

DAVID THE SINNER

But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

First Samuel 13:14 (NIV)

One might wonder how it is that such a great man of God could fail morally. We shall see from the life of David that even the spiritually strongest person is susceptible to moral failure when they let their guard down.

The first principle we see in the moral failure of David is unbridled lust. Lust is wanting something with a passion without thought for decency or morality. Everyone who desires to live a godly life must learn the principles of denial and delayed gratification. Just because you want something, doesn't mean you should have it, or even have it now.

1. In Deuteronomy 17, God foresees Israel's desire to have a king. He also gives guidelines for keeping any future king spiritually secure. Note verse 17, and consider whether David kept or violated this.
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Sin can invade the heart of the child of God when lusts are left unchecked (note Colossians 3:5). David fell morally when violated the principle of unbridled lust. He neither lived a lifestyle of denying himself, or delaying his gratification. When was the last time you denied yourself? My father-in-law was a wealthy man. He liked nice things but he had been a Hungarian refugee and knew what it was to struggle under the oppression of communism—so he rarely flaunted his wealth. There was one thing that he did eventually indulge in though, but he waited several decades to do it. He wanted a really nice pen. Not just any pen, but a *Mont Blanc* pen. These pens range from \$300 to \$1000 each. After he turned 60 he bought his first (and only) *Mont Blanc* pen. He treasured that pen and excitedly showed his junior assistant who said, "*Mont Blanc!* I've bought four of those." When my father-in-law asked why he had bought *four*, "Because I lost the first three!" For the young man who had bought four *Mont Blancs* they were nothing to be treasured, just something to impress others with. He had not learned delayed gratification. Many in this generation today are also experiencing the cheapening of things that should be highly treasured because they refuse to delay their gratification, choosing rather to enjoy what they want, when they want. King David found this to be his undoing.

2. David's moral failure occurred at a very interesting time in his life. Note Samuel Samuel 11:1-4. What was significant about this time?
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David was inactive. While we must rest and not live a life that is consumed by busyness we must also learn to be dedicated to doing something. We must live for a cause. David had been charged by God to be the king. This carried with it great responsibility. The leadership, defence, and administration of the nation were top priorities. Instead of concentrating on these things, David lapsed into a period of idleness.

3. Note how the Bible equates *idleness* in Proverbs 18:9-
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Perhaps you've heard the expression - "They've just got too much time on their hands!" (Note 1Thess. 5:14; 2Thess. 3:6-7, 11; 1Tim. 5:13)

The third principle at work in the moral failure of David was *unconfessed sin* leads to *further* sin.

4. When David sinned with Bathsheba and didn't immediately repent and confess this, what other sins did it lead to? (2Samuel 11)
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But David learned a counter principle: *confession brings healing*. How could a man who sinned so publicly be described by God as a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22)? The answer is almost incomprehensible and too hard to grasp.

5. Note Psalm 51 and describe how David must have eventually felt about his sin.
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6. Note Psalm 32 and note how David felt in this Psalm and note how the difference was attained.
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7. What is the principle, and benefit achieved from this principle, found in Proverbs 28:13, James 5:16, First John 1:9?
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We too can become children after the heart of God if we learn to accept God's grace by renouncing and confessing our sin. Once we have been forgiven of our sins, we recognise that Christ died on the cross to forgive us for all of our sins, we have no need to continually ask God for forgiveness, but to acknowledge and confess our sin to God. By doing this, we are becoming men and women after the heart of God.

Amen.