

## The Inscrutable Question: The Conscience & The Problem-Solving Devices: Rebound, Phil 3:13-14

9. It eventually causes the person to have a sense of inadequacy and sooner or later leads to arrogant pre-occupation with the correctness of his behavior. This results in self-righteous arrogance.
10. There are three sources of manipulation in the life of any believer who is under the emotional complex of sins:
  - 1) The manipulation of self through guilt. Usually involves self-justification and self-deception.
  - 2) Because of guilt he is manipulated by others.
  - 3) Self-denial projects his own guilt outwardly so that he manipulates others. This is usually the motivation for the legalistic believer to become involved in crusader arrogance.
11. Guilt produces the human-good problem-solving device of restitution. This word is defined by:
 

**Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "restitution":**

Making reparation to one for loss or injury previously inflicted. The action of restoring a person to a previous status or position. The fact of being reinstated.
12. Thus restitution is a mental gymnastic that relieves the soul of the guilt through reparation, i.e., acts of restitution.
13. Guilt can also result in fear, worry, anxiety, and stress due to dread—an extreme level of internal stress in apprehension of impending disaster, i.e., divine discipline.
14. Guilt becomes a sin when the believer rebounds but fails to isolate his sins. Isolation of sin is described by:
 

**Thieme, R. B., Jr. *Isolation of Sin*. 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1976), 6:**

Once you confess a sin, you put your problem in the hands of the Lord; you have no right to take it back. Since God has blotted out your sin, what right do you have even to look back, to cry or to feel guilty about that sin? It doesn't belong to you any more! If you take the sin back and fret over it, you will create self-induced misery. If you want to live like this, it is your business; but to worry about your past sins or to have a guilt complex is to perpetuate carnality by mental attitude sins.

**Philippians 3:13 - Brethren, I do not evaluate myself to have laid hold of it yet [ the strategic objective of the spiritual life—πλήρωμα / *pleroma* / status ], but one thing I concentrate on: Forgetting those things which are behind [ confessed sins for past failures and resultant discipline ] and reaching out toward those things which are ahead [ escrow blessings in time and eternity for the mature believer ],**

**v 14 - I keep driving [ the double-column advance ] for the objective [ spiritual maturity ] in pursuit of the decoration [ escrow blessings in time and eternity ] of the upward call [ the saving ministry of the Holy Spirit ] of God which is in Christ Jesus [ union in Christ ].**
15. Therefore, feeling guilty about a sin is a sin of arrogance. Once sin is confessed, you must forget as God has forgotten.
16. Otherwise you become subjective about our sins and you lose the perspective of our purpose on earth: to glorify God to the maximum by becoming an invisible hero.

17. Conclusion: a conscience that is corrupted by guilt destroys a believer's ability to maintain status-quo spirituality through rebound and thus disables his ability to deploy and apply the other nine problem-solving devices.