

The Why of Sin (4)

We've considered six causes of sin: *deception, ignorance, pride, unbelief, pleasure* and *power*. Let's consider two final causes.

GREED or COVETOUSNESS:

Jesus charged the Pharisees with "greed and wickedness" (Luke 11:39). Their insatiable desire for wealth caused them to set aside God's law to satisfy their fleshly, earthly desires.

Covetousness is idolatry (Col 3:5). Covetous people cannot inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:10). False teachers are trained to be covetous; they exploit others for material gain (2 Pet 2:3, 14). Jesus said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). Greed is an outgrowth of a covetous heart. If covetousness is not removed, sin will follow. But the heart of a Christian is first given to God and secondarily to others (Matt 22:37-40); self is best served in these ways.

CONFORMING TO THE MAJORITY:

Moses warned, "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil" (Exo 23:2). King Saul allowed the will of his people to sway his judgment. This caused him to sin and lose his kingdom (1 Sam 15:24, 26, 28). There is a sense of personal comfort in numbers. However, when a person does God's will it places him in the minority (Matt 7:13-14). That is why most people will not bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5).

Have you turned away from the causes of sin? "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23). Jesus came to "take away" sins (1 John 3:5). Avail yourself of that promise. Confess your faith in Him and be buried with Him in water baptism (Rom 10:9-10; 6:3-4; Col 2:12-13). May we help you?

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