already enunciated will immediately see the answer to the apparent paradox. They will make no attempt to justify David, whose sin was as black as the Bible



describes it, but they will recognize that *his sin was distinctly one arising from the weakness of the flesh, and not from a deliberate intention to flout the law of God.* It was otherwise with the man who gathered sticks on the Sabbath Day. A strict command to hallow



the Sabbath, and do no manner of servile work on that day, had just been given. *There was no temptation to break the law in this manner.* The offender could not possibly plead that he was assailed by a great temptation to gather sticks, and in a moment of weakness succumbed.” pg. 93-94




“The distinction is between sins which arise from the weakness of the flesh and sins which arise from the perversity of the spirit

...The enunciation of this principle should provide much material for serious thought, and induce men to ask themselves whether they are paying heed




to all divine laws simply because of their duty to the Creator, *or whether they pick and choose according to the dictates of human fashion.*”

C&C, pg. 94-95



➤ Since it was the purpose of the Law of Moses to manifest SIN, we find instances where *deliberate sin* is treated differently than *inadvertent or accidental sin*.

READ: Num. 35:10-12, 20-21



1 Tim 1:12-13 “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was *before* a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: *but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*” —Apostle Paul



READ: 1The. 2:1-6

(Also: 1Tim. 1:11; 2:7; Gal. 2:7;
Tit. 1:3; 1Cor. 1-3)

*“For if I yet pleased men, I
should not be the servant of
Christ” —Gal. 1:10*



READ: 2Tim. 1:8-14

READ: 2Tim. 2:1-3

Rev 3:10 “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation.”



Mark 14:21 “The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.”



READ: *Responsibility-Ignorance*

Lev. 4:1-3

Priest: *Bullock*

Lev. 4:13-14

Israel: *Bullock*


Lev. 4:22-23

Ruler: *He Goat*

Lev. 4:27-28

Common:

Female Goat



James 3:1-2 “My brethren, be not many masters (teachers), knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.”



READ: Deu. 13:1,5-6,8-9


Regardless how close our relationship may be with a false teacher, it is our duty to stand firm for the Truth.



Mat 5:19 “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”



Ecc 10:1 “Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.”




1 Tim 5:17-19 “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine....Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”



Mat 18:6-7 “Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ...for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”



2 Pet 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning For it had been better for them not to have known...



the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”