

Small Sins, Big Problems

Community Group Training Night, Spring 2016

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Class Description: Have you tended to focus on the “major” sins while ignoring the more subtle ones? The reality is that the “smaller sins” are equally as offensive to God and destructive to relationships. Come grow in your ability to recognize the root of these sins and diagnose the heart in order to lead yourself and better shepherd others in your group.

1. Is There Such a Thing As a Small Sin?

“Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in action, attitude or nature.”
Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, pg. 490.

“...we seem to be good at seeing other people’s sins but not our own.... we are often blind to the more subtle sins we tolerate in our own lives - those I call “respectable sins.” Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins*, Pg. 7.

Is one sin worse than another sin?

2. Why do Small Sins Create Such Big Problems?

Remember...

- You are _____ (Ps 103:11-12):

- You have God's _____ (2 Tim 1:7):

- You need _____ (1 Tim 1:15-16):

3. "Small" Sins

- **Ungodliness**

Romans 1:18 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Definition: living one's everyday life with little or no thought of God, or of God's will, or of God's glory, or of one's dependence on God.

"Small" Sins Worksheet

"Small" Sin	Practical Examples
Pride	
Selfishness	
Anger	
Sins of the Tongue	
Lack of Self-Control	
Worldliness	

- **Pride**

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5)

- *Pride of* _____ - _____

- *Pride of* _____

- *The pride of* _____

- *Pride of* _____

- **Selfishness**

James 4:1 - What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

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- **Anger**

Definition: Strong feeling of displeasure, and usually of antagonism, often accompanied by sinful emotions, words and actions hurtful to those who are the objects of our anger.

Is it OK to be angry at God?

What happens when we hold on to anger?

- **Sins of the tongue**

Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

ASK: Will what I'm about to say tend to tear down or build up the person I'm about to talk to or about?

Psalm 119:14 - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

- **Lack of Self Control**

“A Man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls”

Proverbs 25:28

Definition: A governance or prudent control of one’s desires, cravings, impulses, emotions and passions. It is saying “no” when we should say “no.” It is moderation in legitimate desires and activities, and absolute restraint in areas that are clearly sinful.

- **Worldliness**

1 John 2:15-16 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Definition - being attached to, engrossed in, or preoccupied with the things of this temporal life.

Manifests itself in three primary areas:

- Money
- Immorality
- Idolatry
 - Career or vocation
 - Political and cultural issues
 - Consuming passion for sports

Community Implications and Next Steps:

- Remember: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble
- God does not approve of a spirit of self-righteousness (Luke 15:31-32, 16:19-31)
- Start with self (MT 7:3-5)
- Your Response (Ez 33:2, Gal 6:2, 1 Th 5:14)
- Live out the "One Anothers" of scripture