

# SIN

**The Problem** at the heart of most issues in this world is sin. The Problem is the sin in mankind and not mankind itself. The purpose of this study is to biblically define sin, reveal who has sinned, and define the consequences of sin. Before we talk about the Solution, we need to discuss the Problem.

As you study these scriptures with your friend, be sure to build the kind of relationship where you are open about your struggles and they feel safe in being honest with you. The Sin study should not be an inquisition or confession session. The goal is to identify God's view of sin so that we can correct our view of sin and prepare our hearts to enter into an open, honest, and real relationship with God that includes being open, honest, and real with other Christians.

**OPENING QUESTION:** *What do you think stops most people from becoming Christians?*

## WHO HAS SINNED?

*Romans 3:23*

- "All have sinned" – No one can make it to heaven on their own goodness. All are lost.
- Definition of sin: to miss the mark (archery: miss the bull's-eye; miss perfection).
- **Analogy:** If each of us was to pile up our sin – one huge pile, one small
  - Who is further away from God? All are equal; all are lost; no degrees of sin.
- **Analogy:** if each of us attempted to swim to Hawaii, who would get closest?
  - Doesn't matter because we would all drown. We can't make it on our own.
- A good moral life is not enough to save us.

## WHAT IS SIN?

### Sins of Commission

*Mark 7:20-23*

- What types of sins is Jesus addressing?
  - Sins of the heart: sinful thoughts and attitudes.
  - Sin comes from our heart (not from upbringing, genes, social pressures, etc.).
- Who is responsible for these sins? We each have personal responsibility.

*Galatians 5:19-21*

- What types of sins is Paul addressing? Sinful actions – they are "obvious"
  - **Share:** what sins have been most challenging for you?
- What is the consequence of living like this?
  - If we live like this, we have no hope of heaven.

### Sins of Omission

*James 4:17*

- What types of sins is James addressing?
  - Omission: failing to do the right things God commands.
- *What is an example of a sin of omission?*

## WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?

*Romans 6:23* "the wages of sin is death" – we get what we earned/ deserve.

*Isaiah 59:1-2* "your iniquities [sins] have separated you from your God..."



- How does sin separate us from God?
  - He is able to save / hear – he's close and wants a relationship with us...
  - But our sin creates a wall that separates us from God.
- How does sin separate us from others / those we love?
  - Pride/hatred/resentments/anger/prejudice/selfishness/lying/etc.
  - Hurts caused by sin hinder marriages and families to be close and loving; friendships become superficial.
- How does sin separate us from ourselves?
  - Depression, guilt, not liking ourselves, feeling sorry for ourselves, hopelessness, feeling unloved, feeling meaningless, etc.
- Since sin is what separates us from God (and people, and ourselves)...
  - *How do you think God feel about sin? How should we feel about sin?*

## QUESTION: WHERE DO I STAND IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

- Are you in a right relationship with God or separated from God?
  - Clearly man's greatest Problem is sin.
  - Clearly man's greatest need is forgiveness.
- *Challenge*
  - Spend time this week better understanding which sins are the most difficult for you.
  - *What do you think will be the toughest sins to change or give up?*
- In the next few studies we will study **the Solution**: forgiveness of sins.
  - God's Part – the Cross (See Level 3, DOCTRINE 2)
  - Our Part – Repentance & Baptism

## OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES

*Luke 7:36-50*

- The woman does anything and everything possible to love Jesus; she risks her life, lowers herself completely, and sacrifices massively; but Simon does nothing!
  - How did Simon the Pharisee see himself?
  - How did the woman see herself? How do you know?
  - How did the woman view her sin? How did Simon view his?
- What does Jesus say will result from us clearly seeing our sin? We will love more!
- *Is your response more like Simon or the woman?*
  - *How does that affect your relationship with God?*
- If you have never seen your sin in this way before, take an inventory of your sin to see the true debt you have between you and God.

*2 Timothy 3:1-5* – internal heart sin, selfishness – aimed more at religious people.

*Ephesians 5:3-7* – sexual sin, worldliness – the right attitude: "not even a hint."

*Revelations 21:8* – lying and cowardice are enough to send us to hell.