

The Sins That Crucified Christ #1

Introduction. The greatest story on earth was the crucifixion of Jesus. It has been the subject of many movies and books. It is considered by many as one of the great tragedies of all time. Jesus dying on the cross not only meant salvation for us (Romans 5:8), but it also demonstrated the depravity of man as they put someone to death because He did not share their beliefs.

In Genesis 3:8-9, Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden because they violated a commandment of God. Sin is a transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). Just as sin led to the death of Christ, it will lead us away from God and toward spiritual death.

Today, we are going to examine the sins that crucified Christ. None of these are what we would consider "extraordinary" sins. It is good to study more of our Lord's life. But it is also good to study this subject so that we can avoid current manifestations of the same sins in our lives. They are the same attitudes and feelings which each one of us experience and perhaps even are falling victim to this very day.

I. **Ignorance**

- A. Peter, in addressing the crowd on Solomon's portico, said that he knew they acted out of ignorance (Acts 3:17-19). As Jesus hung on the cross, He asked God to forgive them because they were ignorant (Luke 23:34).
- B. Ignorance is a major problem in religion today. The word ignorance means "want of knowledge or perception." Ignorance usually does not imply that one lacks common sense, but instead means that one lacks knowledge of things already supplied to him.
- C. There are some examples of people who paid the price because of their ignorance. All of them had the opportunity to seek the truth, but instead acted ignorantly.
 1. The Israelites (Isaiah 1:1-3, 7-8). For generations, they ignored the very plain and simple laws given to them by Moses. As a result, both Israel and Judah were destroyed.
 2. The Gentiles (Romans 1:18-25; Ephesians 4:18). The Gentiles knew of God but refused to glorify Him, and were not thankful for what God had done for them.
 3. Paul (Acts 22:4-21). He zealously persecuted Christians just after the church began. He did so to satisfy the high priest and officials of the Jewish religion.
- D. How can ignorance be a problem today? Mankind has been given the Bible and it alone as the source of spiritual knowledge. What are some of the causes of ignorance?

1. A refusal to study God's word (2 Timothy 2:15). How many of us place more emphasis on the material matters of this life? Studying God's word brings one closer to the Lord and helps one make corrections where necessary (2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:18).
2. A refusal to make application (1 Corinthians 9:27). Some people read a passage of scripture, do not like it, and refuse to follow the lesson intended to be learned. After so long, they forget about their condition and become ignorant of the need of correction.
3. A belief that ignorance will be excused. Some have a "what I don't know won't hurt me" attitude. That did not remove Paul's need for mercy (1 Timothy 1:13).
4. A failure to teach by those who have knowledge (Mark 16:15-16). It is the responsibility of those who have a knowledge of the truth to get it out to the masses. If we do not teach, then generations after us will grow up ignorant of the plan of salvation, and thus stand in line for eternal destruction before God.

II. **Unbelief**

- A. In Mark 6:1-6, Christ returned to His hometown of Nazareth. They did not believe because he was merely a "carpenter's son." Perhaps while standing in that synagogue He saw many people whom He knew in the past. The Israelites were His people because God had chosen them to be His above all nations. Yet, they did not believe He was the Messiah (John 1:11).
- B. From the very beginning, the Bible states that those who do not believe in God will suffer the consequences. The following are some examples from which we can learn.
 1. The people of Noah's day (Genesis 6:5-6). Although Noah found grace in the sight of God, it is evident that no one else believed (Genesis 7:7).
 2. The Israelites (Numbers 14:2-4). The Israelites demonstrated complete disbelief toward God and as a result, they spent forty years in the wilderness.
 3. Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 18:4). Ahab was Israel's most wicked king and Jezebel slaughtered the prophets of the Lord. Ahab was a murderer and follower of the idols of the Sidonians. Both had no belief whatsoever in God.
- C. How can unbelief be a problem today? Many fail to realize that unbelief will cause their soul to be lost on the day of judgment.
 1. Unbelief is demonstrated by a lack of desire to do His will. Many people are concerned with only pleasing themselves (Galatians 1:10). Christ gave us a simple plan by which to go by when we

- follow Him, but many come up with their own plan (1 Timothy 4:1-4).
2. Unbelief is demonstrated by not remaining faithful. God has promised a crown of life to those who remain faithful to Him until death (Revelation 2:10). Sadly, many fall back into the grasp of Satan because they feel that the sacrifice is not worth it (2 Timothy 4:10).
 3. Unbelief is demonstrated by a lack of belief that God will help us in our labors. A lot of people have lost their belief that God will give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). If there is not an immediate response to an effort in evangelism many become discouraged. As a result, many congregations are simply "keeping house." God expects us to bear fruit for Him (John 15:1-5).

