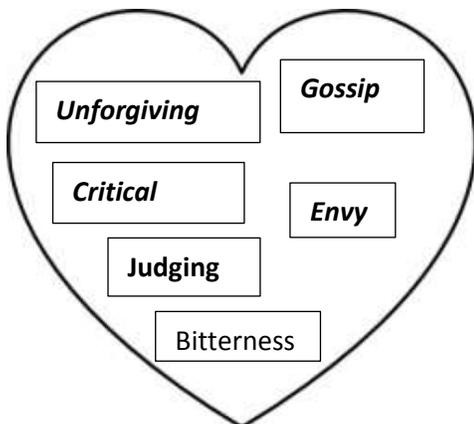


My thoughts were going around and around as I was reading and studying my morning devotions. I like to visualize what I am learning so I will remember for a long time. This particular morning I thought of my classroom at South Side Baptist Church where I taught my primary children about Christ being at the center of their hearts. I held up the picture of a heart and Christ sitting on a throne. Pictures last in our memories, and I wanted the children to have a memory of Christ sitting on the throne in their hearts. What would replace Christ on the throne in the heart of a believer? SIN, of course. The Bible tells me that my God is a jealous God and He will not share the heart of a believer with Satan. Those sins as mentioned in Jerry Bridges book entitled "Respectable Sins" caused my mind to think of how sin creeps in so subtle like a snake.



What if Christ came to my living room as I was studying and He quietly drew a heart with Him at the center? I would smile and say, "Yes, that is exactly where I want You to be." Then what if He set aside the first picture and drew another heart and began drawing boxes in the second heart. What if He began writing unkind words that replaced Him as King. Words that described the ugliness I had allowed to enter and reside in my heart:



"unforgiving": I had been really hurt and I just couldn't forgive. But He said, "Have I not given My life so that your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life?"

"gossip": I don't gossip, I explained. I just ask others to pray about things told to me so You, Lord, could help that situation. His face grew sad, and He responded, "That IS gossip." I talked to Him about all that He had written on the second heart. I tried to justify my thoughts, words and actions. He responded again, "No, that is sin, and it breaks My heart."

I join King David, who wrote, "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up: You understand my thoughts afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether." PSA 139:1- 4

I asked His forgiveness. He reminded me that my sins were forgiven at Calvary.

SIN is SIN. "SIN IS AN INSULT ON HIS INFINITE GLORY" Jerry Bridges