



## Privacy

Privacy is the quality or state of being apart from company or observation by others and is freedom from unauthorized intrusion. It is that aspect of human freedom that allows seclusion from others when desired. The laws of divine establishment provide for the privacy of believers and unbelievers so that they can make decisions without coercion. For the believer, there is additional privacy to allow every believer priest to fulfill the plan of God for their lives.

The doctrine of privacy includes textual analysis of terms relating to privacy, secrecy, and concealment and has been synthesized into the category of privacy. In Matthew 6:4-6, the Greek word for “secrecy” is κρυπτός (kruptos) and means hidden, concealed, secret. In Matthew 6:18, the Greek word is similar κρυφαῖος (kruphaios) and means hidden, secret.

*"so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. " (Matthew 6:4-6, NASB)*

*"so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. " (Matthew 6:18, NASB)*

### Privacy Related to Giving

Privacy is related to giving to get the recognition and praise of man and is forbidden. Privacy is related to giving being a matter of privacy of the individual. In the time of Christ, giving was done in the synagogues and in the streets. The synagogue was the normal place of giving. The streets were the spontaneous place of giving. The street provided the opportunity to express grace and mercy in action, but this was abused.

Giving in privacy is only privacy before man. Giving is never privacy from God. Often the privacy of the believer is used to conceal their misapplication of the grace principle. Just as people move to a large city to get lost in the multitudes or go to a large church to get lost in the privacy of the masses, privacy in giving, therefore, can become a gimmick for people.

Privacy in giving is not a matter of concealment from others, but rather the issue of motive for you. Privacy in giving is the expression of a proper mental attitude toward giving. If you want others to see, you are violating your own privacy.

### Privacy Related to Prayer

Privacy in prayer is not related as much to the technique of prayer as your motivation in prayer. Praying in context of Matthew 6 was abused. These people were attempting to impress others in their prayers. The prayers were done in the synagogues and also on the street corners. These were the expression in the normal place and the unusual place. In context, the ones involved wanted not only to impress the “folks at church,” but also the outsiders.

Privacy in prayer does not mean the negation of public prayer. Public prayer for man’s praise and commendation is what is forbidden. So privacy is often abused in prayer.



## Privacy Related to Fasting

Fasting was the practice of abstaining from the normal course of eating to accomplish a spiritual objective. It was sometimes long of duration and sometimes short. Privacy was maintained in fasting by keeping up your normal appearance and not calling attention to the fact before men that you were fasting. Here again, like giving and praying, fasting was distorted and the whole privacy concept was missing.

## Privacy Related to Production of the Believer

We have seen that privacy is related to giving, praying and fasting. These all fall into the category of spiritual production. Here we see one of the significant factors in the doctrine of privacy. That is, it chiefly relates to the believer's production. Nothing is said here of privacy from the rule of those over you or concealment of your activities under rank or authority.

Privacy is related to the production of the believer in giving, praying, fasting, laying up reward, etc. Privacy is rebuked in the matter of hiding your production, or expecting it to have effects when covered up. Matt. 6:4-18; Luke 8:17; Luke 11:33.

*"For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light." (Luke 8:17, NASB)*

*"No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light." (Luke 11:33, NASB)*

Privacy needs to be maintained when it is not yet time to manifest your ministry. Privacy needs to be used correctly even when the time is right. John 7:4; John 7:10.

*""For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world."" (John 7:4, NASB)*

*"But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as if, in secret." (John 7:10, NASB)*

Privacy and its use does not need or should not cause a guilt complex. The privacy of mankind, unbelievers in context, will be revealed at the judgment day. John 18:20; Rom. 2:16.

*"Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret." (John 18:20, NASB)*

*"on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus." (Romans 2:16, NASB)*

The privacy of the heart of an individual will be revealed by the communication of someone communicating the Word of God. God knows the secret, private, and hidden things of the heart. 1 Cor. 14:25; Psalms 44:21.

*"the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you." (1 Corinthians 14:25, NASB)*

*"Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart." (Psalms 44:21, NASB)*

There are things God reserves for Himself, privately, that He chooses to not reveal to us. Deut. 29:29; Psalms 19:12.

*""The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons*



*forever, that we may observe all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 29:29, NASB)*

*"Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. " (Psalms 19:12, NASB)*

The doctrine of privacy is not to be used as a cover for sin. In the privacy of individuals, much ill has been done to people. That which is done in secret, or in privacy, God often decrees to reveal openly. Mark 4:22; Deut. 27:24; 2 Sam. 12:12.

