

CAN WE BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINS OF OTHERS – INCLUDING CHURCHES?, part 5 quotes

1) Corporate Responsibility...continued

Will God destroy all the good and righteous people just because their membership is found within a harlot church destined for destruction?

"Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem...and say to the land of Israel, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I am against thee, and will draw forth My sword out of his sheath, **and will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked.**" Ezekiel 21:1-3.

2) Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, along with 250 other church leaders, decided to rebel against God and His chosen messenger, and were seeking to lead all of the church membership to follow them in rebellion. God told Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from among the congregation so that He might destroy all the membership together with these rebellious church leaders. Moses and Aaron pleaded with God not to do so by saying:

"O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?" Numbers 16:22.

The answer to this question is YES! It is called "Corporate Responsibility." Yet our merciful and longsuffering God gave a way of escape for His people to avoid being destroyed along with their rebellious church leaders.

"Speak unto the congregation, saying Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram." Numbers 16:24.

God mercifully gave a way of escape, and only one chosen pathway for all His people to follow in order to escape destruction. This one God-given pathway was to separate from the wicked.

"And he spake unto the congregation, saying Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and **touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.**" Numbers 16:26.

If any church member refused to separate themselves from the rebellious, but remained touching or connected in any way with their tent-structure, they would be held corporately responsible for the sins of these wicked church leaders, and would be consumed right along with them.

"The entire congregation were sharers in their [Korah and company] guilt, for all had, to a greater or less degree, sympathized with them." Patriarchs and Prophets, p 401.

"They [the congregation] also were in alarming danger of being destroyed in their [Korah and company] sins by the wrath of God, **for they were sharers in the crimes of the men to whom they had given their sympathy and with whom they had associated.**" Testimonies, vol 3, p 354.

What then did many in the congregation do?

"So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, **and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.**" Numbers 16:27.

After every church member had made their decision to either separate completely from, or stay within and connected to, the rebellious and their tabernacle, then those who remained connected were destroyed, including those who never spoke a word either for or against the rebellion! This is seen in the fact that the wives and children of Dathan and Abiram were only mentioned as standing within the tabernacle of the rebellious, but not saying anything, and yet they suffered the same destruction.

But were the children of Korah also destroyed along with him and the families of Dathan and Abiram? No.

"Notwithstanding the children of Korah **died not.**" Numbers 26:11.

Korah's children did not die along with their rebellious father and the rest of the wicked group because these righteous people chose to follow God's will and separated themselves, and thereby refused to touch or be connected with the rebellious. Even though it must have been hard for them to separate from those whom they dearly loved, yet they loved God more than any earthly connections, and God spared only these separated righteous from being a sharer in the destruction!

3) Why couldn't Lot and his family continue to live their righteous lives within their wicked corporate body of Sodom?

"...the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; **lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city**....Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed." Genesis 19:15, 17.

Even though Lot and his family were righteous, God told them through angels' messages that they must separate completely from their wicked corporate body, or be corporately responsible for her sins and consumed along with the wicked! All their righteousness could not save them from being destroyed along with the wicked if they refused to separate!

But when Lot was facing having to separate, what did he then plead for?

"And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." Genesis 19:18-20.

Lot did not want to completely separate and break all connections with the wicked corporate body, but pleaded that he would be allowed, as it were, to transfer his membership from the big wicked city of Sodom to a much smaller city out in the country named Zoar. He believed this smaller city could not possibly be as corrupt as Sodom even though it was connected along with Sodom and Gomorrah in the same plain (see Genesis 19:18-20). But Zoar was also destroyed because it was united with Sodom and Gomorrah. And because of its connection and union with corruption, it was not pure, but corrupt! (see Patriarchs and Prophets, p 167; Genesis 19:30).

Lot just could not accept the fact that the righteous would be destroyed along with the wicked. Instead of trusting God and believing that He knew what He was doing, and that God would not require His people to do anything that would keep them from salvation, Lot chose to delay obeying the Lord's command, and as a result lost his wife because of it.

"If Lot himself had manifested no hesitancy to obey the angels' warning, but had earnestly fled toward the mountains, without one word of pleading or remonstrance, his wife also would have made her escape. The influence of his example would have saved her from the sins that sealed her doom. **But his hesitancy and delay caused her to lightly regard the divine warning.**" Patriarchs and Prophets, p 161.

4) Many today are aware that their church headquarters — or the heart of their church system — is not following God's will and is becoming increasingly more corrupt. Yet they believe, like Lot, that God will not really destroy the righteous along with the wicked, and that they can find a smaller church within this corrupt system that will not be affected by the wickedness. And many even transfer their membership to another church within their church body, believing that it is far enough away from the apostate church headquarters, and could not be affected by the corruption. But they are still ignorant of the fact that anything touching or in union with corruption — including individual churches, institutions, and membership — are also corrupt by their connection with the church headquarters!