III. **Hypocrisy**

- A. The religious people of the day pretended to live pious lives. Throughout the gospels a clear picture is painted of the way certain religious leaders viewed others (Luke 18:9-14). If people brought false accusations against someone the Pharisees and religious rulers of the day would have made them suffer the punishment that the person who was accused would have suffered (Deuteronomy 19:16-21). While standing before the ruling authorities the scribes and Pharisees tried to make Christ appear guilty.
 1. False testimony (Matthew 26:59-63; Mark 14:56-61).
 2. Accusing Him of insurrection and blasphemy (Luke 23:2).
- B. The scriptures have been given to mankind as a tool to learn how to live in a way pleasing to God. The following is a list of people who were hypocritical.
 1. Adam (Job 31:33-34; Genesis 3:7, 10-11). Job declared that he did not try to hide his sin as Adam did.
 2. David (2 Samuel 12:3-6). He was quick to criticize and punish someone else without realizing his own actions.
 3. Judas (Matthew 26:25, 48). Judas pretended to be loyal to Christ, while the desire for money corrupted him to the point where he betrayed the Son of God (Acts 1:15-20).
- C. How can we be guilty of hypocrisy? There are a multitude of ways in which we can act hypocritically.
 1. Hiding our sins while make the appearance of being righteous. Man has always tried to hide his sin, but God sees all. If we fail to confess our sins, we stand in danger of hell (1 John 2:4, 9, 19).
 2. Finding faults with others to justify one's own error. We are responsible for our own actions (Galatians 6:5). Some people

caught in wrongdoing try to “white wash” their error by saying, “I’m not as bad as he or she is.”

3. Professing to preach the truth, but not applying it personally. Paul warned Timothy of this problem in 1 Timothy 4:1-3. For instance, members of the Lord’s church teach and preach principles of modesty and honesty, but fail to practice the principles themselves.

IV. **Envy**

- A. Envy, strife, and jealousy arose because of the popularity of Jesus (Matthew 27:17-18). Christ drew the people away from the religious leaders of the Jews. They enjoyed their position of power and prominence and wanted to be rid of Christ. Throughout the gospels, the scribes and Pharisees tried every way to “trip” Him up. Instead, His words of wisdom only revealed their true intentions.
- B. Envy is a discontented desire for someone else’s possessions or advantages. Consider the following examples of envy in the Bible.
 1. Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:4-8). Abel’s offering was accepted and Cain’s was not. God gave Cain the chance to do what was right. Instead, he killed his brother.
 2. Joseph’s brothers (Genesis 37:4-11, 19-20). Jacob loved Joseph the most and this caused great envy and jealousy among his eleven brothers. As a result, they sold him into slavery.
 3. Saul and David (1 Samuel 18:8-9, 29; 20:31). Saul began as a good king, but as time went on he began to be selfish and disobey God. As a result God chose a new king, David. David’s fame spread quickly after defeating Goliath and Saul was envious.
- C. The Bible clearly warns against these sins. Why should we be on guard against envy and jealousy?
 1. When one is envious, his mind is set on material matters (Colossians 3:2). Many people are jealous of other people’s possessions, happiness, career, accomplishments, children, etc. We all make fun of the saying, “keep up with the Jones’s,” but some men actually do whatever they can to out-do their associates.
 2. When one is envious, he is not content. The apostle Paul learned to be content (Philippians 4:11). If there was anyone ever who could have been jealous of those who live “normal” lives, it would have been Paul.
 3. When one is envious, he is ungrateful. We should be thankful for our many, many blessings. Many people are so busy that they fail to consider the many blessings they possess (Colossians 3:15).
 4. When one is envious, he is not filled with love. We are to be filled with care and compassion toward our fellow man (Matthew

5:43-49). This is the way of Christ. When one is filled with envy, love is not present in the heart.

Conclusion. The sins which helped nail Christ to the cross have not vanished, they still plague man to this day. We must all be on guard against them, and do our part to be pleasing to God. If we leave these sins unchecked, we will not be able to inherit the kingdom of God. Let us learn to bring our thoughts, emotions, and actions into compliance to His will.