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# Words of Truth

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## When You Wrong Your Own Flesh

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In our article last week we discussed how that sin is a wrong against your soul. We considered the personal injury aspect of sin spiritually (James 1:13-16). This week, we are going to discuss how that sin is also a personal injury to us in the flesh. Obviously, we [faithful Christians] should first be concerned about how our relationship with the Lord is affected by sin (Proverbs 15:29, Isaiah 59:1-2, John 9:31, and I Peter 3:12). We [faithful Christians] should also fear losing our reward in Heaven (Hebrews 10:26-39 and II John 1:8).

I often mention in classes and sermons how that being a faithful disciple of Christ is beneficial to us carnally as well as spiritually. It is not that the faithful are not mistreated or suffer through things in the flesh, but we don't bring those things upon ourselves through our actions (I Peter 3:13-17). The faithful do not need to fear criminal prosecution (Romans 13:1-7). We don't have to worry about sexually transmitted diseases, drug addictions, getting caught in lies, and a whole lot of other carnal consequences for sinful behaviors. We avoid all of the behaviors that lead to those consequences (I Thessalonians 5:22 and I Peter 3:10-11). Our faithful behavior increases our reputation among men (John 18:33-38), for we live honestly before them (Romans 12:17).

I could continue to press the point of how it is good to live faithfully in this world, but I am going to switch to the point of this article. When you sin, you are negatively impacting your life carnally. To get your mental gears turning, think about the following inspired statement: *“What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body”* (I Corinthians 6:16-18). Now, not all sins immediately impact a person's physical body. However, many do and they increase that impact over time as well.

### Think About How Many Sins Destroy The Flesh

We know that consuming alcoholic beverages is sinful for many reasons. For one, we are told to avoid such beverages even in moderation or social affairs (Proverbs 20:1, Isaiah 5:11; 22, Luke 21:34-36, I Corinthians 6:9-10, and I Peter 4:1-5). Secondly, we know we are commanded to be sober (I Thessalonians 5:6-8, Titus 2:2-6, I Peter 1:13-16, I Peter 4:7, and I Peter 5:8). Thirdly, we are told to avoid carnal desires (Matthew 26:41, Romans 8:5-8,

Romans 8:12-13, Romans 13:14, II Corinthians 7:1, Galatians 5:16-21, Galatians 5:24, and I Peter 2:11). To the point of our study though, we also should avoid alcohol because of the physical impact it has on our lives. Consider this: *“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again”* (Proverbs 23:29-35). In addition to all of that, consider that alcohol impairs judgment because it affects your mind (Proverbs 31:4-5) and ultimately can leave you broke financially (Proverbs 23:21). So that no one downplays the effects of alcohol, consider how that “getting someone drunk” can cause them to do the unthinkable (Genesis 19:30-38).

Alcohol was an easy illustration and one that we see commonly in the world. However, there is much more we could say about other sinful behaviors impacting the flesh. Laziness leaves your life empty (Proverbs 13:4), your body hungry (Proverbs 19:15), and your property a mess (Proverbs 24:30-34). One who refuses to work is to be left without food (II Thessalonians 3:10). Adultery leaves you in physical danger, even beyond sexually transmitted diseases (Proverbs 6:20-35). Sin has mental impacts on us. Sin keeps us from being at peace (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21). A lack of financial contentment leads you to many hurtful lusts (I Timothy 6:6-10). Now, you continue to think these things through and see how that sin impacts our fleshly lives. For further consideration now, let’s discuss briefly how sin creates various bad situations for us to live through.

### **Think About How Many Sins Impact Your Life In This World**

Consider how that covetousness puts you at odds with others (Luke 12:13-15). Think about how the internal thoughts of envy and strife bring about every evil work (James 3:14-16; cf. I Corinthians 3:1-3). From the early days of creation we can see how a sinful mindset can cause one to even destroy his family (Genesis 4:1-10 and I John 3:12). Lust brings about all sorts of problems with others (James 4:1). If you think more on this point, you will see that sin creates relationship problems, employment issues, and many more problems in this world.

### **Conclusion**

If you are a sinner you are a servant to sin and the desires that produce sin (Romans 6:16-20 and Titus 3:1-3). We all should have long ago realized that sin never produces any good fruit (Romans 6:21-22). If you choose to be a sinner, you will be lost spiritually. Additionally, life in this world will be more burdensome than necessary.