

“Keep Your Servant from
Presumptuous Sins”

Psalm 19:13

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- Psalm 19:13 - “Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.”
- Zed (zade) Hebrew - “arrogant, presumptuous, proud” (Strong's 02086)

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- 2Peter 2:10 - “And especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries”
- Tolmetes (Greek) “daring, audacious man; presumptuous” (Strong's 5111); “shameless, irreverent, daring” (Vines)
- Presumptuous - “over-stepping proper bounds; taking liberties” (Webster)
- Practically speaking: “I know what God said, but I think, I believe, I feel, I want, I will...”

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- David was right to fear presumptuous sins
- “The believer, who at one moment groans under the burden of sin and who is aware of the seriousness of sin, is still capable of falling into willful sin, a sin that contradicts what he knows to be true. There is nothing safe about living in a sin he knows to be wrong.” (John Calvin)

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- “David saw the difference between, on the one hand, sins that we commit because they baffle us and sneak up on us [“hidden faults” of verse 12], and on the other hand, sins that we commit because we presume to know better than God or presume that the sin is no big deal. The point is not that there is a special category of extra-bad sins, like murder, assault, treason, etc. The point is that there is a special category of sinning, namely, sinning in arrogant defiance of a known law. It’s not so much what you do that puts sinning in this category as whether you do it with forethought, defiance and rebellion. This is what David calls presumptuous sins. They are fully intentional, with eyes open, and with a heart that says, ‘I know God says this is wrong and harmful, but I’m going to do it anyway.’” (Tony Reinke)

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- Ex. 21:12-14 - “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. 13 However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee. 14 But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.”

Presumptuous Sin Is Great Transgression

- Psalm 19:13 presumptuous sin is called “the great transgression.” (Hebrew - “rebellion” - Strong’s H6588)
- “Aren’t all sins great transgressions?”
- God inspired David to call it great transgression; don’t presume to correct Him.

Presumptuous Sin Is Great Transgression

- It is so great that God required that some presumptuous sins be punishable by death.
 - Num. 15:30-35 - “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. 31 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. 32 Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. 33 And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. 34 They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him. 35 Then the LORD said to Moses, The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.”

Presumptuous Sin Is Great Transgression

- Deut. 17:12-13 - “Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel. 13 And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.”
- Deut. 18:20, 22 - “But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die... 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

Bible Examples Of Presumptuous Sins

- Cain - Gen. 4:1-13
- Moses - Num. 20:7-12
- Nadab and Abihu - Lev. 10:1-7
- Uzzah - 2Sam. 6:1-11
- Israel - Deut. 1:42-46; Num. 14:4-45

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- David understood that as a man accustomed to use of power, he would be tempted to believe he had a right to overrule God, and thus, ironically, be overruled by his own presumption (“Let them not have dominion over me”)
 - 2Peter 2:19 - “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”
 - John 8:34 - “Jesus answered them, Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”

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- David recognized that presumptuous sins quickly harden the conscience and make one reprobate, unable to be reached and restored by the truth
 - Num. 15:30 - “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.”
 - Isa. 45:9 - “Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'?”

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- David discerned that humility was the best defense against presumptuous sins
 - Rom. 9:20 - “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, Why have you made me like this?”

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- Rom. 12:3 - “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”
- James 4:10 - “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”
- 1Peter 5:5 - “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

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- David knew that presumptuous sins are “the great transgression.”
 - It is destructively, foolishly arrogant for a weak, puny, sinful, limited man to speak and act divergently when infinite, Holy, Almighty God has already spoken.
 - “A modest man is steady, an humble man reticent, and a vain one presumptuous.” (Mary Wollstonecraft)
 - “Often a whole city suffers for a man who sins and contrives presumptuous deeds.” (Hesiod)
- Col. 3:12 - “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering...”