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GRACE**

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Sin Dwelling
in the
Flesh and Coveting

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Sin Dwelling in the Flesh and Coveting.

Topics.

1. Sin in the heart.
2. Selfishness.
3. Ego.
4. Pride.
5. Greed.
6. Lust.
7. Envy.
8. Anger.
9. Unbelief.
10. Coveting.

SIN IN THE HEART

Jesus said:

- **Matthew 5:28–29:** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Here Jesus shows that sin is not limited to outward actions and behaviour only, but also embraces inward sinful thoughts, and Paul in the following verses speaks of sin dwelling within his flesh (i.e., human nature).

- **Romans 7:17-18:** So now it is no longer I (Paul) who do it, but sin that dwells within me.
¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right (i.e., the desire to be perfectly Holy and righteous), but not the ability to carry it out (i.e., the ability to attain to it).
- **Romans 7:19-20:** For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.
- **Romans 7:23:** but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
- **Romans 7:24-25:** Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

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In these verses Paul speaks of:

- Sin that dwells within him.
- Sin that dwells in his members.
- Serving the law of sin with his flesh.

Following is a list of nine primary sins that dwell in the flesh:

1. SELFISHNESS

Selfishness: and self-centredness, at their extreme embraces people who:

- Have a total lack of consideration for others
- Do not see (or are unwilling to see) beyond themselves and recognize that there are others sharing the world.

- Sole concern is excessively and exclusively upon themselves
- Are callous and insensitive to the wants and needs of others.
- Seek and concentrate on their own advantage, pleasure, and well-being without any concern or regard for others
- Sole focus is concern for their own welfare and advantage.

Obviously, most of the world's population do not have this extreme level of selfishness and self-centredness, but at some level selfishness dwell in all of us.

2. EGO

Ego and being egotistical at their extreme embraces people who:

- Are excessively conceited, and have an inflated feeling of pride, and view of their own self importance
- Are absorbed with themselves, and think they are better and superior to everyone else.
- Put their welfare above others, and have an extreme sense of self-importance.
- Use others for their own gain an advantage, and to succeed, regardless of the harm it may inflict upon those they use. This is because an unhealthy ego can make a person extremely sensitive to failure, or overconfident in their abilities, and either of these attitudes can drive a person to use others to achieve their own goals.

Clearly, most of the world's population are not this egotistical, but at some level ego dwells in all of us.

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3. PRIDE

Pride and being prideful at their extreme embraces people who:

- Are arrogant, conceited, and have a bloated sense of self-importance, and superiority, believing they are superior to everyone else.
- Have an exceedingly high self-regard.
- Believe they are always right, and treat others as lessor, and with insolence, disrespect, contempt, and disdain.

Obviously, most of the world's population do not have this extreme level of ungodly pride, but at some level pride dwell in all of us. It should be mentioned, not all pride is bad, when pride motivates a person to do a good job, or to achieve their goals, or a promotion in a legitimate way, or achieve something good and worthwhile, or finish a difficult task, or help others with their needs, a healthy sense of self-respect, and personal worth, and a feeling of satisfaction, joy, and gratification will follow.

4. GREED

Greed and being greedy at their extreme embraces people who:

- Have a strong desire and craving for more than they need.

- Always want more and more; money, food, alcohol, fame, power, authority, importance, and material possessions etc.
- Lack of restraint, and are excessively self-indulgent.
- Indulge themselves in excessive and extremely opulent luxurious lifestyles.
- Are stingy in giving money, help and time to help others.

Clearly, most of the world's population do not have the wealth to attain to this extreme level of greed, but it matters little, because you can be greedy for just about anything, and at some level greed dwells in all of us.

5. LUST

Lust and being lustful. For many the root of lust is often emptiness, and the desire for gratification, many succumb to it in a vain attempt to fill the void they feel in their life. Lust is a strong and powerful word, for no one lusts for things they do not deeply crave after or care about, it indicates, selfishness, and lack of self-control and it embraces:

- A strong craving and desire for anything (i.e., power, wealth, fame, importance, popularity, and food etc.).
- Sensual lustful fantasies and immoral thoughts.
- A strong passion and desire for another person's husband or wife.

Obviously, most of the world's population do not have extreme levels of lust, but, because lust can take any form of craving, all at some level have lust dwelling within.

6. ENVY

Envy stems from an unhealthy focus on other people's successes and wanting to bring them down because of it. Many people do not recognize indwelling envy, because it is an emotion that is largely unconscious in most people, however, it is easy to discern; if you are not happy for others when they achieve success, or their success makes you feel unhappy, and you feel the need to diminish their success, it is very likely you have a high level of envy. It embraces:

- A person who begrudges others, is jealous, spiteful, resentful, and unhappy because someone else has achieved or possesses, what they wished they possessed, or achieved.
- A feeling of discontent, and resentment aroused by someone else's good fortune, luck, success, possessions, fame, talents, and such like things.