"The great heart of the work is at ____; and, as the human heart throws its living current of blood into all parts of the body, so does the management at this place, the headquarters of our church, **affect the whole body of believers**. If the physical heart is healthy, the blood that is sent from it through the system is also healthy; but if this fountain is impure, the whole organism becomes diseased by the poison of the vital fluid. So it is with us. **If the heart of the work becomes corrupt, the whole church, in its various branches and interests, scattered abroad over the face of the earth, suffers in consequence.**" Testimonies, vol 4, p 210.

If the headquarters of our church has committed harlotry and is corrupt, then there is no church or institution connected with that system which is not also corrupt. And there is no smaller church or institution which we can flee to by transferring our membership and finding rest in that will not also be destroyed since it is in union with corruption.

"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, **touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean**, that bear the vessels of the Lord." Isaiah 52:11.

"Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, **it shall destroy you**, even with a sore destruction." Micah 2:10.

If we find ourselves resting or residing within a corporate body that is unclean and polluted with sin and wickedness, such as a harlot church, then God commands that His people must depart and separate from her. And this separation must break all connection in order to be clean: so that we are not even touching the unclean harlot church. To avoid touching the harlot church involves breaking all our connections with her, including our membership on the roll books, or we will remain unclean by this touch and will be destroyed along with her. We are not just to transfer our membership from one church to another church within the same corporate body that is polluted. But we are to break all connection with everything in that corrupt corporate body!

5) If we are members of the corrupt and wicked corporate body of Free Masonry, or any Secret Society, then we will be held corporately responsible for her sins and can not receive the seal of God!

"Christians must sever every tie that binds them to these secret orders that are not under the control of God. They cannot be loyal to these organizations and loyal to God. Either the connection with these bodies must be severed or you will assimilate more closely to them...

"Those who stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel cannot be united with the Free Masons or with any secret organization. **The seal of the living God will not be placed upon anyone who maintains such a connection after the light of truth has shone upon his pathway.** Christ is not divided...The Lord says, 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate,...and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.'" Selected Messages, book 2, p 132, 140.

6) It is our God-given duty to remove our names and membership from any church which has rejected God's truth, or we will not be able to rest assured of being in the first resurrection and gaining eternal life!

"My [Ellen White's] brother continued to fail rapidly. If he felt a cloud shutting Jesus from him, he would not rest until it was dispelled, and bright hope again cheered him. To all who visited him, he conversed upon the goodness of God, and would often lift his emaciated finger, pointing upwards, while a heavenly light rested upon his countenance, and say, 'My treasure is laid up on high.' It was a wonder to all that his life of suffering was thus protracted. He had a hemorrhage of the lungs, and was thought to be dying. **Then an unfulfilled duty presented itself to him.** He had again connected himself with the Methodist church. He was expelled in 1843 with the other members of the family, on account of his faith. **He said he could not die in peace until his name was taken from the church-book,** and requested father to go immediately and have it taken off.

"In the morning father visited the minister, stating my brother's request. He said that he would visit him, and then if it was still his wish to be considered no longer a member of their church, his request should be granted. Just before the minister arrived my brother had a second hemorrhage, and whispered his fears that he should not live to do this duty. The minister visited him, and he immediately expressed his desire, and told him that **he could not die in peace until his name was taken from the church-book;** that he should not have united with them again if he had been standing in the light.

"He then spoke of his faith, and hope, and the goodness of God to him. A heavenly smile was upon his countenance, and those lips, a few moments before stained with blood, were opened to praise God for His great salvation. As the minister left the room he said to my parents, 'That is a triumphant soul; I never saw so happy a soul before.' **Soon after this my brother fell asleep in Jesus, in full hope of having a part in the first resurrection.**" Spiritual Gifts, vol 2, p 163-164.

If we have not removed our names from the roll books of any wicked corporate body — especially a harlot church — then we have not yet done our duty. We are still touching the unclean thing, and therefore we can not receive the seal of God and are in real danger of losing eternal life!

7) Membership in a harlot church is a life dependent issue. Our eternal life is dependent upon whether or not we have completely severed every connection from every harlot church today!

"Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: **be not cut off in her iniquity...**" Jeremiah 51:6.

If we do not flee out of Babylon the harlot church, then we will be cut off in her iniquity, and lose our soul and eternal life!

8) How can we escape being the children of whoredoms and avoid losing eternal life?

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**"
2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

When do we become the sons and daughters of God? It is not before, but only AFTER we have broken all connection and agreement with Satan and his kingdom!

9) The loud cry of the third angel is the very last message this world will ever hear. If any person hears this precious message, and persists in refusing to follow it, they will be lost for eternity!

"The message presented at this time is the last message of mercy for a fallen world. Those who have the privilege of hearing this message, and who persist in refusing to heed the warning, **cast away their last hope of salvation. There will be no second probation.**" Testimonies, vol 6, p 19.