



## Do You Believe in SIN?

(Understanding Sin, Part 1)  
by Dave Rogers

Do you realize that many people don't actually believe in "sin" anymore? To much of modern society, the word **sin** is a quaint, old-fashioned word – an embarrassing leftover from when people were actually so ignorant that they believed in a "judgement day," and feared going to hell. The modern mind thinks it has simply "outgrown" the concept of "sin."

**This does not mean that people no longer believe in right and wrong, however; THEY DO!** Yet even the concepts of "right" or "wrong" vary from person to person; *murder* is generally considered "wrong" because most people are against it, but things like *fornication* and *lying* are "ok" because (supposedly) "pretty much everybody does it" and there are very few laws still on the books that relate to those things. (By this line of thinking, what is "right" is decided at the ballot box, and "wrong" is simply something that goes against the general consensus of public opinion.) **Do YOU believe in "sin?"**

- What IS "sin?"
- What CAUSES "sin?"
- What are the CHARACTERISTICS of "sin?"
- Should there be CONSEQUENCES to "sin" (and what should they be)?

If "sin" really does exist, how can we AVOID it? **What if I "sin?"** (And if I do "sin," what should I DO about it?)

"Sin" is *violating*, "*breaking*" God's law, 1 John 3:4 – "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law*" (KJV). The apostle John calls it "unrighteousness" in 1 John 5:17, which means something that is contrary, opposed to, what is right. Sin can occur by someone actively trying to "do wrong" (as in Genesis 4:8, with Cain murdering his brother on purpose), and it can also occur by someone simply neglecting (or *refusing*) to do what is right, as in James 4:17 – "*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*" Sin also happens when a person violates his own conscience, as to what is

right or wrong, as in Romans 14:23 – "*And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*" What we see in these verses is that "sin" can occur in a variety of ways because it can take more than one "form." The simple definitions of "sin" are: **Doing** something that is wrong, OR **failing to do** what is right.

**But does sin REALLY exist, or is it just a concept invented by ancient man?** Popular scholarship in philosophy presents "sin" as simply an ancient way of explaining events that offended common sensibilities:

- *Murder* offends most people, because we can't bring back the dead;
- *Adultery* offends most (married) people because it represents a betrayal of trust;
- *Robbery* offends most people because it ignores the ideas of "ownership" and "earnings."

These types of offenses were easy to combine under the heading of "sin" because humanity and ancient societies had not yet evolved sophisticated *civil* codes to address them.

In truth, however, the *concept* of sin exists because the concept of **evil** exists. "Evil" is a recognition of actions, thoughts, or motives that place a person's own will above the benefit of another person – even at that "other" person's expense or injury. The idea of "evil" **demand**s that we recognize the concepts of "right" and "wrong," which is the point Paul made in Romans 7:7-8 –

*"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. <sup>8</sup> But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead."*

## A NATION DEFILED BY ABORTION

Robert Johnson

Since the legalization of abortion in the United States, almost 60 million of them have taken place. What was originally promoted as a procedure that would only be used in emergency situations has become a commonplace occurrence. Certainly, the destruction of life in the womb has become a consequence of this practice. We know the child in the womb is a life, is a human being. Modern imaging equipment has helped us to better understand this, along with other advances in technology. While the abortion rate currently is the lowest since Roe v. Wade, innocent life is still being destroyed daily, as abortion is primarily used for contraceptive purposes. However, Scripture affirms, "For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). So many lives have been terminated by abortion that it's easy to become desensitized to the process of death.

However, are there other ways besides the death of the unborn child that abortion defiles our land? Certainly so! When sin becomes commonplace, it only leads to further and greater sin. Paul reminds us it is lawlessness that leads to more lawlessness (Romans 6:19). What are some consequences that come when abortion is viewed as a normal part of life?

One can argue that a cheapening of the view of life in the womb leads to a cheapening of life outside the womb. If one can indiscriminately terminate an inconvenient life before birth, why not afterwards? What is called the Groningen Protocol, a procedure used by the University Medical Center

Groningen in Groningen, Netherlands, offers guidelines for child euthanasia. One of those criteria has to do with the child's expected quality of life. Life itself is no longer considered sacred, but the changing standards of human judgment are now the determining factor for what life is considered worthy to live or to be ended.

If infanticide can be indiscriminately practiced on infants, then who can say what limits can be applied at the other end of the spectrum, with adult euthanasia? Further, how old do you have to be for someone to decide your life isn't worth living? Once God as Creator is ignored, and the sanctity of life is discarded, just who defines what makes a life worth living? Who gets to say what are or are not "meaningful interpersonal relations?" The whole prospect is terrifying, not just for us, but for our children and our grandchildren.