*"For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light. " (Mark 4:22, NASB)*

*"Cursed is he who strikes his neighbor in secret.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'" (Deuteronomy 27:24, NASB)*

*"Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun."" (2 Samuel 12:12, NASB)*

Privacy often is wisely expressed in caution because of the character of the surrounding people. Often you must be discreet and silent around people who are likely to mistake your speech and pass around their false analysis. Privacy is used to conceal sinful actions. John 19:39; 2 Kings 17:9; 1 Sam. 23:9.

*"Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. " (John 19:39, NASB)*

*"The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city." (2 Kings 17:9, NASB)*

*"Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."" (1 Samuel 23:9, NASB)*

Important matters need to be reserved for private explanation. Matt. 24:3; Matt. 9:28; Matt. 13:3.

*"As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"" (Matthew 24:3, NASB)*

*"When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."" (Matthew 9:28, NASB)*

*"And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow;" (Matthew 13:3, NASB)*

Privacy has been the factor in saving the life or has brought great benefit to another person. Privacy has been used to produce the desired effect to a deed done. Acts 23:19; 1 Sam. 24:4.

*"The commander took him by the hand and stepping aside, began to inquire of him privately, "What is it that you have to report to me?"" (Acts 23:19, NASB)*

*"The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.'" Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly." (1 Samuel 24:4, NASB)*

The use of your privacy to protect your slander just won't work. God sees and He will judge anyway. The old idea that no one will ever see or know who said it doesn't hold water. Privacy is used by apostates to come into a group to despoil it and often they express great patience in silence waiting until



the time is just right to reveal themselves. Psalms 101:5; 2 Peter 2:1.

*"Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure." (Psalms 101:5, NASB)*

*"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves." (2 Peter 2:1, NASB)*

The privacy of dignitaries has often been used to add authority to the announcements of the individual. If you say you were talking with so and so and they said a certain thing, a person listening might give heed or they may not. If you come from the same thing and call it a private conference, then you have great attention. It is forbidden to fellowship with the private evils of others. Matt. 24:26; Eph. 5:11-12.

*"So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them." (Matthew 24:26, NASB)*

*"Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret." (Ephesians 5:11-12, NASB)*

It is proper to reveal or manifest the evil of others as the light makes it manifest. Bible doctrine reveals the evils, works of darkness done in the privacy of the individual's lives. Eph. 5:12-13.

*"for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light." (Ephesians 5:12-13, NASB)*

### **The Wrong Use of Privacy by Failing to use it**

Privacy has first been related to the production of the believer in giving, praying, and fasting. In Matthew 6:1-19, spiritual production in privacy before the Lord brings eternal rewards. Human good production done in the sight of man only brings man's praise. The human wages for production done before men are their smiles of approval, their commendation of your person, your reputation gets a boost, and your influence is enhanced. Rev. 3:1-2.

*"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.' " (Revelation 3:1-2, NASB)*

These "clothes" of righteousness are eaten away by the moth and corrosion. To lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth is to accumulate all these gems of praise, commendation, approval, appreciation, etc. and to have them swallowed up when a little adversity comes along.

The pastor is great, the teaching is wonderful, all people are for you, even the Lord seems to be so, then the bottom drops out. Do you thrive on the continued support of someone's encouragement? As long as they keep saying you are doing fine and you can make it, you do thrive. But just as soon as they begin to give better analysis, you fall apart. To lay up treasure in heaven is found by a proper use of privacy in spiritual production.

### **Privacy and Spiritual Production**

Covering your spiritual production in false humility is wrong. Matt. 5:14-16.



*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16, NASB)*

Light has several meanings in the Greek. The word φῶς (phōs) and means light as seen by the eyes, an organ adapted for reception. Man in salvation has received the spiritual organ of reception. In Luke 16:8, believers are called “sons of light” and means a light, primarily a light giver, one that produces light.

*"And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light." (Luke 16:8, NASB)*

Light is used of believers in Philippians 2:15 and used of Christ in Revelation 21:23.

*"so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world," (Philippians 2:15, NASB)*

*"And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb." (Revelation 21:23, NASB)*

In 2 Corinthians 4:6, light used as an illumination of the Gospel. Here, light is φωτισμός (phōtismos) and means the act of enlightening or illumination.

*"For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6, NASB)*

In Matthew 24:29, φέγγος (pheggos) is used of the light of the moon.

