

SIN

Today we want to talk about something that has an unpleasant sound... "Sin." (Even the word sounds nasty, doesn't it?)

I. The subject of "sin" is looked upon with different attitudes by different people... most of the time incorrectly.

1. In some circles, sin is not even bad. The "Now Crowd" speaks of anything that is extremely enjoyable as being "sinful" (with no connotation of evil.)
2. Even one brand of cookies is advertized as being "Sinfully Delicious."
(Third web definition: **extraordinary: far more than usual or expected; "an extraordinary desire for approval"; "it was an over-the-top experience"**
wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn)
3. Places famous for worldly entertainment (Like Las Vegas) are often referred to as "Sin City," often with no bad connotation--just a place for a wildly good time.
4. There are even a series of movies about a fictitious place called "Sin City," otherwise known as "Basin City."
5. Some people think "Sin" is just something that is socially tabooed, though not necessarily "bad." Something "daring," something to snicker or laugh at. (The Word of God, however, states that it is "fools" who "make a mock" at sin, Pro. 14:9.)
6. Other people, however, look upon sin as something that is totally repugnant and repulsive (At least so long as it is not something **they** enjoy doing!) And this is the way we ought to feel about sin--even if it is something we like! The Bible says concerning the righteous man, Lot, living in the sinful city of Sodom: "For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, **vexed his righteous soul** from day to day with their unlawful deeds." (2 Pet 2:8, KJV)

II. JUST WHAT IS SIN?

1. In the N.T. The word that is used most frequently for "sin" is *hamartia*, an archery term, meaning "missing the mark." It is the most comprehensive term for explaining sin. Paul used the verb *hamartano* when he wrote, "For all have **sinned**, and come short of the glory of God" ([Romans 3:23](#)).
2. SIN means Transgressing (walking over) God's law. (1 John 3:4 KJV) "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

(2 John 1:9 KJV) "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."
3. Sinning means doing something that is not right. (1 John 5:17 KJV) "All **unrighteousness** is sin..."

4. The primary meaning of sin is **doing something wrong**. But sin can also be **leaving off what should have been done**. (James 4:17 KJV) "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and **doeth it not**, to him it is sin." (In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the levite both did wrong by doing nothing!)

Jesus said, (John 15:22 KJV) "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin."

5. **Sin can even be doing something you THINK is wrong, though, technically, it isn't**. (Rom 14:23 KJV) "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

6. Sin can be either in **word, thought, or deed**.

a. **Word**: (Mat 12:36 KJV) "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." **Like Cursing**: (Exo 20:7 KJV) "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; **for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**" **Or, Lying**: (Rev 21:8 KJV) "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, **and all liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

b. **Thought**. (Prov 24:9 KJV) "The thought of foolishness is sin..." Jesus said evil thoughts come from within and defile the man, Mark 7:21--23.

c. **And (of course) Deeds**. (Col 3:25 KJV) "But he that **doeth wrong** shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

III. The EFFECTS of sin.

1. **Sin Separates from God**. (Isa 59:1-2 KJV) "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: {2} But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

2. **Sin Corrupts**. (Psa 14:1 KJV) "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Someone has said, "Sin corrupts, internally, externally, and eternally."

3. **Sin defiles**. The Bible depicts it as having one's garments stained by sin. (Rev 3:4 KJV) "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy."

a. (Heb 12:15 KJV) "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, **and thereby many be defiled.**"

4. **Sin brings forth Spiritual Death--Separation from God**. (Ezek 18:20 KJV) "**The soul that sinneth, it shall die**. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be

upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

a. (James 1:14-16 KJV) "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. {15} Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: **and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.** {16} Do not err, my beloved brethren."

b. (Eph 2:1 KJV) "And you hath he quickened, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins."

5. Sin bars one from Heaven. (Rom 9:14 KJV) "What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid."

a. (Rev 21:27 KJV) "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

b. **In the Judgment scene:** (Mat 7:23 KJV) "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

IV. Are there DEGREES of sin?

Some people think not. But the Bible indicates there are.

(Is it worse to kill a man than to steal a watermelon?)

1. Some people's garments are spotted; some are as blood-soaked.

a. (Jude 1:23 KJV) "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

b. (Isa 1:18 KJV) "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

2. **A great sin:** (Exo 32:31 KJV) "And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold."

3. **Jesus settles it: Some sins are "greater."** Jesus to Pilate: (John 19:11 KJV) "...he that delivered me unto thee hath the **greater sin.**"

(Luke 7:47 KJV) "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little."

a. **Some punishment greater:** (Luke 12:47-48 KJV) "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. {48} But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

V. Are there any without sin? (other than little children?)

1. (Rom 3:23 KJV) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
2. (1 John 1:8 KJV) "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."
3. (1 John 1:8 KJV) "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."
4. (1 John 1:10 KJV) "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."
5. (1 Ki 8:46 KJV) "If they sin against thee, **(for there is no man that sinneth not,)** and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near..."
6. (James 3:2 KJV) "**For in many things we offend all.** If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."
7. **(The woman taken in adultery:)** (John 8:7 KJV) "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." --(John 8:9 KJV) "And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst." (John 8:11 KJV) "...And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

VI. Are there any who cannot be saved from sin?

--A difficult question: Yes, and No.

Jesus has the power to save to the uttermost, Heb. 7:25.

PAUL: (1 Tim 1:15 KJV) "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

YET: (1 Tim 1:13 KJV) "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." (Implying that if he had done it maliciously and purposefully he might not have obtained mercy!)

1. The "unpardonable sin." (Mark 3:29 KJV) "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost **hath never forgiveness,** but is in danger of eternal damnation."

(Mat 12:32 KJV) "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

2. (Heb 6:4-6 KJV) "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, {5} And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, {6} If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Yet it seems impossible, not because Jesus could not save them, but because they had gotten so far away they could not find their way back!

VII. What can save us? --As the old song says, Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

(Heb 9:22 KJV) "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; **and without shedding of blood is no remission.**"

(Heb 10:4 KJV) "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."

(Rev 1:5 KJV) "... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins **in his own blood.**"

Remember that we talked about sin being depicted as having one's garment soiled? (Rev 7:13-14 KJV) "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? {14} And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have **washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**"

VIII. Repentance always comes first!

(Mat 1:21 KJV) "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people **from** their sins."

1. (Luke 24:46-47 KJV) "And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: {47} And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."
2. (Acts 3:19 KJV) "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"
3. (Acts 2:38 KJV) "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
4. (Mark 16:15-16 KJV) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. {16} He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
5. **To the erring Christian:** (Acts 8:22 KJV) "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

IF YOU SHOULD FACE GOD TODAY, WOULD YOU FACE HIM IN SIN, OR IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST?