
A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF UNGODLINESS

Selected Scriptures | Respectable Sins by Jerry Bridges

“When I talk about specific areas of acceptable sins, one comment I often hear is that pride is the root cause of all of them. While I agree that pride does play a major role in the development and expression of our subtle sins, I believe there is another sin that is even more basic, more widespread, and more apt to be the root cause of our other sins. That is the sin of ungodliness.”

JERRY BRIDGES

SESSION SUMMARY

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I want to consider a sin that lies at the core of all our sins: ungodliness. My prayer is that the Spirit of God would use His Word to do a work in our hearts, exposing areas that need renovated and renewed for the purpose of godliness.

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SELECTED SCRIPTURES

I. Ungodliness Defined

A. The Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:3–17)

- i. 1st – You shall have no other God before Me (3)
- ii. 2nd – You shall not perform unprescribed worship (4–6)
- iii. 3rd – You shall not abuse God's name and character (7)

- “When we speak slightly and irreverently of his name.”
- “When we profess God’s name, but do not live answerably to it”
- “When we worship with our lips but not our heart”
- “When we pray but do not believe in him”
- “When our tongues dishonor God”
- “When we make vows or promises and don’t keep them”

THOMAS WATSON, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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SELECTED SCRIPTURES

I. Ungodliness Defined

A. The Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:3–17)

B. The Epistles of Paul (Titus 2:11–12; 2 Tim. 2:14–18)

“[calls] to mind idolatry and associated wicked practices, depicts life in the world as basically irreligious, totally apart from God, determined by unbelief.”

PHILIP TOWNER, COMMENTARY ON TITUS

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SELECTED SCRIPTURES

I. Ungodliness Defined

II. Ungodliness Expressed (Rom. 1:18–23)

“The holy revulsion of God’s being against that which is the contradiction of his holiness.”

JOHN MURRAY, COMMENTARY ON ROMANS

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I. Ungodliness Defined

II. Ungodliness Expressed (Rom. 1:18–23)

- A. It obliterates worship—“they did not honor Him as God” (21)
- B. It eradicates gratitude—“or give thanks” (21)
- C. It disorients the mind—“they became futile in their speculations” (21)
- D. It corrupts the heart—“their foolish heart was darkened” (21)
- E. It fosters foolishness—“professing to be wise, they became fools” (22)
- F. It fuels idolatry—“and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.” (23)

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SELECTED SCRIPTURES

I. Ungodliness Defined

II. Ungodliness Expressed

III. Ungodliness Denied

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why is ungodliness a helpful term to describe our culture and the unbelieving world around us?
 - A. Is it important for us to continue to expose ungodly attitudes and deeds? Why should we pray for the unbelieving world?
2. What patterns of ungodliness have you killed and mortified in your own sanctification?
3. What are practical ways to identify ungodliness in our lives?
How do we begin putting off those sins?

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