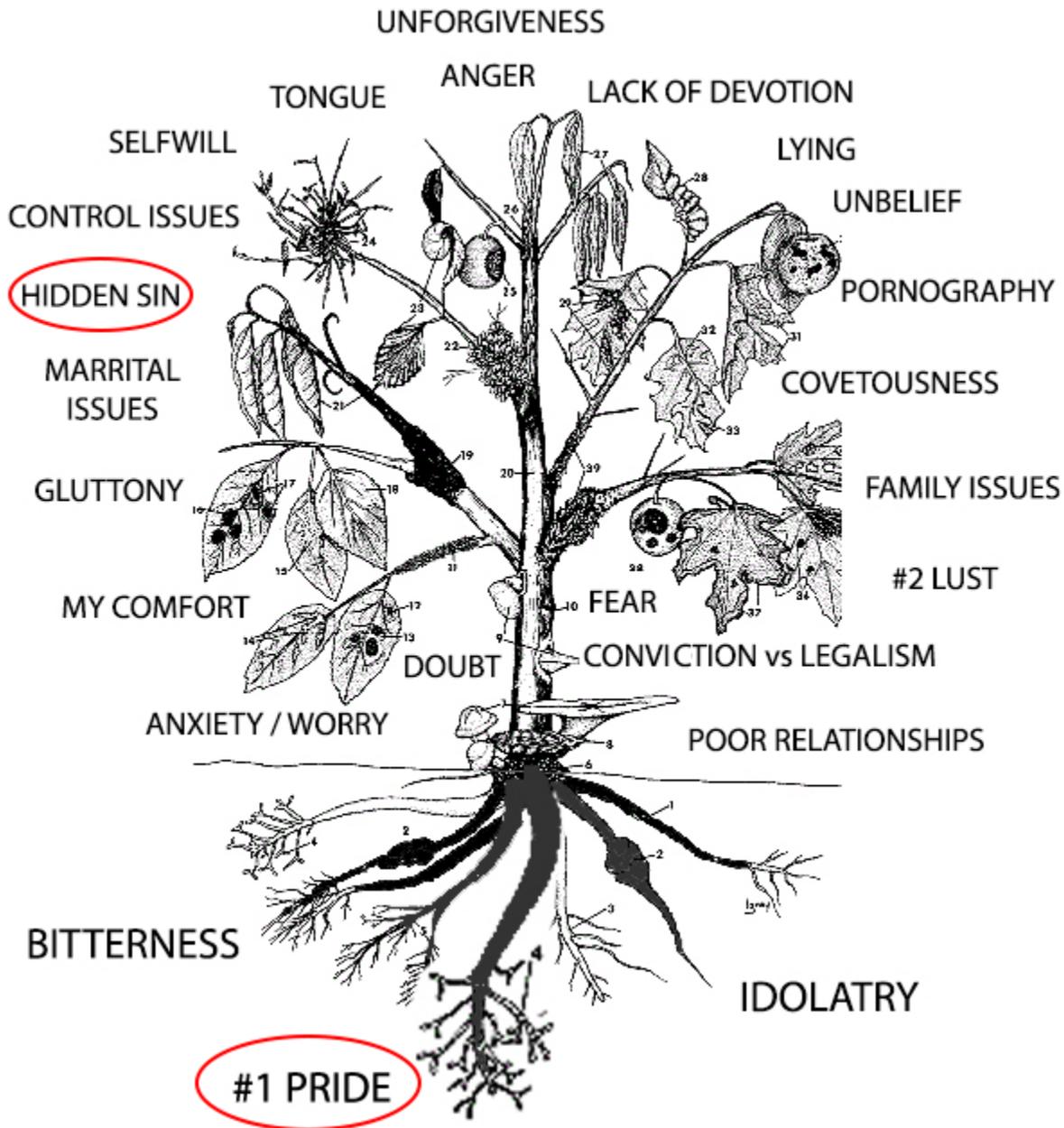


Not Uncommon to Man – Hidden Sin

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

To continue our study, we are going to start out by addressing PRIDE which was the #1 issue that was repeated as a problem for men in our poll. PRIDE is a root of the outward fleshly manifestations as referenced in the dying tree or weed as seen here and this week we'll address the manifestation of hidden sin.



To address the root and what springs up from it, we have come up with 5 questions to run it through as stated here.

1. What does the world say?
 - a. The culture, the flesh, the schemes of the enemy

2. How is my character affected?
 - a. Compromised, shame, self-loathing, mistrust
3. How is this affecting those closest to me?
 - a. God, The Church, wives, parents, siblings, children, co-workers
4. What does God say about it?
 - a. Diving into the scripture
5. Do I need to change my mindset about it?
 - a. Repentance, kingdom minded, calling, goal, mission, vision

In the first study, we discussed **"The Plan"** (go back and review if necessary) Do we know our calling and if so does this root Pride and manifestation of **HIDDEN SIN** take us off that end goal/vision/mission/calling? To find out let's start with #1

#1 What does the world say?

We are all, in a sense, experts on secrecy. From earliest childhood we feel its mystery and attraction. We know both the power it confers and the burden it imposes. We learn how it can delight, give breathing space and protect.

Sissela Bok

A secret is a strange thing. There are three kinds of secrets. One is the sort everyone knows about, the sort you need at least two people for. One to keep it. One to never know. The second is a harder kind of secret: one you keep from yourself. Every day, thousands of confessions are kept from their would-be confessors, none of these people knowing that their never-admitted secrets all boil down to the same three words: I am afraid. And then there is the third kind of secret, the most hidden kind. A secret no one knows about. Perhaps it was known once, but was taken to the grave. Or maybe it is a useless mystery, arcane and lonely, unfound because no one ever looked for it. Sometimes, some rare times, a secret stays undiscovered because it is something too big for the mind to hold. It is too strange, too vast, too terrifying to contemplate. All of us have secrets in our lives. We're keepers or kept from, players or played. Secrets and cockroaches — that's what will be left at the end of it all."

— Maggie Stiefvater, The Dream Thieves

"There are three kinds of secrets. Something that you hide at the bottom of your heart because you don't want it to be mentioned. Something that you can't say even if you want to and something that you hope someone asks about even though you're hiding it."

— Kazuhiko Yukimi

What would it take for each person to own and allow their unique brilliance, and stop judging themselves and others? What if it is totally ok to be you? **-Rebecca**

#2 How is my character affected?

If we have hidden sin, others may not know it, but we do. It effects our self-image and self-worth (your conscience knows you're doing wrong) which makes us more self-aware, self-focused and not God focused which effects our behavior around others. Hidden sin also acts as a ceiling between God and our prayers (Psalm 66:18). Furthermore, hidden sin of a sexual nature is sin against God and our own body and since we are made in the image of God we are diminishing are own dignity and any others involved when we sin sexually. Diminishing another's or one's own dignity is the very core of poor character. Hidden sin has its root is **PRIDE** because we don't believe (or agree with) God and His word about confessing and forsaking sin.

#3 How is this affecting those closest to me?

SIN ALWAYS HAS CONSEQUENCES BEYOND YOURSELF, collateral damage is unavoidable. **SIN IS ALWAYS SELFISH**, true love (agape) is the opposite of selfishness. If we're sinning and hiding it, those closest to us are being affected (and infected, more is caught than taught) and worse yet and because of the nature of hiding sin and the self-focus it causes we probably don't even notice the damage we are leaving in our wake. ☹️

#4 What does God say about it?

Proverbs 28:11-14

¹¹The rich man is wise in his own eyes,
But the poor who has understanding sees through him.
¹²When the righteous triumph, there is great glory,
But when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.
¹³He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.
¹⁴How blessed is the man who fears always,
But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

Psalm 90:5-10

⁵You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep;
In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew.
⁶In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew;
Toward evening it fades and withers away.

⁷For we have been consumed by Your anger
And by Your wrath we have been dismayed.
⁸You have placed our iniquities before You,
Our secret *sins* in the light of Your presence.
⁹For all our days have declined in Your fury;
We have finished our years like a sigh.
¹⁰As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years,
Or if due to strength, eighty years,
Yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow;
For soon it is gone and we fly away.

2 Kings 17:7-12

⁷Now *this* came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods ⁸and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and *in the customs* of the kings of Israel which they had introduced. ⁹The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰They set for themselves *sacred* pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, ¹¹and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations *did* which the LORD had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the LORD. ¹²They served idols, concerning which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

Job 24:12-19

¹²"From the city men groan,
And the souls of the wounded cry out;
Yet God does not pay attention to folly.
¹³"Others have been with those who rebel against the light;
They do not want to know its ways
Nor abide in its paths.¹⁴"The murderer arises at dawn; He kills the poor and the needy,
And at night he is as a thief.
¹⁵"The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, Saying, 'No eye will see me.'
And he disguises his face.
¹⁶"In the dark they dig into houses,
They shut themselves up by day;
They do not know the light.
¹⁷"For the morning is the same to him as thick darkness,
For he is familiar with the terrors of thick darkness.