*"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." (Matthew 24:29, NASB)*

The use of light in Matthew 5:14 is φῶς (phōs) implies that those benefitting will have a capacity of reception, therefore, ability to benefit from it. Therefore, production here is described as “light” which other believers will be able to see and respond to.

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;" (Matthew 5:14, NASB)*

In Matthew 5:15, “lamp” is λύχνος (luchnos) and refers to a hand-lamp. The term “to give light” is λάμπω (lampō) and means to illuminate so as to see. The basket was a clay earthen pot used to store flour and was placed under the lampstand. The lampstand was a protrusion from the wall upon which the lamp was put that the light might provide light for all that enter the room. The room is the sphere around a believer in their spiritual production. This would be a pastor and his congregation, a teacher and their class, a manager in their business. The lampstand is the location of your spiritual production.

*"nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house." (Matthew 5:15, NASB)*

In Matthew 5:16, the purpose for the lamp and the lampstand is that others may see by producing “light” to all in the house. “That they may see” is the aorist active subjunctive of ὁράω (horaō) and means to perceive, discern, notice, pay attention to. “Good” is καλός (kalos) and means excellent in that it is so constructed to answer the purpose for which it was created. “Works” is ἔργον (ergon) and is a noble action in this context. “Glorify” is the aorist active subjunctive of δοξάζω (doxazō) and means to





magnify, praise, honor. The purpose being that they might give honor to God.

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16, NASB)*

Therefore, to cover your production or veil it in privacy, you keep others from the benefits of your spiritual production of giving proper glory and honor to God.

### **Light Reveals Evil**

Light is seen in a new way as a revealer of evil. Mark 4:21; Luke 8:16.

*"And He was saying to them, 'A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not brought to be put on the lampstand?' " (Mark 4:21, NASB)*

*"Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light." (Luke 8:16, NASB)*

The production of the believer is designed to expose the evil, to make it manifest. Titus 1:9-11.

*"holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain." (Titus 1:9-11, NASB)*

Purpose of light is to make manifest that which was hidden. Mark 4:22; Luke 8:16-17; Eph. 5:13.

*"For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light." (Mark 4:22, NASB)*

*"Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light. 'For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light.' " (Luke 8:16-17, NASB)*

*"But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light." (Ephesians 5:13, NASB)*

Here we see that not only are the things (secret sins) of others manifested by the production of the believer, but they are reprovved by it. The light reprovves as well as manifests. For a believer to cover, conceal, or neutralize their spiritual production, the light fails to reprove the secret sins of the other individual. In Ephesians 5:13, "exposed" is ἐλέγχω (elegchō) and means to show someone their sin and to summon them to repentance. It implies educative discipline.

### **Privacy and Concealment of Sin**

Privacy is related to the production of the believer, both in the positive sense and in the negative sense. There is a time not to use it and there is a time to use it. When the believer's production relates to rewards and they fails to use privacy, they will receive human rewards instead of God's rewards.

The human reward falls into four areas - the smile of approval, the commendation of your person, your reputation gets a boost, and your influence is enhanced. There are two basic ways to wrongly use privacy in production, in relation to concealing your production. Covering your production in a false humility and covering your production to take the edge off its effectiveness.



### Examples of using privacy to conceal sin.

Types of sins either done in secret or concealed in secret after doing them. Disobedience to God's command. Adam eating the fruit. Killing. Cain killing Abel. Stealing - Achan. Idol worship - Israel. Conspiring against another person - Saul against David. Slander.

Adam concealed himself in the garden after the fall. Gen. 3:8; Job. 31:33.

*"They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden." (Genesis 3:8, NASB)*

*""Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom," (Job 31:33, NASB)*

Cain conceals his sin with an appeal to his responsibilities. Gen. 4:9.

*"Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9, NASB)*

Achan stole the articles in the Canaan conquest and hid them in the floor of his tent. Joshua 7:9.

*""For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will You do for Your great name?" (Joshua 7:9, NASB)*

The Israelites hid in privacy the false gods of their worship. Deut. 27:15.

*"Cursed is the man who makes an idol or a molten image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.'" (Deuteronomy 27:15, NASB)*

Saul secretly fabricated mischief toward David. 1 Sam. 23:9.

*"Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." (1 Samuel 23:9, NASB)*

Israel secretly worshipped false gods and it resulted in the Assyrian captivity. 2 Kings 17:9.

*"The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city." (2 Kings 17:9, NASB)*

Privacy used in the concealment of the slander of a neighbor. Psalms 101:5.

*"Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure." (Psalms 101:5, NASB)*

People trust in privacy or darkness to cover them. Psalms 139:11.

