

The Mystery of Sin

INTRODUCTION

SIN – WHAT IS IT, AND WHY IS IT SUCH A BIG DEAL?

- Views on Sin
 - Some view sin as merely an issue of whether one goes to Heaven or Hell after death.
 - Others perceive sin as a personal or moral problem.
 - Others perceive sin as an act of omission or commission.

TEACHING

- Sin means “to miss the mark” of God’s holy standard of righteousness.
 - 1 John 3:4 describes sin as the breaking, or transgression, of God’s law. Sin is also defined as disobedience or rebellion against God (Deuteronomy 9:7), as well as independence from God. Scripture also says, “To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin”. (James 4:17).
- Where did sin begin?
 - Sin had its beginning with Satan, the most beautiful and powerful Cherubim God created. Not content with his position, he desired to ascend higher than God, and that was his downfall, the beginning of sin (Isaiah 14:12-15).
 - ◇ When Satan sinned, his name was taken away and he was given the title - Satan. He was cast down to Earth and brought that sin with him. He, as the epitome of sin, brought that condition to the human race in the Garden of Eden, where he tempted Adam and Eve with the same enticement, “you shall be like God.”
 - Genesis 3 describes Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God and against His command. Romans 5:12 tells us that through Adam, sin entered mankind, and so death was passed on to all men because “the wages of sin is death”.
- Three types of sin: Inherited sin, Imputed sin, and personal sin.

- **Inherited sin**

- ◇ Derived from Adam's sin. The inclination to sin entered the human race, and human beings became sinners by nature.
 - Proponents of this view insist that all illness, disease and evil are the result of inherited sin.
 - When Adam sinned, his inner nature was transformed, bringing to him spiritual death and depravity which also would be passed on to all who came after him. Inherited sin is what causes the human body to break down and eventually die.

- **Imputed sin**

- ◇ Mostly used as a legal term.
- ◇ From Greek "imputed" means "to take something that belongs to someone and give it to another."
 - Before the Law of Moses, sin was not imputed to man, although men were still sinners because of inherited sin.
 - After the Law of Moses was given, sins committed in violation of the Law were imputed or accounted to man (Romans 5:13).
 - As a result, all humans, from Adam to Moses, would eventually die because of their own inherited sinful nature. After Moses introduced the Law, humans were subject to death both because of inherited sin from Adam and imputed sin from violating the laws of God.
- ◇ God the Father, Imputed our sin to Jesus.
 - Jesus died for the sins of the entire world (1 John 2:2).
 - Although sin was imputed to Jesus, He did not inherit sin from Adam. Jesus bore the penalty for sin, but He never became a sinner; His nature was pure and perfect.
- ◇ In 2 Corinthians 5:21 God imputed our sins to Jesus and simultaneously credited the righteousness of Jesus to all who would believe in Him.

- **Personal sin**

- ◇ Sin that is committed every day by every human being
 - Because we have inherited a sin nature from Adam, we commit individual, personal sins.
 - Those who have not placed their faith in Jesus Christ must, in the end, pay the penalty for these personal sins, as well as inherited sin and imputed sin.

- Believers in Jesus have been freed from the eternal penalty of sin—hell and spiritual death. Now, through Grace – we also have the power to resist sin as well as the strength to say yes to God.
 - We have the power to resist sin through the Holy Spirit who indwells us, and sanctifies us as well as convicts us of our sins when we commit them.
 - 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- In all three types of sin; inherited sin, imputed sin, and personal sin, we are condemned to death—physical death and eternal death.
 - ◇ Through Jesus, inherited sin, imputed sin, and personal sin have all been crucified on the cross, and now by faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior “we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7).
- Recognizing sin
 - Man has tried to place sin into categories.
 - For centuries, it has been broadly taught that there are seven sins for which God would put you to death: Pride, Envy, Gluttony, Lust, Anger, Greed, and Laziness.
 - ◇ Pride is excessive belief in one’s own abilities. It has been called the sin from which all others arise. Pride is also known as Vanity.
 - ◇ Envy is the passionate desire for others’ traits, status, abilities, belongings, or situation.
 - ◇ Gluttony is an inordinate desire to consume more than that which one requires.
 - ◇ Lust is an inordinate craving for the hedonistic pleasures of the body.
 - ◇ Anger or rage is manifested in the individual who fails to see God’s goodness in all things that happen.
 - ◇ Greed is the desire for material wealth or gain, one can never have enough of anything. It ignores the importance of the spiritual life. It is also called Avarice.
 - ◇ Laziness is the avoidance of physical or spiritual work.
 - Three categories of sin according to 1 John 2: “All that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father.” John indicates that all sin comes from one of these three sins.
 - ◇ The key phrase is, “Not of the Father” .
 - ◇ Jesus was tempted with these three categories at the end of His forty day fast. (Luke 4)