Life isn't by accident but by design; it belongs to God, as we are created in His image. When we bequeath life as the prerogative of humanity to choose or to reject, governed by sinful motives and desires, we all lose. What can we do? Pray to God for hearts to be changed. Spend time with your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, reminding them how special they are, how important their lives and all lives are. Honor life as a gift from God, to be lived for Him! "Don't you know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

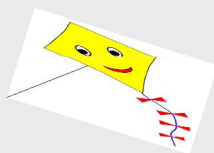
### Youth Events

(See David Gullledge with any questions)

**Mar 22 -24** – Annual "SOAR" Youth Rally



**Mar 23** – Camp Inagehi Cross Country 5K and Fun Run



**Mar 31** – Kite Day after the Luncheon. Bring *your* kite, and enjoy our kids and *their* kites!



April 13 - FROGS' Egg Hunt 10-noon



**April 14**

Leaderette Tea from 3-4:30.

All Ladies are encouraged to support our LTL girls.

See Sandra Hopkins if you have a daughter in LTL.

**Apr 19-21** – LTL Convention

**Apr 21** – Areawide Youth Devo – Conyers



**May 5** – LTL Luncheon. This is a day we come together to support our kids. Bring your lunch and join us.

## Family Matters

Tommy Durden, Sr. – Is not doing well; keep the family in your prayers during this time.

Bernice Gillespie – Had a bad week, but is now doing a little better.

David Nash – Still has shingles, and is trying to cope with the pain.

Jill Nash – Is having swelling and pain around the incision since her heart procedure.

Summer Long – Fiancé of Charity Nash's brother, lost her mother to cancer 2 weeks ago, and her father passed away of a heart attack last week.

Lois Byrd – Kisha Madison's mother is recovering from open-heart surgery last week. Her address is 1710 NW 35 Terrace, FT. Lauderdale, FL 33311.

McKenzie O'Brien – Jim & Sharon's granddaughter will have surgery within the next few months, to repair injuries received from an automobile accident.

**Members With Health Issues:** Larry & Margie Fields, David Riley, Jo Ruffer, Kathleen Garner, Andy Johnson, Mary Lawrence, Ray Russell, Lucille Amon, Doris Buckner, Gail Chapman, Lilly Walker, Bernice Gillespie, Decieta Lyons, Estell Higginbotham, Wayne & Betty Jo Nash, Sally Wallace, Joann Crook, Doris Buckner, Mattie Williams, Una Fortson, Dennis & Marlene Etheridge, Forest & Burma Chapman, Jim & Sharon O'Brien

**Shut-ins:** Equillar Butler, Ruby Fowler, Lillie Jones, Joe Clark, Frances Elder & Jane Lankford

**Others With Health Problems:** Richard Oliver (Brenda Mitchell's stepfather), Donna & Tom Holcomb (Annette Benefield's daughter & Son-in-law), Ed Hall (Charity Nash's father), Lyn Launch & Aden Clarke (Jim & Sharon O'Brien family), Xernonia Fortson (Una's daughter), Zane Canty (3 yrs. old), Mark Etheridge (Dennis' brother), Marvin Cook (Jean Johnson's brother), Cecil Hester (Tina Russell's father), Frances Jones (neighbor of Sally Wallace & Denise Greene), Mike Giles (Jim O'Brien), Virginia Poskevich (David's mother), Mary Mackie (Linda Johnson's mother), Greg Brown & Caylee Williamson (Terri Durden's cousin & niece), Betty Land (Jill Nash's sister), Nelda Hayes (Jack Sorrell's aunt), Nancy Ford (Joann Crook's sister), Eddie & Lil Cauthen (Joan Poskevich's bro./sis.-in-law) and Joe Hand (Jim Scoma's bro.-in-law)

**(NOTE: Please help us keep this list up-to-date!)**

## The Church is Rejoicing

We rejoice for our new sister in Christ, **Morgan Boelsterli. Morgan made the decision last Sunday during worship and was baptized by David Gullede. Pray for and encourage Morgan as she strives to live a faithful life in Christ.**

## Calendar

**Mar 23** – Sign up today for Camp Inagehi Cross Country 5k & Fun Run

**Mar 31** – 5th Sunday Potluck Luncheon & Kite Day. Plan on having lunch together and flying your kites after.

**April 14** – Leaderette Tea, 3-4:30 hosted by Sandra Hopkins. If you have a daughter in LTL, see Sandra.

**Apr 19-21** – LTL Convention, Kids and adults will go up Friday. SilverWings will go up Saturday eve-

ning for the awards.

**May 4** – The family of David Riley cordially invite you to celebrate with them his 80th Birthday BBQ Bash at the home of Larry & Becky Brown. No gifts, your presence will be the gift of friendship and love that he

cherishes most. (Information is on the bulletin board)

**May 5** – Raintree Village Food Truck

**July 19-27** – Mexico Mission Trip

**Aug 16-22** – Polishing the Pulpit

Check Out Our New Website

## Your support is needed for our Mexico Mission

We have an opportunity coming up, to serve the Lord in other places by helping fellow Christians there and by introducing others to His church for the first time. We're planning a mission trip to support the congregation in Villa Ocuilzapotlan, Tabasco, Mexico.

The Mexico trip will take place on July 19 - 27. We are invited to conduct a vacation Bible school in the afternoon before the gospel meeting in the evenings. One reason we encourage works like this for congregations elsewhere is to help strengthen our own congregation and the church.

