

Dealing With Sin

1). The definition of sin: our thoughts, actions that

- a) can not reach God's goal
 - **For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)**
- b) are against God's will
 - **For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners; (Rom 5:19)**

Or another way to put it: "Not right in God's eyes."

1st reference of "sin" in the Bible:

- **If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it (Gen 4:7)**

The key is "*in God's eyes*" because He is the ultimate Judge.

- **And the heavens proclaim His righteousness, for God Himself is judge. (Ps 50:6)**

It doesn't matter -

- a) what you (or others) believe (or think):
 - **You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes. (Deu 12:8)**
 - **There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. (Pro 14:12)**
- b) what the law says
- c) whether you know it or not:
 - **But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. (Luk 12:48)**
- d) whether you intentionally or unintentionally commit it:
 - **If a member of the community sins unintentionally and does what is forbidden in any of the Lord's commands, he is guilty. (Lev 4:27)**
- e) whether it effects other people or not

Some references in the New Testament:

- **and everything that does not come from faith is sin (Rom 14:23)**
- **Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; (Jam 1:15)**
- **Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. (Jam 4:17)**
- **Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. (1 Joh 3:4)**
- **All unrighteousness is sin, (1 Joh 5:17)**

2). How does God view "sin"?

- a) God hates sin because He is holy and sin separates His beloved children from Himself.

b) God takes sin very seriously. Sometimes God is silent but it will be a big mistake to think God doesn't care or He is compromising His righteousness against sin.

It took the "**Lamb of God**", His beloved Son, to "**take away the sin of the world**" (Joh 1:29). So costly is the redemption that it took the precious blood of Jesus to do away our sins.

3). Consequences of sin

- (i) can't fellowship with God, won't bear fruit (1 John 1:6-7; John 15:4) (ex. don't want to read Bible, don't want to go to gathering, can't pray..)
- (ii) lose peace, and joy (Ps 32:3-4) (ex. can't sleep at night)
- (iii) feel weak and dark in spirit (Rom.1:21)
- (iv) feel anxious in soul (ex. King Saul)
- (v) physical sickness or death (James 5:15-16)
- (vi) become slaves to sin again (John 8:34; Rom.6:16)
- (vii) bear your own consequences and cause your family to suffer (2 Sam. 12: 9-12)
=> We need to be alert. If we experienced any listed above, we might have sinned unconsciously. We need to quickly deal with it before the condition get worse.
- (viii) sin (particularly unconfessed sin) blocks the prayer (Ps 66:8) and blessing of God

4). How do we deal with sin:

What we need to **know**:

A) Inside us there is a tendency, nature that wants to sin (Rom.7:23). It is in us ever since Adam sinned against God. (Gen. 2:16-17; 3: 1-7; Rom. 5:12; Rom.3: 9-18, 23) So be alert!

B) Since we accepted Christ and was baptized, we have been freed from (the ruling of) sin.

- **For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. (Rom 6:6-7)**
- **For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. (Rom 6:14)**

C). **God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. (Jam 4:6)**

Jesus knew our weakness and took it all up with Him. (Mat 8:17) Once for all on the cross the provision of forgiveness has been made for our past, present, and future sin. He has much compassion towards sinners but was harsh towards Pharisees who refused to humble themselves. The worst thing we could do with our sin is to cover it up or to ignore it, mistakenly thinking that might let us

escape the punishment (at present). We will find no peace if we do not deal with our sins. However, we need to be careful that our conscience could grow dim (makes us senseless to sin) if we continually and intentionally ignore the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

D) We don't have the "right" to sin nor do we "have to" keep on sinning.

- **What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer. (Rom 6:1-2)**
- **We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. (1Joh 5:18)**

E) We're in a spiritual battle and sin causes us unable to triumph over our enemies.

- **Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. (Jos 7:11-12)**

What we need to do:

A) Confess to God immediately. This gives us the assurance of continual and unhindered fellowship with the Father of Lights. Do not allow any darkness remain in us.

- **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1Joh 1:9)**
- **When anyone is guilty in any of these ways, he must confess in what way he has sinned." (Lev 5:5)**

The key is "repentance" (David, 2Sam12:13, 24:10, Ps51), not just "regret" or lip service. (Pharaoh - Exo 9:27, King Saul - 1Sam15:30)

- **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps 51:17)**
- **Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. (Eze 18:30)**

B) Confess to man (or publicly) when sinned against others. (Mat 5:23-24) This is the least thing our "flesh" wants to do but it unlocks the blessings and brings glory to God. (Act19:18-20)

C) Live by the Spirit and abide in God. Holy Spirit cannot lead us to sin. Satan could, our flesh could, but never the Holy Spirit.

- **So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (Gal 5:16).**

- **No one who abides in Him sins; (1Joh 3:6)**

D) Study God's words so we have the compass in life

- **I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Ps 119:11)**

E) Fear God, consecrate ourselves, and shun away from evil.

- **Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (2 Cor 7:1)**

F) Constantly pray for holiness and cleansing. Ask God to purify us and reveal our hidden sins.

- **Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Ps139:23-24)**

Revival comes after cleansing!