

Q 151. What are those aggravations that make some sins more heinous than others?

A Sins receive their aggravations,
1. From the persons offending:¹ if they be of riper age,² greater experience or grace,³ eminent for profession,⁴ gifts,⁵ place,⁶ office,⁷ guides to others,⁸ and whose example is likely to be followed by others.⁹
2. From the parties offended:¹⁰ if immediately against God,¹¹ his attributes,¹² and worship;¹³ against Christ, and his grace;¹⁴ the Holy Spirit,¹⁵ his witness,¹⁶ and workings;¹⁷ against superiors, men of eminency,¹⁸ and such as we stand especially related and engaged unto;¹⁹ against any of the saints,²⁰ particularly weak brethren,²¹ the souls of them, or any other,²² and the common good of all or many.²³
3. From the nature and quality of the offense:²⁴ if it be against the express letter of the law,²⁵ break many commandments, contain in it many sins;²⁶ if not only conceived in the heart, but breaks forth in words and actions,²⁷ scandalize others,²⁸ and admit of no reparation;²⁹ if against means,³⁰ mercies,³¹ judgments,³² light of nature,³³ conviction of conscience,³⁴ public or private admonition,³⁵ censures of the church,³⁶ civil punishments;³⁷ and our prayers, purposes, promises,³⁸ vows,³⁹ covenants,⁴⁰ and engagements to God or men:⁴¹ if done deliberately,⁴² willfully,⁴³ presumptuously,⁴⁴ impudently,⁴⁵ boastingly,⁴⁶ maliciously,⁴⁷ frequently,⁴⁸ obstinately,⁴⁹ with delight,⁵⁰ continuance,⁵¹ or relapsing after repentance.⁵²
4. From circumstances of time⁵³ and place:⁵⁴ if on the Lord's Day,⁵⁵ or other times of divine worship;⁵⁶ or immediately before⁵⁷ or after these,⁵⁸ or other helps to prevent or remedy such miscarriages:⁵⁹ if in public, or in the presence of others, who are thereby likely to be provoked or defiled.⁶⁰

1. Jer. 2:8. 2. Job 32:7, 9; Eccl. 4:13. 3. 1 Kings 11:4, 9. 4. 2 Sam. 12:14; 1 Cor. 5:1. 5. James 4:17; Luke 12:47–48. 6. Jer. 5:4–5. 7. 2 Sam. 12:7–9; Ezek. 8:11–12. 8. Rom. 2:17–24. 9. Gal. 2:11–14. 10. Ps. 2:12; Matt. 21:38–39. 11. 1 Sam. 2:25; Acts 5:4; Ps. 5:4. 12. Rom. 2:4. 13. Mal. 1:8, 14. 14. Heb. 2:2–3; Heb. 12:25. 15. Heb. 10:28–29; Matt. 12:31–32. 16. Eph. 4:30. 17. Heb. 6:4–6. 18. Jude 8; Num. 12:8–9; Isa. 3:5. 19. Prov. 30:17; 2 Cor. 12:15; Ps. 55:12–15. 20. Zeph. 2:8, 10–11; Matt. 18:6; 1 Cor. 6:8; Rev. 17:6. 21. 1 Cor. 8:11–12; Rom. 14:13, 15, 21. 22. Ezek. 13:19; 1 Cor. 8:12; Rev. 18:12–13; Matt. 23:15. 23. 1 Thess. 2:15–16; Josh. 22:20. 24. Prov. 6:30–33. 25. Ezra 9:10–12; 1 Kings 11:9–10. 26. Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:10; Prov. 5:8–12; Prov. 6:32–33; Josh. 7:21. 27. James 1:14–15; Matt. 5:22; Mic. 2:1. 28. Matt. 18:7; Rom. 2:23–24. 29. Deut. 22:22, 28–29; Prov. 6:32–35. 30. Matt. 11:21–24; John 15:22. 31. Isa. 1:3; Deut. 32:6. 32. Amos 4:8–11; Jer. 5:3. 33. Rom. 1:26–27. 34. Rom. 1:32; Dan. 5:22; Titus 3:10–11. 35. Prov. 29:1. 36. Titus 3:10; Matt. 18:17. 37. Prov. 27:22; Prov. 23:35. 38. Ps. 78:34–37; Jer. 2:20; Jer. 13:5–6, 20–21. 39. Eccl. 5:4–6; Prov. 20:25. 40. Lev. 26:25. 41. Prov. 2:17; Ezek. 7:18–19. 42. Ps. 36:4. 43. Jer. 6:16. 44. Num. 15:30; Ex. 21:14. 45. Jer. 3:3; Prov. 7:13. 46. Ps. 52:1. 47. 3 John 10. 48. Num. 14:22. 49. Zech. 7:11–12. 50. Prov. 2:14. 51. Isa. 57:17. 52. Jer. 34:8–11; 2 Pet. 2:20–22. 53. 2 Kings 5:26. 54. Jer. 7:10; Isa. 26:10. 55. Ezek. 23:37–39. 56. Isa. 58:3–5; Num. 25:6–7. 57. 1 Cor. 11:20–21; Jer. 7:8–10. 58. Prov. 7:14–15; John 13:27, 30. 59. Ezra 9:13–14. 60. 2 Sam. 16:22; 1 Sam. 2:22–24.

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