

HOW TO COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS

Many people try to cover up their sins after they commit those sins. Such efforts are in vain, because the word of God exposes our sins (**Hebrews 4:12-13**). We may hide them from other people, but we cannot hide them from God (**Psalms 139**). This article is to show us the right ways to cover a multitude of sins.

The first way to cover sins is **prevention**. It is not always the easiest way, but when consequences are taken into account, it is less painful than sinning and then having to deal with it. **Proverbs 10:12** says, *“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers a multitude of sins.”* With love, we will try not to sin against others which would tempt them to react sinfully against us.

Prov. 10:12 has another application. If we have been wronged, we can hold a grudge and keep bringing up what the offender did wrong to us. However, love calls us to **forgive** the offender and cover a multitude of sins, just as the Lord did for David (**Psalms 32:1**) and us (**Romans 4:6-8, Ephesians 4:31-32**). Let us cover a multitude of sins by forgiving them instead of magnifying sins by advertising them or using them as leverage against another.

We must also turn a brother from the error of his way, even if he has not sinned against us personally (**James 5:19-20**). We must do it with love and gentleness and fear (**Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 16:14**). If he repents, we have gained our brother (who would be lost without action by us—**Matt. 18:15-17**). We save a brother’s soul from death, and we cover a multitude of sins. God forgives the sins he committed, and his repentance prevents many more.