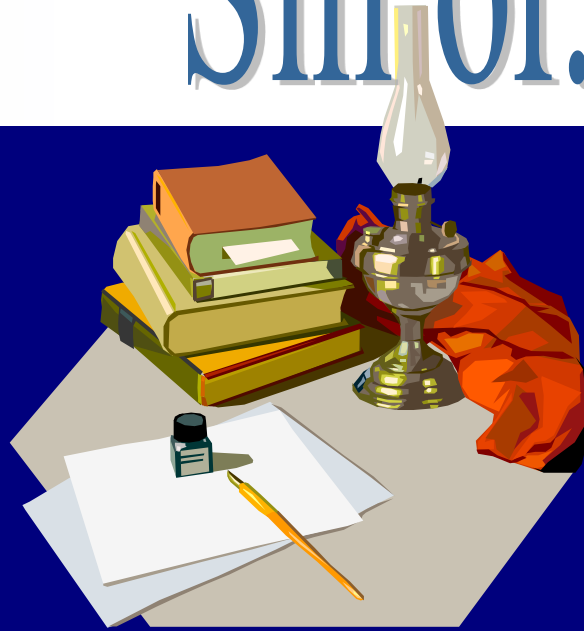


Sin or..Sickness?



Dealing with Guilt

Dr. John D. Street

V. The Biblical Process of Change

D. Specific Concepts

1. Guilt

a. The contemporary war against guilt

1) Examples in society (from *The Vanishing Conscience*)

2) Explanations for the effects of guilt

a) Environment

b) Sickness

c) Heredity

d) “False guilt”

e) “Shame”



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3) Efforts to eliminate the effects of guilt

- a) More sin
- b) Chemicals
- c) Blameshifting
- d) Self-Esteem
- e) Self-Gratification



b. The biblical understanding of guilt

- 1) Definition: A legal liability or culpability to punishment
 - a) The fact of guilt vs the feeling of guilt
 - b) The idea of false guilt

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2) Dealing with guilt

a) We must never minimize the fact of guilt

Guilt is universal because sin is universal (Romans 3:19, 23)

Guilt is serious because God is a holy Judge (Romans 1:18; 2:5-6)

Guilt will remain even if it is explained away or if its effects are somehow lessened, and where guilt remains punishment is inevitable.

b) We must never minimize the feeling of guilt

c) We must never underestimate the effects of guilt

V. The Biblical Process of Change

- c. The “warning light” reveals guilt
 - 1) The importance of a clean conscience
 - a) Explicit references (Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Timothy 1:19; Hebrews 13:18)
 - b) Implicit principles from Romans 14:23
 - 2) Variations of a conscience referred to in Scripture
 - a) A seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:15; Ephesians 4:19)
 - b) An untrained conscience (cf. Lev. 4:22-24; 1 Timothy 1:13; Hebrews 5:14)
 - c) An overactive conscience (Romans 14:1-5, 23)
 - d) A biblical conscience (1 Timothy 1:5)
 - 3) The solution to guilt