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Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges

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Understanding the Concept of Respectable Sins

In his transformative book, **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**, the author challenges readers to confront the subtle, often overlooked sins that pervade the lives of even the most devout believers. Jerry Bridges, a well-respected evangelical author and speaker, shines a light on those transgressions that many Christians consider minor, acceptable, or simply part of human nature. The central thesis of **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges** is that sins such as gossip, ingratitude, unthankfulness, jealousy, pride, and worry are just as offensive to God as more overt sins like adultery or theft. Bridges argues that these "respectable" sins have been normalized within Christian communities, creating a spiritual blind spot that hinders personal holiness and authentic fellowship with God.

The book serves as a spiritual examination, urging believers to take seriously the reality that God is grieved by all sin, not just the flagrant ones. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**is not merely a theological treatise; it is a practical guide for self-reflection and repentance. Bridges writes with pastoral warmth and biblical authority, making the content accessible to new believers and seasoned Christians alike. He emphasizes that the gospel of Jesus Christ is not only the remedy for past sins but also the power to overcome the daily, subtle sins that so easily entangle us.

The Journey of Confronting Our Sins

Jerry Bridges begins **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**by helping readers understand why we tend to minimize certain sins. He points to several factors: comparing ourselves to others who seem to commit "worse" sins, focusing only on external behaviors rather than internal attitudes, and a lack of deep conviction about the holiness of God. Bridges challenges the reader to move beyond a surface-level morality and to recognize that sin is fundamentally a violation of God's law and a rebellion against His character.

One of the most compelling aspects of **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**is the author's willingness to include himself in the category of those who struggle with these sins. He writes not as a detached theologian but as a fellow traveler on the path of sanctification. This humility makes the book resonate deeply with readers, as they realize they are not alone in their struggles with anger, anxiety, or pride. Bridges gently but firmly calls Christians to a higher standard, reminding them that God's grace is sufficient not only for salvation but also for progressive transformation.

Pride: The Root of Many Respectable Sins

In **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**, pride is identified as perhaps the most foundational of all respectable sins. Bridges explains that pride manifests in various subtle ways: wanting credit for our achievements, feeling superior to those who are less gifted, and being defensive when corrected. He argues that pride is the sin that most directly opposes the gospel, because the gospel calls us to acknowledge our complete dependence on God's grace. Bridges draws from Scripture to show that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble,

making the fight against pride essential for spiritual growth.

The author provides practical steps for identifying pride in our lives. He suggests monitoring our reactions to criticism, observing how we speak about ourselves, and examining our attitudes toward others. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**does not leave the reader in despair but points to the cross of Christ as the ultimate antidote to pride. When we truly grasp that our salvation is entirely a work of grace, pride loses its footing. Bridges encourages readers to meditate on the gospel daily, reminding themselves that they are simultaneously saints and sinners, always in need of God's mercy.

Anger and Irritability in Daily Life

Another significant area of focus in **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**is the realm of anger and irritability. Bridges distinguishes between righteous indignation and sinful anger, noting that much of our daily irritation is rooted in selfishness. He points out that we often become angry when our plans are disrupted, our preferences are ignored, or our pride is wounded. These outbursts of anger, even if they are brief or internalized, are a violation of the fruit of the Spirit and a denial of the patience and kindness that God requires of His people.

Bridges encourages readers to consider the frequency and intensity of their anger. He argues that a pattern of irritability is a sign that we are not trusting God's sovereignty in the small circumstances of life. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**teaches that every irritating moment is an opportunity to practice patience and to depend on the Holy Spirit. The book offers biblical strategies for dealing with anger, including confessing it quickly, asking God to change our hearts, and seeking to understand the underlying causes of our frustration.

Anxiety, Worry, and Lack of Trust

Perhaps one of the most relatable sections of **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**is the discussion on anxiety and worry. Many Christians mistakenly view worry as a personality trait rather than a sin. Bridges corrects this misconception by pointing to Jesus' command in Matthew 6 not to be anxious about our lives. He explains that worry is essentially a lack of trust in God's provision, sovereignty, and goodness. When we worry, we are acting as if the outcome of our lives depends on us rather than on a loving heavenly Father.

Bridges does not minimize the real struggles that cause anxiety, but he calls believers to bring their worries to God in prayer and to trust His promises. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**emphasizes that the gospel assures us that God, who did not spare His own Son, will graciously give us all things. The antidote to worry is not simply trying to stop worrying but actively cultivating a deeper trust in God's character and His Word. Bridges encourages readers to replace anxious thoughts with specific promises from Scripture and to practice gratitude as a weapon against worry.

