



Spirit of Grace

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Teacher / Evangelist

Herald

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should be overlooked and taken no notice of, and others mildly reprov'd; but no willful transgression ought ever to be forgiven children without chastisement, less or more, as the nature and circumstances of the offense require.

Children are going to act like children because they are ... well, children! To expect a five year old to weigh matters carefully, and to ponder their choices wisely is surely going to lead to disappointment. Similarly, in our spiritual youth we are going to make mistakes, not out of a rebellious and wicked heart, but out of immaturity and ignorance. We may end up paying a price for this, but I doubt our Heavenly Father gets all that upset in these cases. In the western novel *Shane* the hero talks about a young

cowboy who has been causing trouble, stating, "His only problem is that he is young, and that is something time will always cure." Many of our youthful follies will be purged through time, maturity, and the pains we have suffered as a result of our impulsiveness.

In the Old Testament God seems to go out of his way to differentiate between sins of ignorance and sins of rebellion. In Numbers we read: "And if a person sins *unintentionally*, then he shall bring a female goat in its first year as a sin offering..." (Numbers 15:27). But look what God has to say for those who sin presumptuously (willfully, with full knowledge

of the wrong they are committing):

But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the Lord, and he shall be cut off from among his people. Because he has despised the word of the Lord, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him (Numbers 15:30,31).

Contd. on back

Stupid & Rebellious

Working on the article about Samson made me think a lot about *stupid* and *rebellious*. At various times in my life I have been both, as I imagine most of us have. When Samson spent time with a harlot he was rebelling against God's laws. When he allowed his wife to talk him into revealing the answer to his riddle he was being stupid. From my study of the Scriptures I have concluded that God can put up with our stupidity a lot more than He can our rebellion.

Susanna Wesley (John & Charles' mother) wrote a letter to her son Charles in her old age that has been quoted widely. In it she delineates between a child's foolishness and their willful rebellion:



Susanna Wesley

Whenever a child is corrected, it must be conquered; and this will be no hard matter to do if it be not grown headstrong by too much indulgence. And when the will of a child is totally subdued and it is brought to revere and stand in awe of the parents, then a great many childish follies and inadvertencies may be passed by. Some

Help!

Due to a computer crash we lost the names and email addresses of those who volunteered to be prayer partners with us.

No doubt the devil does not want God's people praying for us! If you have sent in your name and email address, would you please do it again, so that we can give you timely email updates about the ministry and specific prayer requests.

As a ministry that operates by faith, we are in constant need of prayer from our friends and supporters. Your prayers can make the difference. Please send us an email and sign up for our SOGM prayer team!



Stupid & Rebellious

Of course Jesus has died for all of our sins, both unintentional and presumptuous, but there is no doubt in my mind that God doesn't get nearly as upset with *stupid* as He does with *rebellious*. When a child looks at his dad with an angry glare, shakes his fist in his face, and declares, "No, I'm not going to do anything you say" he is asking for trouble, and if his dad is smart, he will see that his son gets it in appropriate measure.

Whether willful or unintentional, in either case the answer is repentance on the basis of the blood of Jesus. The Psalms declare, "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You that You may be feared."

The worst of all cases is when people are both stupid *and* wicked. The stupid criminals Hall of Shame reported the following – Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words: "Give me all your money or I'll shoot", the man shouted, "that's not what I said!".



The Holy Spirit in Acts

Our most popular series is the 8-CD, 16 lesson set of teachings titled **The Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts**. This is one of the most thorough treatments on the Holy Spirit that you will find in any one series. Dennis teaches through the book of Acts, noting and commenting on every single reference to the Holy Spirit.

This is a great study for those who long to know more of their great Comforter and Enabler. **If you order this series this month (March) we are offering it at the sale price of \$30, including S/H. Normally it sells for \$40.**

We will see more of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we learn more about Him. You cannot trust One you do not know. A study of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit is invaluable in this regard. Order the series today!



Kenya Next Month

Dennis is scheduled to preach in Kakamega, Kenya in April. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for this outreach. The ministry time will be from April 7–11. Pray for a great harvest of souls, for a rich outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and for effective training of God's servants in the leadership conference.

Any gifts you can give to help us meet the budget for these meetings will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for caring!

