

# Sin Has Consequences - James 1

August 17, 2017

James 1:14-16 NASB

14 **But each one is tempted when he is carried away (*exelkō* - to draw out as in hunting or fishing, to lure, entice) and enticed by his own lust.**

15 **Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.**

16 **Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.**

*The deception that James warns against is two-fold:*

- *being lured and enticed by sin's bait*
- *presuming that one can sin without consequence(s)*

1 John 1:9 NASB

9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*God forgives and cleanses from all unrighteousness regarding our standing with Him and our eternal salvation, but that doesn't mean the destructive chain reaction of sin is reversed.*

Galatians 6:7-9 NASB

7 **Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.**

8 **For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.**

9 **Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.**

*It is deception to presume that indulging in sin:*

- *won't have consequences (God somehow doesn't see, doesn't know, doesn't notice, will overlook)*
- *God's forgiveness takes away all consequences*

*Let us not lose heart in doing good because we don't always readily see the consequences of doing good or committing sin.*

## Why We Resist Temptation to Sin

**We don't resist temptation to sin to avoid bad "karma." We resist temptation because we love God.**

- *Sin grieves the heart of God.*
- *Sin offends the holiness of God.*
- *Sin separates us from God.*

## No sin is “secret” from God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NASB

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Proverbs 15:3 ESV

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Luke 12:1-3 NASB

1 Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, "**Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.**"

2 "**But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.**"

3 "**Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.**"

Acts 5:1-11 ESV

9 But Peter said to her [Sapphira], "**How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband [Ananias] are at the door, and they will carry you out.**"

11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

## The immediate and most dangerous consequence of our sin is the strength it gives to our flesh.

1 Corinthians 9:27 NASB

27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

Proverbs 5:22 ESV

22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare (*lakad - capture, be caught*) him, and he is held fast (*tamak - retain, be seized, keep*) in the cords of his sin.

Judges 16:15-21 ESV

15 And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies."

16 And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death.

17 And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man."

21 And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison.

## Sin brings consequences, even when consequences are delayed.

2 Samuel 11:5-6 ESV

5 And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

6 So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

2 Samuel 11:26-27 ESV

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband.

27 And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2 Samuel 12:13-14 ESV

13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die."

2 Samuel 12:7-12 NASB

10 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

11 "Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.

12 'Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.'"

## Sin brings consequences, even when we are truly repentant.

2 Samuel 12:13-15 NASB

13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

14 "However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."

15 So Nathan went to his house. Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was very sick.

## God is sovereign over the severity and duration of the consequences. Only God, not you, can control the consequences and balance the scales of justice.

2 Samuel 12:16-23 NASB

16 David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground.

17 The elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them.

18 Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do himself harm!"

19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.

21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food."

22 He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.'

23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

Lamentations 3:1-3 ESV

1 I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath;

2 he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light;

3 surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long.

Lamentations 3:21-23 ESV

21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**Sin brings consequences, even when we've been serving the Lord faithfully.**

Numbers 20:1-12 ESV

7 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

8 "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle."

9 And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?"

11 And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock.

12 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."

**Sin brings the loss of heavenly rewards.**

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 ESV

13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

**God is merciful; He restores and cleanses through the consequences.**