Ungratefulness and Murmuring

Ungratefulness is another respectable sin that Bridges addresses with clarity and compassion. He observes that complaining and murmuring have become socially acceptable in many Christian circles. We complain about the weather, our jobs, our health, and even our churches. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**reveals that ingratitude is a serious offense because it denies God's goodness and sovereignty. When we complain, we are essentially telling God that He has not done enough for us or that His provision is inadequate.

Bridges challenges readers to cultivate a heart of thanksgiving in all circumstances. He points to the Apostle Paul's example of learning to be content in every situation. The book provides practical exercises for developing gratitude, such as keeping a gratitude journal and intentionally thanking God for both blessings and trials. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**makes it clear that a grateful heart is not just a nice attribute but a biblical command that reflects our trust in God's wise and loving plan.

Gossip, Slander, and Unwholesome Talk

One of the most socially acceptable sins in the church is gossip. In **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**, the author exposes the damage that careless words can cause. He distinguishes between appropriate sharing of prayer requests and sinful gossip that tears down reputations. Bridges notes that gossip often masquerades as concern or a desire for prayer support, but the underlying motive is frequently pride or a sense of superiority. The book calls believers to examine their speech and to commit to speaking words that build up rather than tear down.

Bridges reminds readers that the tongue is a small but powerful member that can set a whole forest on fire. He encourages the practice of speaking about others in the same way we would want them to speak about us. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**offers a challenging standard: if we cannot say something positive and true about someone, it is often better to remain silent. The author also stresses the importance of being quick to listen and slow to speak, as the book of James instructs.

Jealousy, Envy, and Covetousness

Jealousy and envy are sins that often lurk unnoticed in our hearts. In **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**, these are exposed as a form of rebellion against God's distribution of gifts and circumstances. Jealousy resents the success of others and covets what they have been given. Bridges explains that envy is fundamentally an accusation against God, implying that He has been unfair or that He has withheld something good from us. This sin can poison our relationships and rob us of joy in the achievements of others.

The antidote to envy, according to Bridges, is to rejoice with those who rejoice and to cultivate a deep sense of contentment in God's provision for us. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**teaches that every good gift comes from the Father of lights, and He is perfectly wise in how He distributes His blessings. When we learn to celebrate the blessings of others, we demonstrate that our ultimate satisfaction is in God Himself, not in His gifts. Bridges encourages believers to pray for the success of others and to thank God for the unique ways He has blessed each person.

The Role of the Gospel in Overcoming Respectable Sins

The recurring theme throughout **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**is that the gospel is not only the starting point of the Christian life but also the ongoing power for transformation. Bridges argues that legalism and moralism are insufficient to root out respectable sins because they focus only on external behavior. The gospel, on the other hand, addresses the heart. When we understand the depth of God's love for us in Christ, we are motivated to turn from sin out of gratitude rather than fear.

Bridges emphasizes that we must preach the gospel to ourselves daily. He writes that we are prone to forget the grace of God and to slip back into a performance-based mentality. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges** provides a clear structure for gospel-centered repentance: we confess our sin, we remind ourselves that Christ's death has fully paid for it, and we trust the Holy Spirit to produce in us the fruit of holiness. The book assures readers that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and this freedom gives us the courage to face our sin honestly.

Practical Steps for Daily Application

Throughout **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**, the author offers practical advice for applying the truths of the gospel to daily life. He suggests starting with a specific sin, such as irritability or ungratefulness, and focusing on it for a period of time with prayer and Scripture meditation. Bridges encourages believers to enlist the help of a trusted friend or accountability partner who can lovingly point out blind spots. He also recommends memorizing and meditating on verses that specifically address the area of struggle.

Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges reminds readers that we are not meant to fight sin in isolation. The local church provides encouragement, teaching, and accountability that are essential for growth in holiness. Bridges encourages Christians to participate in small groups where honest confession and prayer can occur in a safe environment. He also stresses the role of the Lord's Supper as a regular reminder of Christ's sacrifice and our ongoing need for grace.

Conclusion: Embracing the Grace to Change

Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridgesconcludes with a powerful call to action. Bridges urges readers not to become discouraged by the depth of their sin but to be encouraged by the greatness of God's grace. The goal of the book is not to create guilt and despair but to lead believers into a deeper experience of the gospel. When we see the seriousness of our respectable sins and the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice, we are moved to love Him more and to hate sin more.

The book leaves readers with a clear challenge: will we continue to tolerate respectable sins, or will we by God's grace take them seriously? Bridges reminds us that the Holy Spirit is at work in every believer, producing fruit that includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. As we cooperate with the Spirit's work, we will gradually see these sins lose their power in our lives. **Respectable Sins By Jerry Bridges**is a timeless resource for anyone who desires to grow in holiness and to experience the freedom that comes from honest confession and genuine repentance. It is a book that deserves to be read, reread, and applied with prayerful dependence on God.

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