

## **The Brown Recluse**

Marty and I were getting ready for a date night one Saturday when she complained of a little sting on her ankle. Closer inspection found that it was actually a spider bite. The spider was smashed and flushed with out close observation. We continued our evening with little discomfort but by the end of Church Sunday morning she was very uncomfortable. By Monday a trip to the doctor was inevitable. At the doctors office we were assured it was a brown recluse and hopefully Marty would not end up with a huge infected hole in her foot. For the next week she was on crutches and in serious pain. The spider had injected only a tiny bit of venom. The poison went to the center of the ankle and started eating its way out to the surface. It has been months now and the place is still tender, although she did not end up with a huge hole.

How familiar this is to sin. It can slip in so inconspicuously and slowly take hold with out making much of a scene. However once sin takes hold, it begins to de-struct from the inside, slowing crippling and disfiguring until the damage is nearly permanent. If not permanent, the effects are at least long term and slow to reside long after it has been dealt with.

The little sins in our lives can so easily catch hold. As a counselor, I often see the results of sin gone deep and the ugly results of it. The holes left can be enormous! May we all not allow sin to get a grip!