*"If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," (Psalms 139:11, NASB)*

People enjoy the privacy of darkness because their deeds are evil. John 3:19.

*"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. " (John 3:19, NASB)*

Things done in concealment have a way of bringing torment for the constant fear of being exposed. It produces a false rapport between you and the person you are afraid of. Luke 12:3.



*"Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops." (Luke 12:3, NASB)*

### Hebrew Words Defining Concealment in the Old Testament

One Hebrew term for “secretly” is the same term for the “overlay” of the gold in the temple. This is the doctrine of veneer. One of the ways that the sins of people are hidden is to cover them up with sweetness and light, something very beautiful and attractive. There are seven roots in the Hebrew and eight auxiliary words that define the matter of “concealment” in the Old Testament.

In Isaiah 26:20, “hide” is חָבַה (châbâh) and means to “withdraw into privacy” of Israel, the spies hiding themselves for three days in Joshua 2:16, and Edom concealing himself from judgment in Jeremiah 49:10.

*"Come, my people, enter into your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs its course." (Isaiah 26:20, NASB)*

*"She said to them, "Go to the hill country, so that the pursuers will not happen upon you, and hide yourselves there for three days until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way." (Joshua 2:16, NASB)*

*""But I have stripped Esau bare, I have uncovered his hiding places So that he will not be able to conceal himself; His offspring has been destroyed along with his relatives And his neighbors, and he is no more." (Jeremiah 49:10, NASB)*

In Psalms 9:15, Psalms 35:7-8, and Jeremiah 13:5, “hid” is טָמַן (tâman) and means to hide or conceal.

*"The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; In the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught." (Psalms 9:15, NASB)*

*"For without cause they hid their net for me; Without cause they dug a pit for my soul. Let destruction come upon him unawares, And let the net which he hid catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall." (Psalms 35:7-8, NASB)*

*"So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD had commanded me." (Jeremiah 13:5, NASB)*

In Job 27:11 and Jeremiah 50:2, “conceal” is כָּחַד (kâchad) and means to completely destroy, to conceal, to desolate, to hide. Here it means to conceal or hide.

*"I will instruct you in the power of God; What is with the Almighty I will not conceal." (Job 27:11, NASB)*

*""Declare and proclaim among the nations. Proclaim it and lift up a standard. Do not conceal it but say, 'Babylon has been captured, Bel has been put to shame, Marduk has been shattered; Her images have been put to shame, her idols have been shattered.'" (Jeremiah 50:2, NASB)*

In Hosea 10:8, “cover” and in Proverbs 28:13, “conceal” are כָּסָה (kâsâh) and means to conceal, to cover, to hide. In Hosea 10:8, they wanted the mountains to hide them from God.

*"Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed; Thorn and thistle will grow on their altars; Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!" And to the hills, "Fall on us!" (Hosea 10:8, NASB)*

*"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion." (Proverbs 28:13, NASB)*





In Jeremiah 16:17, “hidden” is סתתר (sâthar) means to hide oneself, to escape God’s notice.

*“For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.” (Jeremiah 16:17, NASB)*

In Psalms 26:4, “pretenders” is עלים (‘âlam) and means to conceal, to secret, to veil from sight. This refers to those who conceal their thoughts.

*“I do not sit with deceitful men, Nor will I go with pretenders.” (Psalms 26:4, NASB)*

In Proverbs 2:1 and Proverbs 7:1, “treasure” is צפן (tsâphan) and means hide or treasure up.

*“My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,” (Proverbs 2:1, NASB)*

*“My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you.” (Proverbs 7:1, NASB)*

Methods by which the concealment was carried out or how the privacy of the sin was maintained.

Maintaining the privacy of your sin by isolating yourself by going into hiding. Gen. 3:8; Job 31:33; John 3:19-20.

*“They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.” (Genesis 3:8, NASB)*

*“Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom,” (Job 31:33, NASB)*

*“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.” (John 3:19-20, NASB)*

Maintaining privacy of your sin by veneering it over. 2 Kings 17:9; Prov. 26:26; 2 Chron. 3:5-9; Psalms 90:8; Psalms 26:4.

