

SELF CONDEMNING GUILT (Part #2)

After 39 years of Self-Condemning Guilt, the ten brothers of Joseph desire and seeking resolution to it with Joseph (Gen.50:15-21).

Sometimes it seems easier to focus on the **cause of pain** rather than on the **cure of pain**. Sometimes it seems easier to project blame to justify the pain of bad decisions and to sweep it under the rug and avoid dealing with it.

This is the method that the brothers have been using for the past 39 years. It didn't work for them and it won't work for us. This was the method Adam and Eve used and it didn't work for them either (Gen.3).

The problem with resolution of self-condemning guilt is often the offended party is not ready. Or the offender is not ready to apply God's spiritual resolution to it.

Question: "How is it possible that Joseph got resolution to it without the brother's acknowledgement of the offense?" This is an important doctrinal issue for each of us to learn.

<p>This lesson will study four aspects of part two of Self-Condemning Guilt.</p>

1. The brothers unresolved self-condemning guilt is fearful that Joseph has "held a grudge" for the last 39 years and will take it out on them to the max.

(Gen.50:15) "**What if** Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we have done."

What if Joseph pays back evil for evil? But this was the farthest thing from Joseph mind.

Joseph's New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking:

(1 Pet.3:9-10) "To sum up, **all of you be** harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; **not** returning evil for evil or insult for insult, **but giving a blessing** instead; for you were called for this very purpose that you might inherit a blessing."

Joseph's heart:

(Gen.45:4-7) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine *has been* in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.

(Gen.50:20) "As for you, **you meant** evil against me, **but God meant** it for good in order to bring about this **present result**, to preserve many people alive."

2. **Self-condemning guilt is in the ten brothers but not in Joseph because the brothers have failed to seek God's grace in resolving it (Gen.42:21-22, 28; 44:20, 34).**

Be careful you do not become what your flesh, Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking pursues.

- The drinker becomes the drunkard.
- The eater becomes the glutton.
- The drug becomes the addict.
- The lazy person becomes poverty-stricken.

(1 Pet.3:11) "He must **turn away** from evil and do good; he must **seek peace and pursue it.**" (Ps.34:14)

Principle: The spiritually mature believer leaves the righting of wrong in the hands of the Lord (Rom.12:17-21). The brothers, offenders, were pre-occupied with the wrong while Joseph, offended, was pre-occupied with the right (Col.3:12-17).

3. **Jesus taught a lesson that contrasted the difference between the reversionistic hearts of the brothers (OMCD) and the spiritual heart of Joseph (NMDV) in (Matt.15:15-20).**

(Luke 6:45) "The good man out of the **good treasure of his heart brings forth** what is good; and the evil man out of the **evil treasure brings forth** what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."

(James 3:18) "And the **seed** whose fruit is righteousness is **sown in peace** by those who make peace."
(Gal.5:22-23)

(Phil.4:7) "And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

4. **Joseph forgave them based on God's forgiveness of him, whether or not they ever acknowledged their offense against him.**

(Eph.4:30) "**Do not grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

(Eph.4:31) "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander **be put away from you**, along with malice."

(Eph.4:32) "**Be kind to one another**, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, **just as** God in Christ also has forgiven you."

- **Jesus did this very thing.**

- (Luke 23:34) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- **Stephen did it.**

- (Acts 7:59) While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

- **What about you?**

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