Clearly, most of the world's population do not have extreme levels of envy, and some would be almost void of it altogether. It should be mentioned, according to researchers not all envy is bad, a person can have positive envy, which is kind and compassionate envy that motivate a person, to positive thoughts about another person, and to admire their achievements, and talents and successes. This type of envy can have a positive affect a person by motivating them to be a better person and inspire them to succeed.

7. ANGER

Anger is a strong feeling of being upset or annoyed because of something misunderstood, or did not go the way the person wanted it to, and the feeling that makes a person shout, swear and curse etc., and want to hurt other people. It embraces:

- Frustration, this is its most triggering and primary emotion, because it stems from a feeling of helplessness, or being out of control, and over time, feelings and emotions of frustration can cause a person's mood to simmer until it reaches an overflowing state of anger.
- A strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility.
- Resentment, bitterness, and hatred.
- Raging anger, this is anger at its peak, and often leads to physical abuse and violence. Some who fly into fits of rage, have low self-esteem, and use their anger to dominate and manipulate others, and to cause them to feel powerless.

Obviously, not all have extreme levels of anger, but, because we all experience certain moments of frustration, it is certain we all have a certain level of anger dwelling within.

8. UNBELIEF

Unbelief: concerning the Bible, God, and the Lord Jesus Christ embraces the following:

- An absence of faith, and lack of belief.
- Indifference toward God, and refusing to believe in God and His word.
- A deliberate conscious decision not to take God at His word, and believe His promises.

NOTE, doubt is different to unbelief, like temptation is different to sin. Doubt comes and goes, but unbelief is a deliberate decision, and conclusion a person reaches, to live their life as if there is no God.

9. COVETING

Coveting is a strong emotion that stems from strong and greedy thoughts, that have such an obsessive hold on the mind that they have the potential to lead to sinful behaviour and wrongful deeds. It embraces:

- Obsessive, strong, and persistent thoughts that are contrary to the will of God, that arise from inner desires.
- Being in a state of mind that is wrongfully focused upon things belonging to others.
- Obsessive thoughts stimulated by sight, that focus on the beauty of a person one desires to possess.
- Craving, wishing, yearning, and desiring earnestly what we cannot have (especially something belonging to another).

- Fantasizing about sinful things in thought and mind (especially sexual fantasies).
- Wrongfully desiring (someone or something), without regards for the rights and feelings of others.
- Obsessive and compulsive desires for indulgent luxury, and excessive wealth and material possessions, or for an award, or prize etc.
- A craving desire for power, fame, importance, and popularity, or another person's ministry, position, or talent.

The command, 'You shall not covet,' takes us from the outer world of works and deeds into the deep place of the inner man where good and evil begins.

- **Matthew 15:18–19:** But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Coveting stems from selfish attitudes, desires, envious passions, and the restless, greedy, avaricious, jealous, and internal thoughts that flow out of the human heart. These indulging covetous thoughts arise from the inner man, and have the potential to lead to outward sinful actions and ungodly behaviour.

THE BIBLE AND COVETING

Concerning converting the Bible states:

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- **Deuteronomy 5:21:** you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'
- **Exodus 20:17:** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

A man who covets his neighbour's wife consistently nourishes thoughts and cravings for her, which can lead to flirtatious behaviour and charming manipulations to woo his neighbour's wife into his arms.

Jesus highlighted the principle of this tenth commandment when He said:

- **Matthew 5:27-28:** You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

This commandment, is very important because it applies to the heart and our thoughts, which are what all actions stem from. Jesus said:

- **Matthew 15:19:** "Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."

Paul in Galatians chapter five presents the flesh as an adversary of the Spirit, with the flesh and the Spirit battling against each other to gain our favour, our heart and to be the master of our behaviour.

- **Galatians 5:16-18:** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The works of the flesh: are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. (Gal. 5:19-20).

The works of the Spirit: called the fruit of the Spirit, are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; there is no law against these. (Gal. 5:22-23).

James the half-brother of Jesus said:

- **James 1:14–15:** each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

The internal battle between the flesh and the Spirit has external consequences, and we can all determine which is winning the battle, and who we are choosing by examining our outward actions and lifestyle. This commandment is the most difficult to keep, because it deals with our inner man, and the thoughts of our mind. When we cast our eyes over the populations of the world, it is easy to see the lack of moral ethics are a widespread cause of humanity's troubles. The commandment, 'you shall not covet,' shines a spotlight on the truth; God's commandments concerning mankind are founded on love, because each command protects the innocent. It has been said, "all public crime would cease if this one law was kept," and that every sin against a neighbour, whether of word or deed, springs from breaking this commandment. The idea underlying the command, 'you shall not covet,' is that we should all be content and satisfied with what God has granted us.

NOTE: this does not mean it is wrong to notice things that belong to our neighbours, nor even to desire to legitimately obtain such things for ourselves.

CONCLUSION: not all of us have extreme levels of selfishness, ego, pride, greediness, lust, envy, anger, unbelief, and coveting, dwelling within, but various ones are at some level abiding in all of us, and though some may be lying dormant, given the right triggers they have the potential to raise their ugly heads.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
