Respectable Sins

Session One

***Hook***

Good Luck Charlie Video Clip

What is wrong in this video? What sins do you detect?

***Book***

**Ordinary Saints (Chapter One)**

What do you think of when you hear the word saint?

What is the common understanding of the word SAINT today?

2 Corinthians 1:1

How could Paul refer to ordinary believers, even the problem-plagued ones at Corinth, as saints?

Read the following passages and write a definition of SAINT.

Titus 2:11-15

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 5:17

According to this verse, how do we become saints? We are made saints by the immediate supernatural action of the Holy Spirit alone who works this change deep within our inner being

Galatians 5:17.

1 Peter 1:13-15 and 2:11.

**The Disappearance of Sin (Chapter Two)**

I. WHAT IS SIN?

1. Why do you think it’s important for us to understand what sin is and its impact on our lives and relationships?

2. What do James 1:14-15 and 2:10-11 reveal about the root of our sinful actions? About God’s law and the consequences of breaking it?

3. In Matthew 5:22,27-28, what did Jesus emphasize concerning the seriousness of sin — of breaking God’s law?

II. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WORD SIN?

ASK:

1. What evidence do you see that the word sin has virtually disappeared from our culture? That awareness of personal sin has effectively disappeared from many believers’ consciences? Explain your answer.

2. What impact do you think the “softening” of language regarding sin is having on our lives? On our churches?

3. Why is it often easier for believers to focus on the sins of unbelievers rather than on their own personal sins?

*The very word, sin, which seems to have disappeared, was once a proud word. It was once a strong word, an ominous and serious word.... But the word went away. It has almost disappeared — the word, along with the notion. Why? Doesn’t anyone sin anymore? Doesn’t anyone believe in sin? KARL MENNINGER*

III. “RESPECTABLE” SINS

ASK:

1. List some common “respectable” sins. Why do you think we are more inclined to tolerate them?

2. In Galatians 3:10, what did the apostle Paul quote to emphasize the importance of obeying God’s law? What might this reveal about the consequences of tolerating “seemingly minor sins”?

3. Even though God always makes a decisive change in every believer’s heart, what does every believer face when he or she seeks to live in obedience to God? (See Galatians 5:17; James 1:14.)

4. Describe the choices Peter and Paul urge every true believer to make. (See Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Peter 2:11.)

**The Malignancy of Sin (Chapter 3)**

IV HOW OUR SIN AFFECTS GOD

Chapter 3, Respectable Sins

ASK:

1. Jerry writes: “When we sin we violate the law of God in any way,... we rebel against the sovereign authority and transcendent majesty of God. We commit ‘cosmic treason.’” It is indeed cosmic treason.” What do we mean when we say "Cosmic Treason?" Do you agree or disagree with the concept of “cosmic treason”? Explain.

2. How much do you think God knows about our sin? (See Psalm 139:1-4; 1 Corinthians 4:5.)

3. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-10, where Nathan the prophet spoke God’s words to David, who had committed adultery with Bathsheba, murdered her husband, and lived in denial of his sin. What do we learn about denial? About sin in relation to God and His law?

4. What effect does sin have on the Holy Spirit — that is, God — who lives inside each believer? (See Ephesians 4:30)

***Look***

TALK IT OVER

For Group Discussion

1. Why should we take our “respectable” sins seriously?
2. How might we begin to see our own sins more clearly instead of focusing so much on other people’s sins?
3. What impact do you think the “softening” of language regarding sin is having?
4. As we realize that our sin is not only rebellion against God’s sovereign authority but a despising of both His law and His person, how might we view sin differently?
5. How might what we learned today influence what we say, do, and/or think?

***Took***

PERSONAL REFLECTION

During this session, what discoveries, quotations, or verses especially connected with you? Why?

What “respectable” sins might you be tolerating in your life?

In what ways might these sins be affecting your life, your relationships, and your relationship with God?

What do you think God wants you to learn from that situation?

PERSONAL ACTION POINT

What one insight regarding “respectable” sins would you like to begin applying to your spiritual journey this week? Write it down and commit it to the Lord.