

## Sin

In this lesson hopefully sin can be explained. Hopefully, this lesson can make clear what sin is and why it is important a Christian understands it must be fled from and not embraced. It is after all pretty basic in the life of a Christian that sin is not acceptable to God.

## Scriptures

**Genesis 4:7** “If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him” If we do well, which means being obedient to God, then we are accepted and pleasing to Him. Sin is not doing well and being disobedient to God. Sin is not following the instructions He has given us to follow and also just doing what we want to do. Our desires can draw us into sin if we chose not to control them. Just as Abel obeyed God and was righteous, Cain failed to obey God and was sinful. Cain was not only sinful because he murdered his brother but also because he disobeyed God.

**Hebrews 11:4** “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”

**Isaiah 59:1-2** “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” Sin separates us from God. God wants to save us and has provided us a path to salvation. However, we can choose not to obey God and instead be disobedient, or sinful, we will then be forever separated from God which means eternal destruction.

**Matthew 5:28** “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” This verse reminds us that we do not just fall into sin by accident. Often our desires, if not controlled, can build up in our minds until we can somehow justify doing something we know is sinful.

**Mark 7:20-23** “And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man” We can choose to take part in actions that are not acceptable to God because they transgress His law. If we do choose to become involved in behavior of this nature our actions, our sin, is what will defile us to God. Someone else’s actions will not cause me to be lost, only I can put myself on the path of eternal destruction.

**John 3:16-17** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” God does not want us to be lost, that is why He sent His son to pay the price for our sins. If we walk in the path Jesus has prepared for us and we become obedient Christians, we have nothing to worry about eternally, we will not be lost. We do have to be obedient to be saved.

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” All humans have fallen short and without God’s plan of salvation we would be lost. **Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” However, God does not want that for us. Never forget God loves you and no matter what your past becoming an obedient Christian will lead you to salvation.

**Romans 6:3-11** “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” This set of versus marvelously points out why we are baptized. We are buried with Christ, so we are fully immersed in water, after all to bury someone don’t we completely cover them? When we come out of water we are symbolically born again as a Christian. Our sinful self is dead and now we are something better, a Christian. (This does not mean one will never make a mistake or never sin again, but it does mean at that moment your sins in your life up to that point have been taken away.) We are now expected to live a better life as a Christian. As a Christian we put away our sinful life we need to try as hard as we can to not fall back into our past sinful ways. As a newborn Christian our sins have been washed away. However, if we fall back into sin God has given us a way out should we choose to take it **Acts 8:9-25** “But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God maybe purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye

have spoken come upon me. And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.” In this example, Simon clearly believes and becomes a baptized Christian, so he is at that moment saved. However, he later sins and Peter teaches Simon he is in error because of his sinful desire for power. At that point Simon is lost. If Simon did not repent from his sin he would have been lost and missed out on Heaven even though previously he had been washed from his sins and saved. Thankfully, Simon repented of his sin and once again moved into a saved state. We don't know what happened to Simon the rest of his life, but his example teaches us that we can move in and out of the state of being saved depending on if we are or are not obedient to God. It also teaches us if we are not in good standing with God, we can change our ways and God will forgive us.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” Being a Christian is not guaranteed to be easy. We either choose to obey God or we choose to disobey God. Sometimes obeying God might be very hard or even costly to a Christian but anything we lose here on earth is nothing compared to home in Heaven. If we choose to sin and disobey God that is on us and no one else. There is no such thing as a force beyond our control that forces us to sin, thankfully!

**Galatians 5:16-17** “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” We have to choose if we will follow Jesus or walk in sin. There really is not a third alternative. We either reject sin and follow Christ or we do not follow Christ.

**Galatians 5:19-25** “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” As we can easily see there is a big difference in the attitude of one that lives a sinful life and one that lives a Christian life. We can all strive to do better but a Christian is striving to avoid sin and should be letting the fruits of the spirit become stronger in their lives. If you are a Christian it will show in your life. If you are a sinner it will show in your life. Even if we do fool people, we cannot fool God. Which life do you want sinful or Godly?

**James 1:15** “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” Sin unrepented of leads to eternal destruction but we can avoid it. We can all tell when we start to desire something we should not, something that is sinful. When we see this in our lives we must, even though sometimes it is hard, stop it. Turn from sinful desire

before we act on them. Don't sit around dwelling on sin and most likely you are not going to take that sinful action.

**James 4:7** "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" We are not under the control of sin unless we allow it. We can and will defeat sin if we choose to fight it, but we must fight it!

**James 4:17** "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" Sin is not only breaking God's law, but it is also choosing not to do God's law. In other words, I can sin by doing something that breaks God's law, for example stealing money from someone. I can also sin by not doing what I should do, for example someone wants me to teach them about Jesus and I chose not to.

**1 John 1:8-10** "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" Every one of us have sinned. Anyone that believes they have not is just fooling themselves. However, if we obey God, He will forgive us. Do you want God's forgiveness?

**1 John 3:4** "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" We have all broken God's law because we have all sinned. We don't have to live in sin without God though. We can choose to become a Christian. Also, if we have become a backsliding Christian we can repent and make things right with God.

### Conclusion

God can not accept sin in our lives because He does not accept sin. Because God loves us, He paid a heavy price so we can have our sins washed away, so we can go to Heaven. God also understanding mankind will stumble and fall from time to time will allow us to repent from sin and return to Him so that we can be acceptable to Him. Today think to yourself have your sins been washed away? If they have wonderful. Have you after becoming a Christian through baptism fallen back into a sinful way of life? If so, please correct your life now before it is eternally too late.