

SIN



What is Sin?

If we are looking for a simple, all-inclusive definition of sin, 1 John 3:4 is it. "Sin is the transgression of the law."

Sin is the breaking of God's law. If God say, "Do not lie," and you lie, then you have broken His law and sinned. Any and all sin offends God because His laws aren't simply rules, they reflect who He is. His law says, "Do not lie," because God's character is truth and anything other than truth is opposed to Him. The law of God is not rules God just pulled out of thin air. They are reflections of who He is.



BUT WE ARE ALL AS AN UNCLEAN THING,
AND ALL OUR RIGHTEOUSNESSES ARE AS
FILTHY RAGS; AND WE ALL DO FADE AS A
LEAF AND OUR INIQUITIES, LIKE THE
WIND, HAVE TAKEN US AWAY. - ISAIAH
64:6



Beside the very real consequences of death and the corruption of the creation, sin has infested every part of humanity. It affects"

1. Our thinking (Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Rom. 1:21-23; 3:11; 8:5-8; 1 Co. 2:14; Eph. 4:17-18)
2. Our emotions and attitudes (John 3:19-20; Rom. 1:24-32; 3:18; Eph. 4:18)
3. Our will (John 5:40; 8:44; Eph. 2:2-3)
4. Our bodies (Rom. 8:10; 1 Co. 15:50)

There is no part of the unsaved person's being that has escaped the corruption and ruin of original sin (Rom. 3:12). He possesses this corruption from his conception (Ps. 51:5)

We aren't just sinners because we commit sin, we commit sin because we are, by nature, sinners.

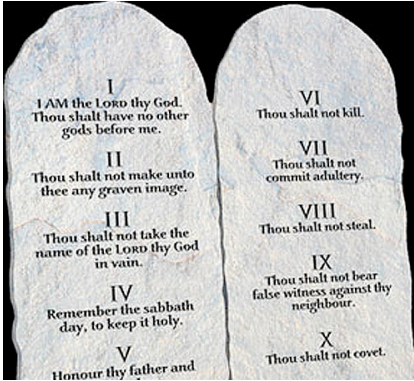
Original Sin



flesh” (Eze. 36:26-27) which desires to serve God.

When Adam sinned and corrupted the creation, his sin was transmitted to all his descendants (Rom. 5:12; 1 Co. 15:22). This means that anyone who has not been born again is still represented by Adam and is a partaker in his sin. Those who are “in Adam” are “by nature the children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3). Parents have long noticed that children don’t need anyone to teach them how to lie, steal or disobey. Because of Adam’s sin, God has judged all mankind with guilt and condemned the entire race (Rom. 5:18). Because of Adam’s transgression, we inherit a sinful nature (which Paul calls the flesh) and this causes us to desire evil. It is only through conversion that this “heart of stone” is removed and the Holy Spirit dwells within us giving us a “heart of

Actual Sin



Actual sin results from people’s yielding to the demands of their flesh, the external temptations of Satan, and the evil influences of the world. These are the acts we commit in word, thought, or deed that break God’s law and offend His holiness. God judges each individual for the acts of sin they commit throughout their lives. Exodus 20 gives God’s 10 commandments which include lying, stealing, murder, adultery, blasphemy, and idolatry. Unfortunately for us, Jesus compounded the law by saying that lust is committing adultery in the heart (Matt. 5:27-28), and hatred is committing murder (1 John 3:15). God judges every thought, every word, and every action of man. Even things that seem good, if done in a wrong heart, are sinful.

Slaves of Sin



The Bible makes it clear that unsaved people are under the dominion of sin. Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin” John 8:34. The word “servant” is also translated “slave.” Romans also makes it clear that, “There is none righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10). Also, Romans 8:8 tells us, “So then they that are in the flesh **cannot** please God.” Sin so engrains mankind that, outside of a perfect payment [Jesus Christ], man is not capable of doing anything good in God’s sight. He may help the poor, be kind to others, show love to his family, and give money to charity...but all these are stained with sin and are nothing but filthy rags before the Holy God.

How Sin Happens

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
- James 1:14-15

James 1:14-15 shows us how acts of sin are born in us.

