



"Christ-centered Grief in Response to the Sin of Others"

9 appropriate objects of Christ-centered grief in order to be firmly planted in the truth when the sin of others affects us:

1. Grieve the absence of the fear of the Lord

Prov. 3:5-7; 1 Pet. 1:17-19; Heb. 4:1-2; Prov. 8:13

2. Grieve a lack of hatred of sin

Ps. 119:101-104, 136

3. Grieve Christ's name being disgraced

Eze. 36:22-23; Dan. 9:15-19; Gal. 6:7-8

4. Grieve when there is a walking by the flesh instead of by the Spirit

Rom. 8:5-8, 12-13; 1 Pet. 2:11

5. Grieve a casual approach to sinful thoughts

2 Cor. 10:5; Rom. 12:2

6. Grieve the tendency to overestimate one's spiritual discernment and maturity—Mark 14:27-31; 1 Cor. 15:10

7. Grieve presuming on God's kindness and patience—Rom. 2:4

8. Grieve any interaction with the truth that only produces lip service to Christ instead of obedience to Christ from the heart

Mark 7:6-7; James 1:21-25

9. Grieve the ignoring of eternal and temporal consequences of sin

Heb. 3:12-14; Prov. 10:21, 19:3

Mark 3:5; Luke 5:31; 1 Pet. 3:18; Ps. 51:17; Is. 66:2; Rom. 4:5

Every sin is a falsehood. We commit sin because we believe a lie, and in the end the flattering evil becomes a liar to us and we find ourselves betrayed. True hearts are not indifferent to falsehood, but they grow warm with indignation. Just as they love the truth, so they hate the lie. True Christians have a universal revulsion of everything that is [contrary to God's truth]. They tolerate no falsehood or foolishness, and they set themselves against all error of doctrine or wickedness of life. (1)

Hypocrites will hate some sins which mar their credit. But a true convert hates all sins and the very stirrings of corruption...A holy heart detests sin for its intrinsic pollution. Sin leaves a stain upon the soul. A regenerate person abhors sin not only for the curse, but for the contagion...He hates sin not only for hell, but as hell. (2)

Heart-work is the hardest work indeed. To shuffle over religious duties with a loose and heedless spirit, will cost no great pains; but to set yourself before the Lord, and take hold of your loose and vain thoughts to a constant and serious focus upon him: this will cost you something...to get your heart broken for sin while you are confessing it; melted with free grace while you are blessing God for it; to be really ashamed and humbled through the apprehensions of God's infinite holiness, and to keep your heart in this frame, not only in, but after duty, will surely cost you some groans and travailing pain of soul: To repress the outward acts of sin, and compose the external part of your life in a [socially acceptable] manner, is no great matter; even carnal persons by the force of common principles can do this; but to kill the root of corruption within, to set and keep up a holy government over your thoughts, to have all things lie straight and orderly in the heart, this is not easy. (3)

¹ Charles Spurgeon, *The Golden Alphabet: An Exposition of Psalm 119* (Kindle Edition), 174.

² Thomas Watson, *The Works of Thomas Watson: The Doctrine of Repentance* (Kindle Edition), 2481.

³ John Flavel, *On Keeping the Heart* (Kindle Edition), 12.