

Presumptuous Sins

by

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In Psalms. 19:13 we read, *“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.”*

Today we want to look at presumptuous sins. They are a special danger to us, because they are sins we don’t even realize we are committing. The writer calls them the great transgression.

Let’s begin by noting:

A few examples

Materialism

This happened to the church of the Laodiceans in Rev. 3:15-17, *“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”*

You see, they thought they were righteous because they were rich. And so it came as a surprise to them to find out that Jesus considered them lukewarm.

Paul warned Timothy of this very thing in 1 Tim. 6:5, *“Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.”* Do you see the presumption? Supposing that gain is godliness.

Jesus also warned how materialism could make us lukewarm in Matt. 13:22, *“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”*

Adding to God’s Word

How many things have been added to God’s worship over the years? How many divisions has this caused in the church? How many of these added things are approved by God’s Word? How many of these divisions would have been avoided without the presumption that they are okay?

- Eph. 5:10, *“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.”*
- 1 Thess. 5:21-22, *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.”*

We also need to be careful in our daily lives not to add things that God did not. We set ourselves above God when we add to His Word.

Haughtiness

In Isa. 65:5 God chastened haughty people. *“Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.”*

It is wrong to consider ourselves better than others. It is presumptuous sin.

Phil. 2:3 describes the attitude we should have instead, *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”*

Grudges

We also assume ourselves to be better than others when we hold grudges against them. How dare we prop ourselves up like that?

- Consider 1 Cor. 12:14 and 21: Verse 14, *“For the body is not one member, but many.”* And verse 21, *“And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.”* Yet isn't that exactly what we do when we hold grudges?
- James 5:9, *“Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.”*
- Eph. 4:31-32, *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

Murmuring against God

Remember how Adam complained against God in the garden? Gen. 3:12, *“And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”* Adam was not only blaming Eve for his sin. He was blaming God. Talk about putting yourself on a pedestal. Complaining and murmuring against God does exactly that. It is highly presumptuous.

1 Cor. 10:10-12, *“Neither murmur ye, as some of them (the Israelites under Moses' leadership) also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”*

Well, this isn't a complete list, of course. But hopefully we can learn from these examples. When we assume to be better than others, assume others are not as good as us, or assume things that we cannot find in God's Word, we are guilty of presumptuous sin.

Now let's look at:

Some solutions

Humility

Don't assume to be the highest. And, don't put our presumptions upon God's Word.

James 4:6, *"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."*

Prov. 3:5-7, *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil."*

Search the scriptures

Prov. 4:10-13, *"Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life."*

Examine ourselves

1 Cor. 10:12, *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."*

In closing let's return to Psalms. 19. We will read the verse before and after our subject verse. Let's read verses 12-14, *"Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."*

Note the humility. He wanted to be acceptable in God's sight. Not the other way around. It's an important lesson for us all.

In Christian love,

Bro. Terry Warford