¹⁸ "They are insignificant on the surface of the water;
Their portion is cursed on the earth.
They do not turn toward the vineyards.
¹⁹ "Drought and heat consume the snow waters,
So does Sheol those who have sinned.

Isaiah 29:13-16

¹³ Then the Lord said,

"Because this people draw near with their words
And honor Me with their lip service,
But they remove their hearts far from Me,
And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,
¹⁴ Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously
marvelous;
And the wisdom of their wise men will perish,
And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed."
¹⁵ 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?"
¹⁶ You turn *things* around!
Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay,
That what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me";
Or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Ezekiel 8:9-13

⁹ And He said to me, "Go in and see the wicked abominations that they are committing here." ¹⁰ So I entered and looked, and behold, every form of creeping things and beasts *and* detestable things, with all the idols of the house of Israel, were carved on the wall all around. ¹¹ Standing in front of them were seventy elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them, each man with his censer in his hand and the fragrance of the cloud of incense rising. ¹² Then He said to me, "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; the LORD has forsaken the land.'" ¹³ And He said to me, "Yet you will see still greater abominations which they are committing."

Ephesians 5:10-14

¹⁰trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹²for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. ¹³But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. ¹⁴For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

Proverbs 7:6-23

⁶For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice,
⁷And I saw among the naive,
And discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense,
⁸Passing through the street near her corner;
And he takes the way to her house,
⁹In the twilight, in the evening, In the middle of the night and *in* the darkness.
¹⁰And behold, a woman *comes* to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.
¹¹She is boisterous and rebellious, Her feet do not remain at home;
¹²*She is* now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner.
¹³So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him:
¹⁴"I was due to offer peace offerings;
Today I have paid my vows.
¹⁵"Therefore I have come out to meet you,
To seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you.
¹⁶"I have spread my couch with coverings,
With colored linens of Egypt.
¹⁷"I have sprinkled my bed
With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.
¹⁸"Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning;
Let us delight ourselves with caresses.
¹⁹"For my husband is not at home,
He has gone on a long journey;
²⁰He has taken a bag of money with him,
At the full moon he will come home."
²¹With her many persuasions she entices him;
With her flattering lips she seduces him.
²²Suddenly he follows her
As an ox goes to the slaughter,
Or as *one in* fetters to the discipline of a fool,
²³Until an arrow pierces through his liver;
As a bird hastens to the snare,
So he does not know that it *will cost him* his life.

John 3:17-21

¹⁷For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the law*. ⁹For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the law*.

¹¹Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹²The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

1 Thessalonians 5:3-10

³While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. ⁷For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we are of *the day*, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹(for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹²for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. ¹³But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. ¹⁴For this reason it says,

“Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”

James 5:14-20

¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit. ¹⁹My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.



If the Spirit of God detects anything in you that is wrong, He doesn't ask you to make it right; He only asks you to accept the light of truth, and then He will make it right. A child of the light will confess sin instantly and stand completely open before God. But a child of the darkness will say, "Oh, I can explain that."

— Oswald Chambers —

#5 Do I need to change my mindset about it? Am I guilty?

Based on the scriptures we just read, in what ways can we change our mindset about HIDDEN SIN?

Confess (bring it into the light, and it can no longer have control over you)

One to Another This is what the brothers are here for.

Repent (go and sin no more)

Taste and see that the LORD is good. Get rid of the hidden sin and watch the power of God transform your life.

GET INTO THE WORD DAILY, THE WORD IS TRUTH. **Believe Genesis 1:1 the rest is easy then.**
Get Real! Confess one to another, repent (180 degree turn) and pray for one another.

Brothers we believe that we live in such a time (and what a privilege it is) that we need to be awake, vigilante, sober and full of the Holy Spirit having our lamps full of oil and the extra oil ready to go. God has given us everything we need to walk after Him to love Him with all our heart mind soul and strength, to love one another, and serve His set apart ones. Let's go to the stream and be the ones that cup the water to our mouths to drink and not have our heads down in the water lapping like dogs. Let's be Mighty Men of Valor. (Judges 7)

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.