

HAMARTIOLOGY (13)

Passage #3 - Psalm 90:8 - All sin is before God, even secret sin of which no one else knows. It is clear from the context that unless something is done about this sin, one will face God's wrath at the end of life (**verses 7, 9**).

Passage #4 - Jeremiah 2:22 - Even though a person may look clean externally, this passage is clear that God sees the internal iniquity. In the context, there were two ways God's people had committed internal iniquity: 1) They turned away from God and His Word (**2:13**); 2) They had turned to idolatry (**2:23**). Even though much of the sin had been internal, not external, God still saw it and held Israel accountable.

Passage #5 - Romans 2:16 - God knows the secret sins of man and will judge them. This verse is in the context of Romans, the book that unfolds the Gospel. When God's judgment comes against a person, no sin will be overlooked.

Passage #6 - II Timothy 2:19-21 - This text makes it clear that God knows everyone who is His and knows every wickedness His children commit. This obviously will be a critical part of determining who will be rewarded as a vessel of honor, and who will lose rewards as a vessel of dishonor (**I Corinthians 3:12-17**); **II Corinthians 5:9-10**). In order for God to make an accurate judgment, He must know about all the sin.

The conclusion is clear; God is completely aware of every sin committed by every human being. He sees the external sins and the internal sins, and every person is responsible and will be held accountable for his sin.

QUESTION #10 – How do we personally sin?

All sin is against God and all sin is known and seen by God. However, as we examine the Bible, we learn that there are various ways that people sin. At times many of these categories will overlap; but for the sake of understanding sin, it is wise to systematize it by showing how it relates to various areas:

Sin Area #1 - Personal sin as it relates to God's Word:

(Sin Way #1) - It may be a sin of ignorance. **Leviticus 4:2**

This type of sin is personally committed by an individual unintentionally, because he did not know what the Word of God actually said (**Leviticus 19:28; I Peter 2:18**).

(Sin Way #2) - It may be a sin of omission. **James 4:17**

This type of sin is personally committed when one knows what he should do but refuses to do it. In this case, he fails to do what he knows God's Word tells him to do (**i.e. Hebrews 10:25**).

HAMARTIOLOGY (14)

(Sin Way #3) - It may be a sin of commission . **I Corinthians 5:1**

This is a personal sin in which one blatantly chooses to sin, knowing he is involving himself in something that is totally unrighteous (i.e. **II Timothy 4:10**).

Sin Area #2 - Personal sin as it relates to a specific person:

(Sin Way #1) - A personal sin may be specifically committed against God . **Exodus 20:2-11**

All sin is against God, but it also may be sin specifically committed against God alone and no one else.

(Sin Way #2) - A personal sin may be specifically committed against another .
Exodus 20:12-17

In this case, the sin would not only be against God but also against someone else. Restitution needs to be made.

(Sin Way #3) - A personal sin may be specifically against self . **Galatians 5:19-21**

A good example would be drunkenness which may be a sin against God and self and include no one else. Another example would be an impurity or sensuality such as masturbation. It does not involve anyone else, but it is a sin against God which makes one guilty of sexual activity outside the context of marriage. Sexual expression is only a non-sin, non-judgmental matter in the context of marriage (**Hebrews 13:4**).

Sin Area #3 - Personal sin as it relates to self:

(Relational Way #1) - Personal sin may be a sin that is internal . **Proverbs 6:17a, 18a**

In this case, it would be sin that is inward, not outward. It would be a sin of the heart but not necessarily a sin of the body.

(Relational Way #2) - Personal sin may be a sin that is external . **I Corinthians 6:13-18**

In this case, it would be a sin that is physical ; one that uses the body.

Sin Area #4 - Personal sin as it relates to intention:

(Sin Way #1) – Personal sin may be voluntary . **Romans 1:29-32**

In this case, a sin is not only a specific choice, but also there is great momentary enjoyment in choosing to sin. This text indicates that there are times when God abandons one in his sin. In such cases, one would plunge headlong into intentional sin and ultimately would reap eternal judgment for it.

HAMARTIOLOGY (15)

(Sin Way #2) - Personal sin may be involuntary .

Perhaps an example of this would be someone who didn't know the truth of **I Corinthians 6:1-8** in which it clearly says that it is wrong for one believer to take another believer to public court. It would be possible for one to do this and not know it was wrong. In such cases, the sin would be involuntary in that it would be committed in ignorance.

Sin Area #5 - Personal sin as it relates to incrimination before God:

(Incrimination Area #1) - Personal sin is a sin that incriminates self .

All personal sin will be judged and makes one accountable to God. All personal sin incriminates self.

(Incrimination Area #2) - Personal sin may be a sin that incriminates others .

This is a very grave matter in the mind of God; one that makes one highly accountable to God. To cause another to sin is very serious - **Matthew 18:1-7; Luke 17:1-2; Romans 14:21; I Corinthians 8:9-13; I Timothy 5:22.**

Sin Area #6 - Personal sin as it relates to degree of sinfulness:

(Sinfulness Degree #1) - Personal sin may be greater .

(Sinfulness Degree #2) - Personal sin may be lesser .

There is no question that the sin issue is very personal; and when the sin is committed, it may be greater or lesser depending on what the sin is and who is committing the sin. For example, a leader who sins is much more responsible and accountable than a newborn Christian. From a legal standpoint, the physical act of murder is worse than the mental act of murder (**James 2:9-11 / I John 3:15**).

All sin makes one guilty and accountable to God; however, there are certain factors that make one more accountable.

Accountability Factor #1 - The amount of knowledge .

One factor that makes the sin greater or lesser is knowledge. The more one knows, the more accountable one is. There are many passages that teach this Biblical truth - **Matthew 11:20-24; 23:14.**

Accountability Factor #2 - The amount of condemnation .

Every culture and every society deems some things more condemnatory than others. These things are primarily determined by God-ordained leadership (**Romans 13:1-4**).