

# Soul Winning: The Christian's Business

by

Dorothy C. Haskin

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## Chapter Seven

### Sinful Sin

"I cannot discover a single thing - except Communism, of course - which we are not supposed to tolerate. Did your neighbor cheat his brother's widow out of her inheritance? Poor thing, he must have been the victim of some childhood insecurity which left him with a pathological craving for money," wrote Elizabeth Massey Hill, in an ironical vein, in the *Woman's Home Companion*.

She expressed the attitude of this age toward sin. Nowadays it is treated as a reflex action and, therefore must be tolerated.

People treat sin lightly because they have lost sight of a holy GOD. When you are dealing with someone about the Lord, and he objects, "I'm not a sinner," you can only answer, "That depends, of course, upon your idea of sin." Show him the universality of sin by quoting, "**For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God**" (Romans 3:23). Back this with John 3:19, Romans 5:12, and Romans 2:12.

When you point out that Scripture says all have sinned, include yourself. It is not necessary for you to confess any special sin, but if you do not include yourself, you will appear "*holier than thou*."

Then mention some of the sins which most people commit, such as:

*Swearing.* Men often excuse, "But I don't mean it when I swear." If you are a close friend, then you can remind them that the commandment says not to take the Lord's name "**in vain**" and that vain means "*empty, devoid of real value, useless, worthless*" (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*). Therefore to take the name of the Lord in vain is to say it when you do not really mean it.

*Bitterness.* Most people have unforgiving spirits and carry some gall in their hearts. They defend their attitude by objecting that the person treated them unfairly. Agree, of course, that he did, for

unless the person who hurt them was unfair, he had nothing to forgive. Quote, "**lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled**" (Hebrews 12:15). Show them how bitterness ruins lives.

*Envy.* How many, seeing the success of others, envy them!

One of our worldly novelists said, "The American people love success but hate those who are successful." There is much truth in this statement. Nearly everyone is envious of the success of the person who is just ahead of them. Even the Apostle Paul admitted, "**I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet**" (Romans 7:7). Yet envy is a sin, for no doubt the other person earned his success.

When you first discuss this matter of sin with the person steeped in a worldly philosophy of living, he will excuse any and all sin. However, you can remind him that every person in the same situation does not react in the same manner. This makes it obvious that it is not necessary to take the harmful attitude, or to sin. You may have to discuss this problem many times with the one you are trying to win. But pray for tact, and when the opportunity arises, try again. Perhaps the best you can get the man to admit is that regardless of the excusing causes, men do hurt themselves and others by their actions. This being the truth, Heaven would not be Heaven if men went there with the habit patterns they had there on earth, and for a blissful existence in Heaven there must be an answer to the question of sin.

Sooner or later, the average person will admit that he has committed some sins, that he is "not perfect."

When he does, ask him how many sins he thinks it takes to "**keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all**" (James 2:10).

Sin is sin to a holy GOD. There is no choice between gossip and adultery to GOD. All sin springs from a lack of love, and "**God is love**" (I John 4:8).

A man's attitude toward sin is a test of his moral character.

The lower his standard, the more he will defend his actions. The higher his standards, the more quickly he will admit he is a sinner. But know this for a surety, when a man is sick of his failures, his shortcomings, his own deceitfulness of heart, his sins, he will admit them and come to CHRIST for forgiveness.

~ end of chapter 7 ~

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