The Sin	The Temptation
Lust of the Eyes	"See all these Kingdoms"
Lust of the Flesh	"Turn these stones into bread"
Pride of Life	"Throw yourself off this cliff, call Angels to catch you"

- ◇ Adam and Eve were tempted with the same three categories. Genesis 3.

The Sin	The Temptation
Lust of the Eyes	"Pleasant to the eyes"
Lust of the Flesh	"Good for food"
Pride of Life	"Desirable to make one wise"

- ◇ Satan was tempted with the same three categories while still in Heaven. Ezekiel 28:13-18 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, until

- Vs. 15: Iniquity was found in you
- Vs. 16: You became filled with violence
- Vs. 17: Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty

Temptation	Manifestation	Result
Lust of the Eyes	Iniquity	Moral evil, covetous, perversion
Lust of the Flesh	Violence	Unjust gain, harsh dealings, murderer
Pride of Life	Heart lifted up (pride)	Haughty, self-serving, selfish

- ◇ Understanding the phrase: "Not of the Father".
 - God is the Creator of all things, visible, invisible, above the Earth, on the Earth, and beneath the Earth. There is nothing that exists, in any form – anywhere in the cosmos – that God did not create. And what ever He created, He created it good.
 - Therefore, when something is not of the Father, which is not of God, it means it is not good – in actuality it is against God's creation, it is the antithesis of God. Sin attempts to destroy or decay everything that God does – even if it does not look like it when you give into it.
 - James 4:17, "To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." Over 500 times the word "good" is used in Scripture with the specific application of ending evil. This is precisely what Jesus meant when He said not to respond to evil with evil, but to respond to evil with good.
- Sin is also a defiling process
 - ◇ Mark 7:20–23 states, It is, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."
 - ◇ The result of sin is decay, deterioration, and death, which is the ultimate decay of our earthly life. Sin destroys God's creation.

CONCLUSION

Sin is not just the act we commit or omit; it is the destruction and the decay of everything that God created perfect and good. It is the tacit admission that we know better than God what is best for us. Sin, in essence, is agreeing with Satan; that his way is better than God's ways.

Sin affects and influences the lives of all those who are near us; our spouse, our children, and generations after that. Moreover, sin is not simply a personal matter as many perceive it to be. Sin is vast in its ripple effects.

The Earth, as the first created of the Cosmos, was created to affect all that was later created. Man was placed on this Earth to rule over the Earth and all that was on it. Therefore man's rule would affect the cosmos. Whatever happened on Earth was designed to have an effect on that which was later created.

Therefore, when man sinned, not only did man begin to deteriorate, the Earth he was to subdue and rule over began to deteriorate as well. (Romans 8) Due to sin

the Earth was subject to futility; meaning it could not do what it was created to do. Sin brought suffering to the Earth and the rest of creation.

Jesus addresses this in his prophetic statements about the last days when He tells us that the Earth, as in the days of Noah, will be filled with violence. He also tells us that not only will there be wars, plagues and conflicts within mankind, there will be far reaching effects that will be seen in the Earth such as earthquakes and pestilence as the Earth escalates its deterioration from man's sin.

Jesus goes on to tell us that even the Heavens will show signs of the deterioration from sin as there will be stars falling, comets crashing into Earth, and other wonders seen in the Sun, Moon, and Stars.

In the end there will be a "New Heaven and a New Earth." No more suffering, or sorrow. No more tears or pain. A time when sin is no more. A time when disease and affliction are no more. A time when the Lion lays down with the Lamb, and swords are beaten into plowshares. A time when sin no longer exists, and creation no longer decays. A time when God tabernacles and dwells on Earth with man without the separating, decaying presence of sin.