

# HOW does charity cover sins?

Proverbs 10:12

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but  
**love covereth all sins.**

1 Peter 4:8

**And above all things have  
fervent charity among  
yourselves: for CHARITY  
shall cover the multitude of  
sins.**

Hello. About two days before the minister's meeting in Jacksonville, FL in 2002, I woke up with the two scriptures about **charity covering sins** very heavy on my mind. Immediately after, many other differing scriptural admonitions such as "turning the other cheek", "rebuke before all", "turn over to Satan", "let them remain in the way that they may be healed" and "reject after the first and second admonition" began to come up in my mind.

I wondered, "Are all these judgments entirely DEVOID of charity? **Or are they ALL charity covering different kinds of sins?**" Believing it was all **charity in action**, I began to wonder what different kinds of sins were recorded in the New Testament, and if they could be categorized for simplicity. I did not want to approach it by studying Old Testament types because it would get me bogged down with details. I wanted to see where the early church

brethren applied charity to solve their problems.

So far, this is just a "one man effort" and is probably full of holes, but if interested brethren could add more categories and more scriptures, it might become something worthwhile for us. After all, judges in the courts have to go to school to become judges, and they ALL have to study the same laws and applications of those laws to differing problems that they will have to face. Their goal is to come up with the same judgments in the same cases. It is surprising how often they succeed, but WE have the Holy Ghost to help in unifying us.

What we need is a common understanding that will be instantly recognizable and acceptable to the general brotherhood. This should help result in trusting the decisions of those who have responsibility to judge from the local level to the general level. In the multitude of counselors, there is safety for all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bro. Dale Streit

3/14/03

## **APPLICATIONS FOUND SO FAR:**

**When we see a person committing sin, what should we do? Should we:**

- A. Ignore it, and act like it didn't happen?
- B. Keep it a secret and pray for them?
- C. Go to them privately and admonish them as brothers (or sisters)?
- D. Turn the other cheek and suffer it?
- E. Take it before their elders in the Lord, and let them handle it?
- F. Rebuke them before all the congregation so everyone will fear?
- G. Let them stay in the way so they might be healed?
- H. Let them depart and not go after them to bring them back?
  - I. Go after those who do depart until you bring them back?
- J. Don't let them eat with you, or you eat with them?
- K. Just mark them publicly to others and avoid them?
- L. Reject them and do not speak to them or let them speak to you?
- M. Restore them in a spirit of meekness, considering

- yourselfes...?
- N. Consider them as tares, and let them grow with us?
- O. Disfellowship them and punish them by putting them outside?
- P. Count them as immovable reefs in our feasts of charity?
- Q. Count them as if they are heathens, unbelievers or outsiders?
- R. Turn them over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh so their spirit will be saved?

**Are all these responses listed above entirely devoid of charity, or are they simply charity being applied to different kinds of sins?**

**WHAT DIFFERENT KINDS OF SINS WERE RECORDED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?**

So far I can see four major areas:

- I. PRIVATE SINS**
- II. OPEN SINS**
- III. SINS UNTO DEATH**
- IV. UNFORGIVEABLE SINS**

There are several applications under each major area. I have listed what I have found so far under CONTENTS with page numbers. We all understand that God never does a complete job through one man alone, and this most definitely should be a Body project if it could be a help to the Body.

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**I. PRIVATE SINS**

(These do not necessarily affect others. These are also forgivable sins)

**1. COMMON SINS THAT CAN BE HANDLED BY THE SINNER:**

**a. Ignorance:**

**Psalms 73:2-3, 22** But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. So foolish was I, and **ignorant:** I was as a beast before thee.

**1 Timothy 1:13** Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because **I did it ignorantly** in unbelief.

**b. Unbelief:**

**Matthew 13:58** And he did not many mighty works there because of their **unbelief.**

**Mark 16:14** Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

**Hebrews 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

**Hebrews 4:6,11** Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

**Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

**c. Learning experiences:**

**James 5:15-16** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**Proverbs 28:13** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1 John 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the

righteous:

**1 Peter 1:22** Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

**1 Peter 4:8** And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

**2. SINS THAT CANNOT BE OVERCOME WITHOUT HELP FROM OTHERS:**

**a. Imagined sin:** (*in which people judge and sometimes punish themselves*)

**Romans 14:13-23** Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth

not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

**b. Being overtaken in a fault:**

**James 5:16** Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**Galatians 6:1-2** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

**James 5:19-20** Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

## II. OPEN SINS THAT ARE KNOWN OR BECOME KNOWN TO MANY:

*(These can also be forgiven)*

### 1. SINS THAT AFFECT PRIMARILY THE SINNER:

**a. Ignorance:**

**Romans 10:3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

**1 Corinthians 14:34-38** Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be

ignorant, let him be ignorant.

**b. Willing ignorance:**

**2 Peter 3:3-5** Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

**c. Heresies:** *(Strong self-opinions that a person chooses to follow contrary to counsel. God allows this and uses them as examples of disapproved lifestyles)*

**1 Corinthians 11:19** For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

**Romans 14:5-6** One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

**Titus 3:10-11** A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

**d. Fornication with unbelievers:**

*(This deals only with the believer)*

**1 Corinthians 6:18-19** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

## 2. SINS AGAINST A BROTHER OR A SISTER (Sinning against the Lord):

### a. Wounding a weak conscience:

**1 Corinthians 8:1** Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

**1 Corinthians 8:7-13** Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

### b. Neglect:

**Matthew 25:40,45** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

**1 John 3:17** But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

### c. Tresspasses:

**Luke 17:3-4** Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

**Matthew 18:15-22** Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

### d. Offenses against individuals:

**Matthew 18:4-14** Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea

. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

### 3. SINS WHICH AFFECT THE WHOLE CHURCH BODY: (2 Peter. 3:17)

#### a. Causing divisions and offences contrary to doctrine:

**Romans 16:17-18** Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

#### b. Teaching traditions of men

*(worship in vain):*

**Mark 7:7,13** Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Making the

word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

**Matthew 15:4-6,9** For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

#### c. Following another Jesus, spirit or gospel than Christ's (*Corrupts minds*):

**2 Corinthians 11:4-15** For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself. As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.

But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory,

they may be found even as we. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

**d. Receiving and approving those who leave Christ's doctrines**

*(participating in their evil deeds)*

**2 John 1:9-11** Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

**e. Defiling sins**

*(springing up from a root of bitterness):*

**Hebrews 12:15** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

**f. Leavening sins**

*(affecting others by spreading in an atmosphere of love and trust):*

**1 Corinthians 5:6** Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

**Galatians 5:1-4** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

**Galatians 5:11** And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet

suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

**g. Teaching damnable heresies**

*(teachings that destroy people spiritually):*

**2 Peter 2:1-2** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

### III. SINS UNTO DEATH:

**1 John 5:16** If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

**Jude 1:12** These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

**1 Timothy 5:6** But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

**Hebrews 10:26-31** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I

will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**Matthew 5:25-26** Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

**2 Peter 2:9** The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

## 1. FORSAKING THE RIGHT WAY: (2 main areas)

### a. Walking after the flesh in unclean lusts:

**2 Peter 2:10a** But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness,....

**2 Peter 2:14-22** Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they

are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

### b. Despising government:

**2 Peter 2:10b-13** But chiefly them that walk after the flesh....., and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you,...

## IV. UNFORGIVEABLE SIN:

### BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST:

**Matthew 12:31-32** Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

### a. Cutting oneself off from God's reach:

**John 6:65** And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

**Acts 7:51** Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.