

A Biblical Perspective of Secret Sins

By Ellen DeWitt

- *What is a secret sin?*
- *What are some biblical examples of secret sins?*
- *Why are secret sins attractive to us?*
- *How can we resist secret sins?*

Today, with computers, the internet, and VCRs, there is a new opportunity for secret sins. We're able to view, and even participate in, pornography and virtual brutality. We can be married, yet flirt with someone of the opposite sex who is not our spouse, take part in other non-Christian religions like Buddhism, use filthy language, talk to psychics, etc. Because we are alone, in the privacy of our homes, we act as if somehow these sins are secret, hidden from others, and even hidden from God.

Biblical Examples of Secret Sins

Secret sins are not new. Since the beginning of time and the very first sin, man has sought to hide or keep his sin a secret from God.

Hiding Disobedience. After Adam and Eve had disobeyed God by eating from the tree, *they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord* (Genesis 3:8-11, *emphasis mine*).

Jonah fled *from the presence of the Lord* (Jonah 1:3).

Hiding Idolatry. God said to the prophet Ezekiel, *Son of man, do you see what the elders of the house of Israel are committing in the dark, each man in the room of his carved images? For they say, "The Lord does not see us"* (Ezekiel 8:12).

Hiding Murder. After Cain killed his brother Abel, God asked him, *"Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"* (Genesis 4:9).

Hiding Stealing. After the battle of Jericho, Achan said to Joshua, *"I have sinned against the Lord, when I saw the spoil I coveted them and took them; and they are concealed in the earth inside my tent"* (Joshua 7:16-26, *emphasis mine*).

Hiding Adultery. After David's adultery with Bathsheba (and the murder of her husband), Nathan the prophet of God told David, *"Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight?... you did it secretly"* (2 Samuel 12:9, 12, *emphasis mine*. See also chapters 11 and 12).

Hiding by Lying. Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter about the price of some property they sold. Peter said to them, *"Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God"* (Acts 5:1-7, *emphasis mine*).

Why Are Secret Sins Attractive to Us?

There are at least two reasons:

(1) We think somehow we won't be accountable. We tend to believe that because others don't see us, God doesn't see us. But the Bible says:

- *you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out* (Numbers 32:23).

- *Thou hast placed our iniquities before Thee, Our secret {sins} in the light of Thy presence (Psalm 90:8).*
- *There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves (Job 34:21).*
- *It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness (Daniel 2:22).*
- *For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has {anything} been secret, but that it should come to light (Mark 4:22, Luke 8:17).*
- *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do (Hebrews 4:13).*
- *Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? Even the darkness is not dark to Thee, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike {to Thee} (Psalm 139:7-12).*
- *“Can a man hide himself in hiding places, So I do not see him?” declares the LORD. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the LORD (Jeremiah 23:24).*
- *Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are {done} in a dark place, And they say, “Who sees us?” or “Who knows us?” (Isaiah 29:15).*
- *For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps (Job 34:21).*
- *God will judge the secrets of men (Romans 2:16).*

(2) Satan encourages secret sins. The word “secret” means to hide or conceal. Its very nature is to lie. Jesus said that the devil *does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies* (John 8:44). Not only does Satan want you to sin against God, but when you do it in secret, you are lying about your sin. You are doubling your sin.

How Can We Resist Secret Sins?

(1) Examine your own heart. What do you think about?

- *For as he thinks within himself, so is he (Proverbs 23:7).*
- *Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life (Proverbs 4:23).*
- *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders (Matthew 15:19).*
- *We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).*

(2) Watch out for the attack.

- *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8).*
- *He [the wicked] sits in the lurking places of the villages; in the hiding places he kills the innocent; His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate. He lurks in a hiding place as a lion in his lair; He lurks to catch the afflicted; He catches the afflicted when he draws him into his net. He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones. He says to himself, “God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it” (Psalm 10:8-10).*

(3) be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-11).

- *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).*

(4) Know that there are no secrets.

- *And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light (Ephesians 5:11-13).*
- *This is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God (1 Thessalonians 5:3-5).*

Questions and Answers

Q: *What is a secret sin?*

A: Sin we commit which we think no one will find out, even God.

Q: *What are some biblical examples of secret sins?*

A: Disobedience, idolatry, murder, stealing, adultery, and lying.

Q: *Why are secret sins attractive to us?*

A: It is a lie from Satan that we won't be held accountable for these sins. And we convince ourselves no one knows we commit them, even God.

Q: *How can we resist secret sins?*

A: Examine the thoughts of your heart. Be on the alert for temptations. *And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness* (Ephesians 5:11), *knowing that God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil* (Ecclesiastes 12:14).