

The Concealment of Sin

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3. The Concealment of Sin by Church Members

“Another disorderly practice is this: when one member or another knows of some sinful act or evils done by one or more members, and they conceal it (Acts 5:3, 8); or do not act according to this rule—pretending they would not be looked upon as contentious persons (Lev. 19:17). However, hereby they may become guilty of other men’s sins, and also suffer the name of God and the church to lie under reproach, and all through their neglect. This is a great iniquity.” (Keach, *The Glory of a True Church*, 58)

Regardless of their motivation for doing so, it is a wicked practice for church members to conceal the sin of other church members. The New Testament expectation is for church members to graciously hold one another accountable to repent from sin when it is manifested in their midst (Eph. 5:11-13). One of the most unloving choices a church member can make is to allow their brother or sister to continue in sin (Prov. 27:6; Eph. 4:14-16). From Keach’s perspective, the person who conceals the sin of other people is likewise culpable in that sin.

(Surprised By Strife? Pastoral Remedies to Controversy in the Local Church by Dewey Dovel, Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary, Sep. 27, 2022, Text Modified. Dovel citing Benjamin Keach, *The Glory of a True Church*, Conway, AR: Free Grace Press, 2015)