

No Sin is Private!

No sin is private; it may be secret but it is not private.

Some people believe that their conduct is their own business unless their acts infringe on the rights of others.

Such a belief is a gross error.

“My liberty ends where yours begins” is true but **not all the truth**.

No-one ever has the right to commit an evil act, no matter how secret.

God desires all people to be free, but **not** free to commit sin, for such an act only brings pain and slavery in the end.

Sin is three-dimensional in consequences:

a) **Towards God:-** For it alienates us from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 [NIV] *“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”*

b) **Towards self:-** For it degrades us.

Isaiah 59:3-4 [NIV] *“For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things. No-one calls for justice; no-one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.”*

c) **Towards society:-** Brings injury to others.

The history of the world proves this over and over, from Adam and Eve to modern day dictators who leave a trail of blood behind them.

Such people as Nero, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, just to name four, dramatised the destructive social results of personal sins.

But every sin and sinner injures society, though the effects may be milder and less noticeable.

Have you ever considered what the world would be like today if Napoleon had become a Christian when in his teens?

Or if Hitler had learned to control his temper?

Or if Stalin had been tender-hearted?

Or if Himmler had fainted at the sight of blood?

Or if all businessmen should suddenly turn honest?

Or if every politician should stop lying?

Theoretically, if Hitler had been a good and gentle man, 6,000,000 Jews would have lived a normal length of life instead of it being violently cut short.

Had Stalin been a Christian, several million Russian farmers would be alive who now moulder in the earth.

Thousands of little children die of starvation; millions become displaced people because of leaders who have hate in their hearts.

Nearer to home, how many wives will sob themselves to sleep tonight because of their husband's savage temper.

How many bewildered, heartbroken children will cower in their dark bedrooms tonight, sick with shock and terror as their parents curse and shout at each other in the next room.

Is theirs a private quarrel?

No! Children to the third or fourth generation will be injured, psychologically if not physically, because one man and his wife sinned inside four walls. No sin can be private.

We Christians should know that our un-Christian conduct cannot be kept in our own back yard.

Sin committed in the privacy of the home will have its effect on the whole congregation, whether we realise it or not.

Why?

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 [NIV] *“Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.”*

The Holy Spirit cannot work, firing up enthusiasm, when the evil of sin is within a congregation.

Ephesians 4:30-32 [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

The special anointing presence of the Holy Spirit leaves the congregation where the sin of bitterness, rage, anger, slander or any other sin is found to be present.

The effect of the sins of one person can, as time passes, pollute the whole congregation.

But thanks be to God there is a cure for this plague of sin.

1 John 1:8-10 [NIV] *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”*

When we humble ourselves before God and confess our sins, they can be cleansed and the Work of the Holy Spirit can then continue to bring us all to maturity.