

CONFRONTING COMPLACENCY (#5)

DO YOU TREAT SIN CASUALLY?

Evaluating Your Response to Sin

12/10/17

Three elements of complacency:

- *A feeling of satisfaction, contentment, smugness, pleasure about yourself or your achievements*
- *A lack of awareness of deficiency, defect, or danger*
- *A blindness to what actually needs to change or improve*

Are you as a believer complacent in any area of your Christian life?

- ✓ *Evaluating Your Walk With Christ ("Has Your Love Grown Cold?")*
- ✓ *Evaluating Your Worship of God ("How Great Is Your God?")*
- ✓ *Evaluating Your Commitment to the Word ("Has the Bible Become Like Any Other Book?")*
- ✓ *Evaluating Your Commitment to Prayer ("Has Prayer Lost Its Power?")*
- ✓ *Evaluating Your Response to Sin ("Do You Treat Casually?")*

Genuine repentance of sin is required in order to remove it from your life.

There are three essentials to genuine repentance:

I. You must have _____ toward your sin (Ezra 9:1-6).

A. *You must feel _____ when you sin (Ezra 9:3-5).*

- Expressed by _____ his garment and mantle (cp. Gen.37:29, 34; Job 1:20; 2:11, 12; II Kings 18:37; Matt. 26:65)
- Expressed by _____ off the _____ of his head and beard
- Expressed by sitting down _____

B. *You must feel _____ when you sin (Ezra 9:3-5).*

- _____ the garment and plucking off the _____ were also signs of _____ and _____ (Gen. 37:29,34; Job 1:20; 2:11-12; I Sam. 4:12; II Sam.1:2).
- Godly _____ is connected to genuine _____ (cp. Neh. 8:9-12; II Cor. 7:9-10; Jas. 4:8-9).

C. *You must feel _____ when you sin (Ezra 9:6; cp. Jer. 3:3; 6:15; 8:12; Zeph. 3:5).*

- Instead of being _____ by their sin, they _____ in their sin (cp. Psa. 52:1, 7; I Cor. 5:1-2).
- Instead of _____ their sin, they boldly _____ their sin (cp. Isa. 3:9).

How you become insensitive to sin

- ❖ *You refuse to _____ God's Word time after time, even after the Spirit's continual _____ (cp. I Tim. 4:2).*
- ❖ *You don't come to the Word of God each time to be _____ by it, but only to obtain more _____.*
- ❖ *You don't _____ yourself regularly.*

How you become sensitive again to sin

- ❖ _____ the insensitivity as sin.

- ❖ *Conduct a regular, thorough self-_____.*
- ❖ *Daily deal with any known sin—confess it, _____ it.*
- ❖ *Obey the _____ of the Holy Spirit.*
- ❖ *Use _____ as a trigger to resistance.*
- ❖ *Approach the Word with a desire to _____.*

II. You must see the _____ of your sin (Ezra 9:6-15).

When you recognize the seriousness of your sin. . . .

- A. *You feel overwhelmed by the _____ of your sin (Ezra 9:6-7).*
- B. *You realize the _____ which your sin has created in your life (Ezra 9:7).*
- C. *You grow in your appreciation of the _____ and _____ of God (Ezra 9:8-9, 13; cp. 1 Tim. 1:12-15).*
- D. *You realize that you have really shown _____ for the grace and mercy of God (Ezra 9:10-12).*
- E. *You realize that God in His _____ will send _____ if you don't repent (Ezra 9:14-15).*

III. You must have _____ from your sin (Ezra 10:1-44).

- A. *Shecaniah urged the making of a _____ with God to _____ their pagan wives (Ezra 10:1-4).*
- B. *Ezra made the religious leaders and all Israel to take an _____ to follow Shecaniah's proposal (Ezra 10:1-5).*
- C. *Ezra called all Israel to a special _____, where he urged them to _____ their sins and _____ themselves from their pagan wives (Ezra 10:6-11).*
- D. *All the people _____ to do it and asked for a _____ to carry this out (Ezra 10:12-14).*
- E. *A list of the _____ in this sin are listed (Ezra 10:15-44).*

