

Collective Guilt
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From Everywhere in Scripture. COLLECTIVE GUILT, PART 1.

#1. Scripture records that the Lord recognizes the collective guilt of peoples, organizations and nations.

- Genesis 19. The entire population of Sodom was found guilty collectively and was collectively condemned.
- Genesis 6. The inclusive nature of human sin garnered collective guilt and collective judgment.
- Luke 21 registers the collective guilt of Jerusalem.
- And there are several references to collective guilt in the Minor Prophets alone. There is no doubt that this is an active issue with the Almighty.

#2. Collective guilt in our country expands constantly. There is never enough sin (Ephesians 2:1,2). The collective guilt before God, according to Scripture, must be mounting up.

#3. The Imperative: True believers must take great pains, make every effort to distinguish themselves from, to set themselves apart publicly from, the guilty aggregate.

If we do not do this, then we will be enveloped in the collective guilt of this society! Malachi 3:16-18: "Then those who feared the Lord" deliberately, consciously separated themselves from the guilty majority in thought, speech and behavior.

The result? "They will be Mine," says the Lord of hosts... (v. 17.)

Romans 1:32 adds to this. Conformity to, approval of and indifference to what is going on in our contemporary culture locates us in collective guilt! Because "although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

There is no neutrality !

From Everywhere in Scripture. COLLECTIVE GUILT, PART 2

#1. The Dilemma: Unless the mind, one's reasoning, is directly affected by the Bible, then one does not have the capability to recognize collective guilt nor to detach from it.

#2. The personal commitment to direct linkage between Scripture --> and--> The Mind is a rare thing. Adam and Eve rejected it at the critical moment (Genesis 3.) Such a linkage was not a priority in The Reformation nor in The Restoration Movement.

#3. As far as can be detected, the churches of today have no interest in any such direct linkage. Therefore, they may very well share finally in the collective guilt of this society.

#4. Human Reasoning, insubordinate to The Word of God, is the source of all idolatry (Isaiah 42-46.) But reasoning and behavior purely leveraged by revelation is the necessary human element to escape collective guilt.

Our reasoning has to be redeemed (Romans 12:1-2.) This truth is not generally accepted. Yet Scripture attests to the presence of darkened reasoning in the world. In other words, "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:21.)

#5. Our minds and our language are expected to become spiritual weapons in the grand struggle for human redemption.

From Everywhere in Scripture. COLLECTIVE GUILT, PART 3

#1. The church is not the strict end of the purpose of The Lord. The church is a means to an end.

#2. It makes no sense to establish churches if there is to be no direct relation between SCRIPTURE-->and-->REASONING.

#3. This infers a missiology. It is Christ who saves. The church saves no one. The mission of the church is to live by and represent the revealed eternal truth to the world.

#4. But without this direct linkage, we are essentially blind to anything beyond human wisdom. All that is codified in this text: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2.)

#5. Evidently, church structure can act as a screen to an ever-expanding grasp of revelation. We do not think we need it.

#6. While the world of men is locked into collective guilt, we are to pursue "the perfect." Human wisdom and dependence upon human reason is the retrograde for Christians.

#7. We are being called to something else: the ever widening apprehension of "the wisdom and knowledge of God" (Romans 11:33-36.)