

# Sins of the Heart

## I. Introduction

- A. As the example of Simon in Acts 8 shows, sin is not limited to outward actions and words. Sin is often an inward matter of the *heart*. **Acts 8:22**
- B. Consider six specific examples of sins of the heart.

## II. Pride

- A. *Pride* leads to destruction. **Proverbs 16:18**
- B. The pride God warns against is the opposite of humility. It involves being arrogant, high-minded, haughty, or conceited. While pride is often manifested by outward actions, it is foremost a condition of the heart. For instance, it is a condition of the heart that *desires* self-exaltation. **3 John 9**
- C. It is also a condition of the heart that tends to *esteem* self too highly. **1 Timothy 6:17**
- D. Overcoming pride is greatly helped when we consider God's authority, our *need* for a Savior, and the *undeserved* nature of the blessings God offers us through Christ. **1 Timothy 1:15**

## III. Envy

- A. A sin of the heart that is closely related to pride is *envy*. This is one of the works of the flesh. **Galatians 5:21**
- B. Envy involves discontentment at the good fortune of others. This was a key motive that led the Jews to deliver Jesus up to be crucified. **Matthew 27:18**

## IV. Covetousness

- A. A third sin of the heart to consider is *covetousness*. This sin is a form of idolatry. **Colossians 3:5; 1 Timothy 6:9**
- B. Covetousness is in many ways the opposite of contentment. We should be content with pleasing God and accepting our lot in life as we do so. **1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5**

## V. Ingratitude

- A. Another sin of the heart is *ingratitude*. **Colossians 3:15**
- B. Ingratitude is often manifested by outward actions and words, such as murmuring. **1 Corinthians 10:10**
- C. It is foremost, though, a matter of the heart. Ingratitude fails to appreciate the unmerited blessings God offers us through His Son. It treats life as though we've received *worse*, instead of *better*, than we deserve. **Ephesians 1:7**

## VI. Insincerity

- A. A fifth sin of the heart to consider is *insincerity*. **Philippians 1:10**
- B. The need for sincerity applies to specific actions we do in service to God. Good works must not be done with impure motives, or in a way that is merely "going through the motions." **Matthew 23:5**
- C. More generally, the life of a Christian must be characterized by a sincere desire to surrender one's will to God's. **Matthew 16:24**

## VII. Lukewarmness

- A. Yet another sin of the heart is *lukewarmness*. **Revelation 3:15-16**
- B. The lukewarm church at Laodicea was told they needed to be zealous (def. "have warmth" – *Strong G2206*). This meant they needed to get a "burning fervor" for the Lord instead of serving Him apathetically. **Revelation 3:19**
- C. To develop zeal, Jesus needs to mean the world to us. **Philippians 1:21; Hymns for Worship, Song 451**

## VIII. Conclusion

- A. May we avoid not only these six sins, but all sins Scripture identifies that are inward problems of the heart.