

The Deceitfulness Of Sin

by Bryan Gibson

Sin is deceitful, according to Hebrews 3:13. Let's examine some of the different ways in which sin can deceive us.

Sin can often appear to be the right thing to do, when actually it is very wrong.

King Saul perhaps thought it was right to spare King Agag and the best of the flocks (1 Samuel 15), but it was very wrong. Paul thought he was right when he persecuted Christians (Acts 23:1; 26:9), but he was dead wrong. "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Sin promises freedom, but what it really brings is slavery.

If you don't believe it, ask the man who keeps carrying on an affair, even though it's destroying him, his family, and his partner's family. He has become a slave to his passions. Or, ask the man who has sacrificed everything else in order to get rich. Looking for financial freedom, what he got instead were more worries than he ever dreamed of. "His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin" (Proverbs 5:22).

Sin can seem very attractive, but it is actually very ugly.

With sin, what you see is NOT what you get. The fruit of the tree looked very attractive to Eve (Genesis 3:6), but she didn't stop to think of the ugly consequences (Genesis 2:17). A festering, oozing sore was how God described Judah's sins (Isaiah 1:5-6). When the apostle Peter wrote about brethren returning to sin, he described it as a dog returning to its vomit and a sow to her wallowing in the mud (2 Peter 2:18-22). The advertising industry paints one picture of sin; God paints an entirely different one.

Sin appears to be satisfying and fulfilling, but it winds up being very disappointing.

Without a doubt, sin can bring us a certain kind of pleasure. But here's the catch—it doesn't last very long. It was said of Moses that he chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:25). "And the world is passing away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17).

Sin can seem so insignificant, when actually it is very serious.

Adam and Eve—all they did was eat a little fruit (Genesis 3). Lot's wife—she turned around and looked at a burning city, what's so bad about that? Uzzah—well, he was just trying to keep the ark from falling (2 Samuel 6:1-11). We try to classify our own

sins as minor, but that's not the way God looks at them. We should never trivialize any sin we commit.

Sin appears to bring life, but what is really brings is death.

In inviting others to sin, you might hear someone say, "If you really want to *live*, you should have an affair, get drunk, go to the casino, etc." What they should really say is, "If you want to *die*, you should..." Romans 6:23 is hard to misunderstand: "The wages of sin is death."