*“The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.” (2 Kings 17:9, NASB)*

*“Though his hatred covers itself with guile, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.” (Proverbs 26:26, NASB)*

*“He overlaid the main room with cypress wood and overlaid it with fine gold, and ornamented it with palm trees and chains. Further, he adorned the house with precious stones; and the gold was gold from Parvaim. He also overlaid the house with gold—the beams, the thresholds and its walls and its doors; and he carved cherubim on the walls. Now he made the room of the holy of holies: its length across the width of the house was twenty cubits, and its width was twenty cubits; and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to 600 talents. The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. He also overlaid the upper rooms with gold.” (2 Chronicles 3:5-9, NASB)*

*“You have placed our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.” (Psalms 90:8, NASB)*

*“I do not sit with deceitful men, Nor will I go with pretenders.” (Psalms 26:4, NASB)*

Maintaining privacy of your sin by merging it with truth. Titus 1:14; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Peter 2:18.



*"not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth." (Titus 1:14, NASB)*

*"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves." (2 Peter 2:1, NASB)*

*"For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error," (2 Peter 2:18, NASB)*

Maintaining privacy of your sin by disguising yourself. 1 Kings 14:2; Job 24:15-17; Gen. 27:11-12; Gen. 27:16; 2 Sam. 13:1-3; Gal. 2:4.

*"Jeroboam said to his wife, 'Arise now, and disguise yourself so that they will not know that you are the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh; behold, Ahijah the prophet is there, who spoke concerning me that I would be king over this people.'" (1 Kings 14:2, NASB)*

*""The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, Saying, 'No eye will see me.' And he disguises his face. In the dark they dig into houses, They shut themselves up by day; They do not know the light. For the morning is the same to him as thick darkness, For he is familiar with the terrors of thick darkness." (Job 24:15-17, NASB)*

*"Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, 'Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. Perhaps my father will feel me, then I will be as a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing.'" (Genesis 27:11-12, NASB)*

*"And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck." (Genesis 27:16, NASB)*

*"Now it was after this that Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David loved her. Amnon was so frustrated because of his sister Tamar that he made himself ill, for she was a virgin, and it seemed hard to Amnon to do anything to her. But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother; and Jonadab was a very shrewd man." (2 Samuel 13:1-3, NASB)*

*"But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage." (Galatians 2:4, NASB)*

Maintaining privacy of your sin by having some friend deceive another person in conversation. 1 Sam. 18:22; Rom. 16:18.

*"Then Saul commanded his servants, 'Speak to David secretly, saying, 'Behold, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now therefore, become the king's son-in-law.'" (1 Samuel 18:22, NASB)*

*"For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting." (Romans 16:18, NASB)*

#### Results caused by the concealment of sin

Torment of fear. Gen. 3:10; Luke 12:1-3; Prov. 1:26-27; Isaiah 44:9.

*"He said, 'I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.'" (Genesis 3:10, NASB)*

*"Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were*



*stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. "But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. "Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops. " (Luke 12:1-3, NASB)*

*"I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, When your dread comes like a storm And your calamity comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you." (Proverbs 1:26-27, NASB)*

*"Those who fashion a graven image are all of them futile, and their precious things are of no profit; even their own witnesses fail to see or know, so that they will be put to shame." (Isaiah 44:9, NASB)*

False rapport. Jer. 42:1-4.

*"Then all the commanders of the forces, Johanan the son of Kareah, Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people both small and great approached and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please let our petition come before you, and pray for us to the LORD your God, that is for all this remnant; because we are left but a few out of many, as your own eyes now see us, that the LORD your God may tell us the way in which we should walk and the thing that we should do." Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard you. Behold, I am going to pray to the LORD your God in accordance with your words; and I will tell you the whole message which the LORD will answer you. I will not keep back a word from you."" (Jeremiah 42:1-4, NASB)*

Loss of prosperity. Prov. 28:13.

*"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion." (Proverbs 28:13, NASB)*

Scar tissue - promiscuity sins. Eph. 4:17.

*"So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind," (Ephesians 4:17, NASB)*

Shame. Jer. 2:26; Gen. 2:25.

*""As the thief is shamed when he is discovered, So the house of Israel is shamed; They, their kings, their princes And their priests and their prophets," (Jeremiah 2:26, NASB)*

*"And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed." (Genesis 2:25, NASB)*

Revealing concealed sins or sins of privacy

All sin will be revealed. Luke 8; Matt. 10:26; Luke 2:35.

*" "Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. " (Matthew 10:26, NASB)*

*"and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."" (Luke 2:35, NASB)*

Sin will be revealed at the day of judgment. Rom. 2:16.

*"on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus." (Romans 2:16, NASB)*



Sin will be revealed on earth also. By God directly in 2 Samuel 12:12 where the sin was revealed by making the discipline public. The child died in 2 Samuel 12:14. Amnon rapes Tamar in 2 Samuel 13:1-22. Absalom takes David's ten concubines in 2 Samuel 16. Absalom is killed.

