

Psalm 101:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

Analysis

This verse addresses three sins: slander (lashon hara in Jewish tradition), pride, and arrogance. David's commitment to 'cut off' and not 'suffer' such people demonstrates zero tolerance for these character defects in his administration. The Hebrew for 'proud heart' (rechab lebab) indicates an expanded, haughty spirit. Reformed theology recognizes pride as the root of all sin, the very offense that caused Satan's fall. Christ, by contrast, demonstrated humility (Phil 2:5-8).

Historical Context

Slander was a serious offense in ancient Israel, punishable under Mosaic law (Lev 19:16). David himself suffered greatly from slander throughout his reign, particularly from Shimei (2 Sam 16:5-8) and his enemies.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against the subtle sins of gossip and pride in your daily conversations?

2. What practices can you implement to cultivate the humility of Christ in your leadership or relationships?

Interlinear Text

אַצְמִית אֶת־אֹתָן בַּשְׁתָּרָן רְעֵהוּ מַלְוֵשָׁן
 slandereth Whoso privily his neighbour H853 him will I cut off
 H3960 H5643 H7453 H6789

לֹא אֶתְּתֹּן לְבָבָךְ וְלִפְנֵי־בָבָךְ עַיִנִים
 him that hath an high look and a proud heart H853 H3808
 H1362 H5869 H7342 H3824

אַוְצַלְתִּי:
 will not I suffer
 H3201

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 15:3 (Parallel theme): He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

Psalms 18:27 (Parallel theme): For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Psalms 50:20 (Parallel theme): Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son.

Proverbs 30:13 (Parallel theme): There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

Proverbs 20:19 (Parallel theme): He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (Parallel theme): But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Luke 18:14 (Parallel theme): I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Daniel 4:37 (Parallel theme): Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Titus 2:3 (Parallel theme): The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

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