

Your Sin Affects Those Around You

- ❖ Proverbs 13:20: "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."
 - This verse suggests that the company you keep can have an impact on your life, including the potential influence of others' sinful behavior.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 5:6-7: "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us."
 - In this passage, the Apostle Paul discusses the need for Christians to remove sinful influences from their midst, likening sin to leaven that can permeate the whole community.
- ❖ Galatians 5:9: "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."
 - Like the previous verse, this passage emphasizes how a small amount of wrongdoing can significantly impact a larger group.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:33: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."
 - This verse underscores the idea that associating with people engaged in sinful behavior can negatively affect one's own behavior and character.
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 6:14: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"
 - While this verse primarily deals with believers' relationships with unbelievers, it also implies that close associations with those who do not follow righteous principles can lead to unrighteous behavior.
- ❖ Joshua 7:24-25: "And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, why hast thou troubled us? the Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones."
 - This passage tells the story of Achan's sin affecting the entire nation of Israel, leading to consequences for him and his family.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 12:26: "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."
 - While not explicitly about sin, this verse conveys the idea that one group member's actions can affect the entire group. In the context of sin, this can be understood as the negative impact of one person's sin on the community.
- ❖ 1 Samuel 14:29: "Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey."
 - In this narrative, Jonathan acknowledges the impact of his father Saul's rash command on the entire army, realizing that his father's sin had consequences for the people.
- ❖ Proverbs 11:10: "When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting."
 - This verse highlights how the behavior of the righteous and the wicked can affect the well-being and atmosphere of a city or community.

Today I wish to explore a profound and timeless truth—how our own sinful actions can have a profound and often devastating effect on those around us, within the group we belong to. These verses I am using offer insights into the ripple effects of our behavior on the collective well-being of the community we are part of.

As we explore this, let us read and remember the wisdom of Proverbs 13:20, "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed," which tells us that the company we keep can have a profound impact on our lives. While we often interpret this verse as a warning about choosing wise companions, it also shines a light upon the responsibility that we, as individuals, the influence we have within our group. The Apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 5:6-7, provides a strong reminder of our responsibility for the moral and spiritual health of our faith. As members of this community, we must remember that our actions can affect the community's spirit. If we tolerate and participate in sinful behavior, we risk spreading a spiritual disease (or leaven) that can and will contaminate the entire flock. Thus, we should consider our actions not only as personal choices but as contributions to the moral and spiritual atmosphere of the body. Galatians 5:9 reiterates this idea, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," this idea is that a small amount of wrongdoing can have a significant impact on the larger group. As a sinner within a group, we must be acutely aware of the potential consequences of our actions. Our wrongdoing, no matter how small it seems at the time, can spread like a fire, and affect the body we are a part of if the community lets the wrongdoing fester.

In 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manner." As a sinner, the way we communicate and engage with others can have a great influence on the behavior and character of the people surrounding us. Our words and actions can either uplift the group or lead it down a path of moral decay. This verse calls on us to be mindful of our impact within the group. 2 Corinthians 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness," emphasizes the significance of being unequally yoked with believers and unbelievers alike. As a sinner within a group, our choice of associations can be especially critical; we have the potential to draw others away from righteousness or lead them toward unrighteousness. Therefore, we must consider not only the consequences of our actions but also the moral direction in which we may be leading the group.

The story of Achan in Joshua 7:24-25 is a stark example of how an individual's sin can affect an entire community. As the sinner, we should reflect on the weight of our actions within the group. Achan's sin led to consequences that extended beyond himself, affecting his family and the entire nation of Israel. It serves as a reminder of the potential ripple effects of our wrongdoing within the group.

Joshua 7:24-25: And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and

his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

1 Corinthians 12:26, “And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.” While not explicitly about sin, this verse speaks to the interconnectedness of group dynamics. As a sinner within the group, we should acknowledge that our actions, whether righteous or sinful, can have a ripple effect on the entire community. When we sin, we contribute to the collective suffering and moral decline of the group. The Biblical example of this we see in 1 Samuel 14:29, we see Jonathan's realization of the impact of his father's actions on the entire army. From the perspective of the sinner, this narrative serves as a sobering example of the potential consequences of our decisions on the well-being of the group. It highlights the importance of considering the broader consequences of our actions within the community we are a part of.

1 Samuel 14:28-30: Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day. And the people were faint. Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey. How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?"

Proverbs 11:10, “When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting,” beautifully illustrates the idea that the behavior of the righteous can bring joy and prosperity to a city or community, while the wicked can bring about the opposite. As a sinner within a flock, we must recognize that our actions can influence the overall well-being of the body. Whether we choose righteousness or sin, we play a role in shaping the collective experience of those around us.

In conclusion, while we've explored these verses from the sinner's point of view within a community, we've seen that our actions hold tremendous weight. As individuals within a community, we must recognize that our choices, both righteous and sinful, can have a profound impact on the group's moral and spiritual heading. We have a shared responsibility for the moral fabric of our communities, and we should strive to uplift, rather than detract from, the collective spirit. Our actions, our choices, and our company hold the potential to be a source of light and righteousness or darkness and decay.