Evaluating Your Response to Sin:

- On a scale of 1-10, where are you in regard to your response to sin?
Casual Treatment 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Genuine Repentance
- What steps can you take to see your response to sin strengthened?
 - ❖ _____
 - ❖ _____
 - ❖ _____
 - ❖ _____
- What do you need to do to begin to take sin seriously?
 - ❖ *You must be stirred by a sense of how _____ views your sin.*
 - ❖ *You must be gripped by an _____ to deal with your sin. . . "so _____ we do" (Ezra 10:12; cp. Prov. 28:13; Jas. 1:22-25).*
 - ❖ *You must be equipped with a _____ to remove it. . . through the power of God.*

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- ✓ *Evaluating Your Response to Sin ("Do You Treat Casually?")*

Genuine repentance of sin is required in order to remove it from your life.

There are three essentials to genuine repentance:

I. You must have sensitivity toward your sin (Ezra 9:3-5).

- Expressed by *tearing* his garment and mantle (cp. Gen.37:29, 34; Job 1:20; 2:11, 12; II Kings 18:37; Matt. 26:65)
- Expressed by *plucking* off the *hair* of his head and beard
- Expressed by sitting down *appalled*

B. You must feel sorrow when you sin (Ezra 9:3-5).

- *Tearing* the garment and *plucking* off the *hair* were also signs of *grief* and *mourning* (Gen. 37:29,34; Job 1:20; 2:11-12; I Sam. 4:12; II Sam.1:2).
- Godly *sorrow* is connected to genuine *repentance* (cp. Neh. 8:9-12; II Cor. 7:9-10; Jas. 4:8-9).

C. You must feel shame when you sin (Ezra 9:6; cp. Jer. 3:3; 6:15; 8:12; Zeph. 3:5).

- Instead of being *embarrassed* by their sin, they *boasted* in their sin (cp. Psa. 52:1, 7; I Cor. 5:1-2).
- Instead of *hiding* their sin, they boldly *flaunted* their sin (cp. Isa. 3:9).

How you become insensitive to sin

- ❖ *You refuse to obey God's Word time after time, even after the Spirit's continual conviction (cp. I Tim. 4:2).*
- ❖ *You don't come to the Word of God each time to be changed by it, but only to obtain more information.*
- ❖ *You don't examine yourself regularly.*

How you become sensitive again to sin

- ❖ *Confess the insensitivity as sin.*
- ❖ *Conduct a regular, thorough self-examination.*

- ❖ *Daily deal with any known sin—confess it, forsake it.*
- ❖ *Obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit.*
- ❖ *Use temptation as a trigger to resistance.*
- ❖ *Approach the Word with a desire to change.*

II. You must see the seriousness of your sin (Ezra 9:6-15).

When you recognize the seriousness of your sin. . . .

- A. *You feel overwhelmed by the greatness of your sin (Ezra 9:6-7).*
- B. *You realize the damage which your sin has created in your life (Ezra 9:7).*
- C. *You grow in your appreciation of the grace and mercy of God (Ezra 9:8-9, 13; cp. I Tim. 1:12-15).*
- D. *You realize that you have really shown ingratitude for the grace and mercy of God (Ezra 9:10-12).*
- E. *You realize that God in His righteousness will send judgment if you don't repent (Ezra 9:14-15).*

III. You must have separation from your sin (Ezra 10:1-44).

- A. *Shecaniah urged the making of a covenant with God to divorce their pagan wives (Ezra 10:1-4).*
- B. *Ezra made the religious leaders and all Israel to take an oath to follow Shecaniah's proposal (Ezra 10:1-5).*
- C. *Ezra called all Israel to a special meeting, where he urged them to confess their sins and separate themselves from their pagan wives (Ezra 10:6-11).*
- D. *All the people agreed to do it and asked for a commission to carry this out (Ezra 10:12-14).*
- E. *There is a list of the offenders in this sin (Ezra 10:15-44).*

Evaluating Your Response to Sin:

- On a scale of 1-10, where are you in regard to your response to sin?
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- What steps can you take to see your response to sin strengthened?
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