

Introduction

- How do corporate and individual sin go together?
- Individual sins are sins we commit as individuals and only we are responsible.
- Corporate sins are sins an entire community participate in.
- Our sin never just affects us.
- We all will be held individually responsible for our sin before the throne.
- We all will be individually rewarded for our faithfulness before the throne.

Corporate Sins

- Adam and Eve's sin made us all guilty.
- The guilt of sin passes through generations (Num 14:18).
- Israel denied the promised land even though Caleb and Joshua were faithful.
- Achan's theft leads to death and defeat (Joshua 7).
- The Canaanite genocide where entire nations are wiped out.
- The judgement on Israel and other nations.
- Israel is judged for the sin of individual kings.
- Entire cities are judged for a rejection of the gospel.
- Entire church is guilty for not excommunicating someone in blatant sin (1 Cor 5:1).

What About Individuals?

- Israel cannot enforce corporate capital punishment (Deut 24:16).
- God promises those who sin will die (Ezk 18).
- God promises the righteous one will live and be protected (Ezk 18).
- Churches in NT are all responsible to respond to the letters, including repentance.

Corporate Blessing

- Noah's family is saved because of his obedience.
- Rahab's family is saved because of her hiding the spies.
- Abraham and his descendants are chosen to be God's people.
- Nations are blessed because of Israel.
- The church is saved because of Christ's obedience.

American Corporate Sins

- Our own national sins are not just the result of a few individuals.
- Our democratic system of government makes us more, not less, accountable for the sins of our leaders.
- Sexual sins, consumerism, abortion, division and hatred, etc are national sins.
- We all participate in these in some small way.
- Slavery was our great national sin, where more than just slave holders were guilty.

Corporate Confession

- Daniel confesses his nation's sin, even though he is righteous (Dan 9).
- Job prays and sacrifices on behalf of his children.
- Ezra leads all of the people in confessing their sin (Ezra 9-10).
- Israel is commanded to confess their sins and repent corporately (2 Chronicles 7:14).
- This is why some traditions practice a regular corporate confession.
- We should confess the sins of our people.

Restraining Judgment

- The presence of Christians and the righteous can protect the wicked from judgment.
- The presence of righteous people would have saved Sodom and Gomorrah.
- The presence of righteous people delayed God's judgment of pagan nations.
- The church may be the restrainer who keeps the antichrist from coming (2 Thess 2:6-7).

Gospel Forgiveness

- Jesus died to forgive all sins (corporate and individual).
- There will be no punishment in the future for those who have been redeemed.
- Our attitude should never be a defensive one.
- We can gladly admit our own sin is worse than we thought, knowing we will receive grace.

Application

- Our sense of what is just, fair, and good must depend on the Bible alone.
- Recognize that the community or national sins are also ours not just someone else's.
- We should repent of the role we play, and on behalf of our people.
- We follow the example of the prophets in the midst of wicked people.
- Even the righteous may face temporal judgment from corporate sins.
- Corporate and individual sins can be forgiven by the blood of Jesus.