1. **Seduction** - (“tempted, drawn away...and enticed”) - This is the temptation or urge to sin, whether from our flesh, Satan, or the world. This evil urge appeals to us to do its sinful bidding.
2. **Submission** - This is our giving ourselves to this temptation, either voluntarily by decision or involuntarily by compulsion. Sin does not wait, as God does, for an invitation to take control of our hearts and lives.
3. **Conception** (“when lust has conceived”) - Sin is conceived, or initially occurs, in the “heart,” or mind. Thus we are guilty of committing the sin, when we decide to do it, even before we carry it out in action.
4. **Birth** (“it brings forth sin”) - This is the sinful action of the person who yields to the control of sin.
5. **Death** (“when it is finished it brings forth death”) - A result of sinning is one’s expressing spiritual death and eventually experiencing physical death. Although saved people have spiritual life, sin brings separation in fellowship with God; (spiritual death is separation from God). However, saved people express their spiritual life when they yield to the Holy Spirit in them rather than their flesh.

Ways of Fighting sin



We will have three whole lessons on fighting sin. For now it may help to simply define the different ways we might fall into sin.

Compulsive Sinning

We sometimes sin despite our determination not to (Rom. 7:15). This happens when we fail to take the necessary action to avoid it. Failure is due either to our ignorance or unwillingness to take action.

Ignorant Sinning

We sin unknowingly when we have not yet learned that certain actions are sinful in God’s sight (Rom. 7:7). This is due to our negligence in reading God’s word and forsaking the fellowship of believers.

Voluntary Sinning

This is when we deliberately decide to submit to the urges of sin and temptation. This can include our thoughts, our words, and our action.

In believers, each of these types of sins brings about the chastisement of the Holy Spirit.



What About Saved People and Sin?

Christ's death and resurrection is the perfect atonement for any and all sin. Therefore, when the Father looks at those bought with Christ's blood, he sees no sin, only the perfection of Jesus. Does this mean that there are no effects or consequences for sin in the believer's life? Scripture tells us there are very real consequences when a believer sins. Although condemnation has been taken away at the cross (Rom. 8:1), sin always brings consequences

Original Sin (Nature/Flesh)

1. Believers are forgiven of all sin (Col. 2:13; Rom. 8:1)
2. Believers are delivered from their fleshly corruption.
 - a. Although the flesh is still present, our bodies are now members of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Co. 6:15)
 - b. Because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, believers can understand spiritual truths and are led toward holiness (Rom. 8:14).
3. Believers are made Spiritually Alive (Eph. 2:1)
 - a. The curse of death is removed and the eternal life of the believer begins at salvation (John 5:24)
4. Believers are no longer slaves to sin
 - a. Although believers are still able to sin, they no longer are dominated by sin (Rom. 6:12). Believers are now alive, the property of the Lord Jesus, and under His authority.
 - b. Believers have died to sin (Rom. 6:10-11). We are no longer under sin's authority. We do not have to sin. We have been freed from sin's claim on us.

Actual Sins (Believers Commit)

1. Believers actual sins were paid for at the cross of Christ. Punishment was dealt to Jesus, therefore punishment for actual sins WILL NEVER fall to the believer (Rom. 8:1).
2. Believer's sins interrupts our fellowship with God (Isa. 59:2). They bring discipline and chastisement from God (Heb. 12:7-8).
3. The sin of Believers incurs the loss of rewards (2 Co. 5:10; 1 Co. 3:13-15)
4. A believer's sin allows him to be used by sin as an instrument of unrighteousness and opposed to God's will (Rom. 6:12-13).
5. A believer's sin arrests his spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:1-2)
6. A believer's sin brings us God's corrective chastisement (Rev. 3:19; Heb. 12:7-8; 1 Co. 11:28-32)



Victory Over Sin



Our Union with Christ

All people are born “in Adam,” and his sin is accounted to us, as well as our own sin. However, those who have been born again are united with Christ spiritually. At salvation saved people are placed in Him by the Holy Spirit (John 14:20; Gal. 3:27-28). Being in Him and one with Him (1 Co. 6:17), they now share in His obedience and righteousness as well as in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4; 2 Co. 5:21).

Because of Jesus Christ, God’s legal sentence regarding all who are saved is “justified.” This means He divinely acquits them of condemnation and declares them to be righteous in His sight. This sentence also results in their having life (spiritual life now and future deliverance from physical death) and their reigning in life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ has given us the victory over sin. Yet, this victory comes through faith. Christians defeat sin the same way we came to Christ, we hear a promise from the word of God and we believe it. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” is a very well known scripture. But, do you really believe it...really? By choosing to rest all our faith in the promises of God, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to live in victory. When depression, sadness, or fear enter into our minds, we must hear the promises of God and believe them. We must trust in the word of God more than we trust our own hearts and minds. If God’s word calls me a conqueror, than that’s what I am and I refuse to allow any other thought to enter my mind. If God’s word says He has given me everything I need for life and godliness, then it is true no matter what my mind tries to tell me.