

The Pitfalls of False Grace for 'Minor Sin'

Note: This is the second in a series of articles by John Burton on understanding the threat of sin in the life of Christians. For part one, [click here](#).

"And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" (1 Pet. 4:18).

With the emergence of the false-grace, or what I prefer to call unbiblical grace, teachings, the thought of worshiping, tithing, praying, Bible reading Christians who have great families and seem to be the model of righteousness going to Hell seems ridiculous.

I believe this is one of the most important passages of Scripture in today's false-grace generation:

"For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay.' And again, 'The Lord will judge his people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:26-31).

This means that tongue-talking, hand-lifting pastors, for example, can go to Hell if they struggle with lust. People that refuse to forgive another are at risk of Hell. If we continue in sin the Bible is clear—there remains no sacrifice

for those sins. There are supposed minor sins such as gossip, lust, rebellion to authority, lying and others that seem to fly below our radar—but not God's. We can't continue in so-called minor sins and presume all to be well. We will experience judgment in this life and in the next if we do not repent. This brings the sweet little lady who's known as the church gossip into the light—and a terrifying light it is.

Have you ever met someone who has lived with unforgiveness in their heart? What about someone who is into pornography? It's horrifying to think this, but those very people, even if they are amazing in every other way, are very possibly unsaved right now. Barna recently reported that 97 percent of **born-again Christian** men are into pornography, and 84 percent of Christian women are viewing pornography.

Is it any wonder Leonard Ravenhill famously said that he doubts that 5 percent of professing born-again Christians in America are truly saved?

"Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation..." (Heb. 2:1-3).

Corrie Ten Boom

Consider Corrie Ten Boom. You may have read her story in the book, *The Hiding Place*. She was a general in the faith as she and her family hid Jews during the Holocaust. Eventually they were discovered and were put into a concentration camp. She ministered Jesus in inhuman conditions. She was faithful in a time where all faith was lost.

Ultimately, after torture at the hands of one particular guard and countless horrors, her entire family was killed. The war ended and Corrie was released.

Shortly after Corrie was walking down the road when a man approached her. He said, "Excuse me, you were in the camp, weren't you?" Corrie affirmed that she was. He continued, "After the war I gave my life to Jesus. I prayed that he would allow me to find one person that I hurt so badly in the concentration camp." It was the guard—the one who brutally tortured and killed her family. He said, "I told God that I wanted to seek their forgiveness. Would you please forgive me?"

Corrie, in her own words, shared her reaction. She said that she simply could not forgive him. As that thought consumed her soul, God spoke to her. He said, "Corrie, if you don't forgive him, I won't forgive you." She knew, as a general in the faith, if she refused to forgive that man than she herself would die in her sins. Hell was her future. She then looked at the man who brought so much horror to her and took his hand and said, "I do forgive you."

She said the love of God shot through her hand into the former guard's.

Tragically, so many Christians today presume they are exempt from such truths in Scripture.

"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14-15).

Daniel Ekechukwu

Daniel Ekechukwu is a Nigerian pastor who died tragically in a car accident. He was told that he would go to Hell if he wasn't raised up—because he refused to forgive his wife regarding an issue. Here's a short transcript:

"Daniel, if the book of your life was to be closed today, this would be your portion."

"No, I'm a pastor; I'm a child of God. I'm born-again—and I've preached all over ..."

"Enough, Daniel, on your way to the first hospital, you were asking God to forgive you, but you would not forgive your wife. And your sins have not been forgiven. It is a matter of reaping what you've sown. You cannot sow unforgiveness to your wife and reap forgiveness from God."

For part one of this article, click [here](#). Part three: The story of John Mulinde, a leader with a world ministry on every continent except Antarctica, who was told by God, "If I had come today to take My Bride, you wouldn't be part of that. I wouldn't take you."

John Burton has been developing and leading ministries for over 20 years and is a sought out teacher, prophetic messenger and revivalist. John has authored nine books, has appeared on Christian television and radio and directed one of the primary internships at the International House of Prayer (IHOP) in Kansas City. Additionally, he planted two churches, has initiated two city prayer movements and is currently directing a prayer and revival focused ministry school in Detroit called theLab University. John's mandate is to call the church in the nations to repentance from casual Christianity and to burn in a manner worthy of the King of Kings. He is equipping people to confront the enemies of God (established religion, Jezebel, etc.) that hinder an extreme, sold out level of true worship.