Please remember, one way all of us can take part – and we hope everyone will – is through our contributions and prayers. We need to raise \$2,000 to rent a van, pay for gas and provide funds to build 10 more fire pits for cooking (the cost is \$100 each). We will also visit shut-ins and help construct the fire pits for those who cannot afford them.

## Area Calendar:

**Mar 23** – Ladies' Day Bremen COC, 9:00 - 12:00 "The Glory of Womanhood" Speaker: Rebekah Colley

**Mar 23** - Annual Middle GA Ladies Day, "Hartley Bridge Rd COC, "Victory in Jesus!", Speakers: Nancy Carter

**Mar 30-31** - Conyers COC, Unity in the Body, Speaker: John DeBerry

**Mar 31-Apr 3** – Forest Park COC Gospel Meeting, Speaker: Eric Thornton

**Apr 5** - Central COC, Covington Area Wide Singing

**Apr 13** – Ladies' Day at Seneca COC "Recipes of Life" Speaker: Sheila Butt

	3/24	3/31
Call To Worship	David Gullledge	David Gullledge
Scripture Reading	Cliff Nash	Randell Bell
Song Leader	Rory Bell, Sr	Charles Nash
Prayer	Dale Findley	Paul Lyons
Preside Lord's Supper	Paul Lyons	Dave Poskevich
Server	Bobby Johnson	Zeke Poskevich
Server	Hugh Kelly	Greg Curtis
Server	John Mullis	Ben Rogers
Server	Tony Burdette	Brian Johnson
Server	Reggie Graham	Brad Hopkins
Server	Mike Fields	Larry Rose
Server	Jim Lindsey	Jim O'Brien
Server	Steve Hopkins	Tony Stinson
Sermon	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers
Response Elder	Jim Pelfrey	Jim Pelfrey
Announcements	David Gullledge	David Gullledge
Shepherd's Prayer	Greg Nash	Jim Pelfrey
<b>Evening Worship</b>		
Announcements	David Gullledge	Dave Rogers
Song Leader	Stan Mitchell	Stan Mitchell
Prayer	Ferdinan Brumant	Lewis Armstrong
Sermon	Song Service	David Gullledge
Lord's Supper	Reggie Graham	Jim O'Brien
Lord's Supper	Steve Hopkins	Tony Stinson
Prayer	Larry Fields	Dennis Ethridge

**WE NEED YOU NOW!!!!!!**

**We need Teachers, Helpers,  
and Substitutes for the New  
Bible Class Quarter  
starting in April!!!**

**Job Title: Bible School Teacher**

**Requirements: Love the Lord,  
Love Kiddos, Love to read your Bible**

**Pay: Priceless**

**Reap the reward of teaching  
our Children the Love of the Lord!!!**

**Sign up in the Foyer or  
see Eric Hagin!!**

**Worship Assignment Coordinator for March: Tad Durden**

**Communion Preparation**

Sandra Hopkins  
April—Linda Howell

**Nursery**

24 Crystin Gullledge &  
31 Amy Nash

**Care of Building**

16-31 Stan Mitchell/Lewis Armstrong  
1-15 Rick Sharpe/Curtis Hurt  
16-30 Jack Sorrell/Paul Lyons

**Ushers**

**Media Center Helpers**

24 & 31 Ben Rogers  
7 & 14 Tad Durden  
21 & 28 Reggie Graham

**Wednesday Evening Devotional**

27 Paul Lyons  
4/3 Anthony Stinson  
10 Ferdinan Brumant  
17 Brad Hopkins  
24 James Walker

**Ministers:**

**Dave Rogers**

361-649-6638

dave.rogers@fcoc.com

**David Gullledge**

(731) 227-9001 (cell)

david.gullledge@fcoc.com

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Fayettevillecoc](http://www.Facebook.com/Fayettevillecoc)



<http://gsoponline.org/>  
gsop-fayetteville-campus  
Rick Sharpe, Campus Director

**Elders:**

Tom Durden

(770) 652-7389

Jim Garner

(770) 461-3197

Greg Nash

(404) 455-1546

Jim Pelfrey

(770) 629-2061

**Deacons:**

Dennis Graham

Eric Hagin

David Hopkins

Hugh Kelly

Keith Killingsworth

Andy Johnson

Stan Mitchell

David Poskevich

Anthony Ravenell

David Riley

Rick Sharpe

Jack Sorrell

**Our Missionaries**



Graham, Elizabeth, Joshua, Megan,  
Bethany & Elijah  
McDonald,  
Scotland,  
11 Woodhead Ct,  
Westfield, Cumberland,  
North Lanarkshire,  
G68 9DB

Email: [graham@gmcd.net](mailto:graham@gmcd.net)

Skype: gmcd105 or [www.gmcd.net](http://www.gmcd.net)



Scott, Rebecca & Violet Shanahan  
Italy

[scottshanahan@hotmail.com](mailto:scottshanahan@hotmail.com)

**Raintree Village**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

**Assembly Schedule:**

**Sunday**

9:00 am Bible Classes

10:00 am Worship Service

5:00 pm Worship Service

10:00 am Tuesday

Morning Bible Class

(September 4 - May 14)

7:00 pm Wednesday Night Bible  
Study





# March 2019

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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