

Ways Sin Works and What to Do About It

Genesis 19:30-38

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Main idea: we must learn how sin traps us, as we battle against it by the appointed means of Him who has saved us from its guilt and released us from its power.

Introduction:

1Corinthians 10:6, 11 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Romans 15:1-4 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Where do we go from here?

1. The cause of this sin

a. The long-term cause: worldliness.

By failing to live as a true pilgrim in this world, by failing to hope in God alone and treasure God far above all earthly things, Lot has never found the 1Corinthians 7 balance of having wives as if you have none, and mourning as if you aren't mourning, and rejoicing as if you're not rejoicing, and buying goods as if you're not really possessing them, and dealing with the world as if you have no dealings with it.

b. The mid-term cause: living by sight instead of by faith

We find him in v30, not back in the covenant community with Abraham, or even living in and interacting with Zoar, while his heart is in heaven. Rather, his prior worldliness has left him completely confused. Lot's not afraid of worldliness, like he should be; now, he's afraid of the *world itself*. And His worldliness wasn't just unbelievably foolish; its effects were irretrievably sad.

c. The short-term cause: drunkenness

How does one who is no longer under the power of sin most quickly and dreadfully fall into it? Drunkenness. For the second time in the book of Genesis, God has saved someone from a great judgment. For the second time, that person whom the Lord has saved allows himself to get drunk with wine—a great sin, in that God has given us to be ruled by knowledge of Him, and to be reasonable creatures, but drunkenness takes away this faculty and leaves us to our passions and impulses. Lot, of whom Scripture tells us that his soul was tormented by the sin of Sodom every day, is brought into that very sin through drunkenness!

2. The effects of this sin

a. The effects upon his daughters

Before you begin thrashing Lot's daughters, consider how they have been (a) exposed to the wickedness of Sodom all their lives, (b) grown up in a family that embraced worldliness, (c) had little enough spiritual instruction that their fiancés didn't know what the judgment was, (d) since there were less than ten righteous in Sodom, have basically been isolated from the community of believers their entire life, (e) even their mother was likely a Sodomite. So, it's really not surprising that they end up like this in v31-36; but, considering that they had a believer for a father, it is extremely grievous!

b. The effects upon God's people: Balak, Rehoboam, 1Kings 11:7, etc.

Moab, under king Balak, would try to destroy Israel on their way to the promised land... eventually accomplishing their goal not through the military but through intermarriage. The Ammonites were also great military enemies of Israel. And both tribes were spiritually deadly to Israel (Judges 10:6 and 1Kings 11:7). Rehoboam, Solomon's fool of a son who lost half the kingdom just a generation after David, was the son of an Ammonite. How you live affects the entire body of Christ, and He takes it personally!

3. The ultimate solution

a. CHRIST, whom the Lord is bringing even here in this passage!

b. CHRIST, who lived always by perfect faith, and whose faith is counted for those who believe in Him

c. CHRIST, who has atoned even for sin like this, and whose atonement is counted for those who believe in Him

d. CHRIST, who treasures and builds and uses His church and its families

Conclusion: Flee to Christ in every way, not only resting on His righteousness for justification, but following His plan for sanctification and service. Even if one can, perhaps, take such himself (or his children) out of the world to some extent, he cannot take the worldliness out of himself (or his children). This is one reason why God's plan of gathering the redeemed into an accountable, worshiping, discipling community is so merciful and necessary. We need not all the help we can get—and the true help is all of that help that Christ has appointed in His Word.