

Loss & Recovery of Fellowship: The Problem of Personal Sin: Ignorance of Sin Prolongs Carnality; Rebound Recovery: Confession Alone to God Alone**Loss and Recovery of Fellowship****I. The Problem of Personal Sin:**

1. Every sin committed throughout the course of human history—from the fall in Eden to the last sin of the Millennium—was judged in Christ on the cross by the justice of God.
2. Throughout human history the soul of an individual is saved by the simple decision to believe in the Person and work of Christ on the cross. This person's presalvation sins are forgiven and he receives the imputation of eternal life.
3. After salvation the believer will continue to commit sins but his fellowship is restored by the simple confession of these sins to God the Father Who in turn forgives these postsalvation sins.
4. In every case, personal sin is the end result of volitional submission to a temptation. The sinful nature is not the source of sin. Sin is the personal choice of the individual to commit the sin by which he is tempted.
5. There are two categories of sins committed by an individual: (1) those related to known sins, or sins of cognizance, and (2) those related to unknown sins, or sins of ignorance.
6. New believers have a problem in identifying sins. They may be aware of one they have facilitated and which has become obvious to themselves and possibly to others, but their understanding of what constitutes sin is limited.
7. Knowledge of God's categories of sin requires Bible study, but unfortunately a new believer has not had enough time to acquire this information.
8. In the meantime because of his culture, background, or teachings he may consider many things to be sinful which are not and to consider other things to be righteous which are not.
9. But what is a sin is what the Bible defines as sin, not what you have been told by others, read about in books, or decided about on your own based on whether you are legalistic or licentious.
10. So for new believers there is a long laundry list of things they do not know are sins and another of things they think are sins but aren't.
11. If he does not know what a sin is then he will not confess it and therefore he will not rebound until he commits a sin about which he is cognizant.
12. Those ignorant of what sin is may live in status quo carnality for a good long while. If they never get into serious Bible study they may learn of some sins in passing but will not come to know the problem-solving device that forgives them and puts them into status quo spirituality.
13. Here then is the tragic result of a person believing in Christ but never giving Bible study a serious hearing: he brings into his Christian life an inventory of facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness over which he has no doctrinal control.

14. Further, he remains ignorant about his sinful lifestyle and thus has no motivation to enter into the biblically provided recovery procedure of confession alone to God alone.
15. Consequently, if he ever does learn the procedure he is so far into reversionism it is extremely difficult for him to maintain the consistent filling of the Holy Spirit long enough to grow in grace.
16. Thus the spiritual life of a new believer is a target-rich environment for the Dark Side to exploit. He doesn't have a broad knowledge of the various categories of sin and is therefore easily tempted by his sinful nature, other people, and by demon influence.
17. Once he becomes aware he has committed a sin and rebounds he almost immediately gets back out of fellowship because he has such a long list of unknown sins.
18. This is spiritual paralysis. He is rarely in fellowship therefore his spiritual growth is extremely handicapped and he is vulnerable to every wind of doctrine while continuing to ignorantly submit to a host of sins.
19. Consequently, one's ability to bring his sinful nature under control requires him to understand what sin is and how to recover from it.