*"Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun." (2 Samuel 12:12, NASB)*

*"However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die." (2 Samuel 12:14, NASB)*

*"But she answered him, 'No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this disgraceful thing! 'As for me, where could I get rid of my reproach? And as for you, you will be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you.' However, he would not listen to her; since he was stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her." (2 Samuel 13:12-14, NASB)*

Sin will be revealed by the communication of doctrine. 1 Cor. 14:25; Prov. 26:26.

*"the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you." (1 Corinthians 14:25, NASB)*

*"Though his hatred covers itself with guile, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly." (Proverbs 26:26, NASB)*

Sin will be revealed by the removal of the testimony of the person or church. Sin will be revealed by the production of the believer in spiritual prime of life production. Rev. 2; Rev. 3; Eph. 5:10-13.

*"trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light." (Ephesians 5:10-13, NASB)*

## **Enemies of Privacy and Freedom**

### The Busybody

A busybody is an invader of privacy, a meddler in other person's affairs. This person is a judger, a malinger, and is always sticking their nose in other people's business. This particular meddling is due in part to a lot of time on their hands. 2 Thess. 3:11; 1 Tim. 5:13; 1 Peter 4:15.

*"For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies." (2 Thessalonians 3:11, NASB)*

*"At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention." (1 Timothy 5:13, NASB)*

*"Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;" (1 Peter 4:15, NASB)*

Busybodies invade the privacy of the homes they visit, tattling, and passing along gossip. This is troublemaking in its worst form. In 1 Peter 4:15, note the company which surrounds the busybody. Note the "murderer", the "thief," the "evildoer," and the troublesome meddler.

### Invasion of Privacy

Invasion of privacy is very destructive in a society. This is mental murder, gossiping, maligning, sins of



the tongue - you name it. Why is privacy so important? Without it freedom is curtailed and people enslave themselves very easily. Gal. 5:15.

*"But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another." (Galatians 5:15, NASB)*

However, it is not an invasion of privacy to be concerned about others, pray for others, and help others. Gal. 6:2.

*"Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NASB)*

Galatians 6:4-5 is a passage of caution in that everyone should become spiritually self-sustaining as soon as possible after becoming a Christian.

*"But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one will bear his own load." (Galatians 6:4-5, NASB)*

## Conclusions

The ultimate guardian of privacy in the mature believer, is the edification complex of the soul. The believer who functions under the grace perception and belief of Bible doctrine has the God-given ability to value privacy personally and towards others. A believer who functions in the spiritual life is not pushy and does not violate the privacy of others. Eph. 3:13-21; Eph. 4:7-32; Eph. 5:1-33.

In Acts 21:14, Paul desired privacy. "We fell silent" is ἡσυχάζω (hēsuchazō) in the Greek and indicates to live peaceably in a relaxed manner, to allow someone use of their own volition and privacy.

*"And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, 'The will of the Lord be done!'" (Acts 21:14, NASB)*

Every Church Age believer is a priest and must live their own life as unto the Lord. To pursue the matter beyond this point would be an infringement on Paul's privacy. Paul was wrong and they knew it, but these people put the matter into the Lord's hands and let Him deal with Paul. They did not get in the way of the Lord. Therefore, they stayed out of the Lord's way by allowing Paul privacy and freedom of choice.

So the companions of Paul ceased. They stayed with him even though they knew he was wrong. He, however, was not apostate. The Lord will deal with Paul through discipline. The grace of God will eventually triumph by turning cursing into blessing. The application is to put others in the Lord's hands and not interfere with their privacy or volition. This is a major step toward becoming a mature believer.

In Matthew 6, privacy is to be used when production is viewed from the reward standpoint. When privacy is not used, it may indicate a false attitude towards rewards. In Matthew 5, Luke 8, Mark 4, and Ephesians 5, production is seen from the standpoint of benefit to others, benefit to God, and benefit in reproof.

When should privacy be used in production? When your reward is in view. When should privacy not be used in production? When others need to benefit by the light, when God is glorified by the light, and when others need to be reproofed by the light.

There are three misuses of privacy in this lesson. No use of privacy in production when there should have been. Matt. 6. A concealing of production (candle under a bushel). Matt. 5; Luke 8; Mark 4. Concealing of production, taking the edge off, therefore, your production failing to have the effect God





has designed it to have. Eph. 5:14.

*"For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.""  
(Ephesians 5:14, NASB)*