

Common Grace

by Thomas Brooks

Sanctified people hate sin because of its defiling nature, while unsanctified people hate it because of its consequences.

Scripture: Psalm 51:4, Proverbs 8:13, Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23, 2 Corinthians 7:10, Galatians 5:17, Ephesians 4:30, Hebrews 10:26-27, James 1:15, 1 John 1:9

Topics: "Grace", "Sin and Holiness"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes the distinction between common grace and renewing grace in relation to sin. He explains that common grace leads individuals to fear the consequences of sin, such as hell and judgment, rather than recognizing the inherent evil and offense of sin against God. A sanctified heart detests sin for its defiling nature and its offense to God's holiness, while an unsanctified heart is primarily concerned with the personal repercussions of sin. Brooks illustrates that true hatred of sin arises from a love for God and His righteousness, rather than fear of punishment.

Transcript

Common grace never works a man thus to fear sin--but renewing grace does. Common convictions carry the soul out to look more on the evil which follows sin, rather than on the evil which is in sin.

And hence it comes to pass, that souls under common convictions are more affected and afflicted at the fear of hell and dread of wrath and damnation--than they are affected or afflicted at the vileness, odiousness, and heinous nature of sin.

When an unsanctified person is angry with sin, and chides sin, and fights with sin, and makes some headway against sin--it is either because it has cracked his credit, or clouded his honor, or hindered his profit, or embittered his pleasure, or provoked his friends, or incensed the magistrate, or enraged his conscience, or exposed him to shame, disgrace, or contempt here--and hell hereafter. But never because a holy God is dishonored, a righteous law transgressed, a blessed Savior crucified, or the blessed Spirit greatly grieved.

The child will not touch the coal because it will burn him, and the prudent man will not touch the coal because it will smut him. A gracious heart rises against sin because of its defiling and polluting nature--but an unsanctified heart rises against sin because of its burning and damning nature. A sanctified person hates sin, because it pollutes his soul--but an unsanctified person hates it because it destroys his soul. A

sanctified person loathes sin, and abhors sin--because it fights against God's holiness. But an unsanctified person loathes sin, and abhors it, because it provokes and stirs up God's justice. A sanctified person detests sin, because of the hell that is in sin. But an unsanctified person detests sin, because of the hell that follows sin, etc.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/common-grace/>

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