

What is Sin?

Webster's dictionary defines sin as "the transgression of the Law of God." That is exactly what it is. The Word of God (the Bible) teaches us that.

James 4:17, "to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

I John 3:4, "sin is lawlessness."

I John 5:17, "all unrighteousness is sin."

If all unrighteousness is sin, what is righteousness? In Psalm 119:172, David said to God, "For all Your commandments are righteousness;" vs. 160, "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever;" vs. 142, "And Your law is truth."

So sin is doing something God forbids or not doing something God commands. It is NOT whatever the latest fad is, or whatever society says it is, or whatever the law of the land says. If that were the case, the standard for sin would change constantly. In this present day, it is legal to abort an unborn child, to consume great quantities of alcohol, to commit fornication, adultery and homosexuality, to lie, to gamble, to even murder if it is for a good reason.

I read an excellent article in Reader's Digest entitled "It's Not My Fault!" The article pointed out the absurdity of how people get away with murder blaming it on past abuse. "The list of things to which Americans feel entitled to is growing. We seem to have reached a new standard: we are owed not only just the pursuit of happiness but happiness itself. And we are not responsible for what happens if we do not get it." The article used examples like the Menendez brothers who shot their parents for their money, but the lawyer claimed the parents basically killed themselves when they allegedly abused the boys. They told the jury that it was not the brothers' fault that they killed their parents; it was the parents' fault. The reading also stated, "It's become useful to frame things in such a way that actual crimes do not seem to have been committed at all: there can be no 'sinner' if there is no sin."

Alcoholism is not a sin but a disease. Homosexuality is not a sin, but an alternate lifestyle. Fifty years ago these were considered sins, but today they are not sins? Wrong eventually over time becomes right? Wrong! Today's society is trying to legalize everything and do away with sin. Fifty years from now nothing may be wrong. Wrong, immoral, sinful, bad, etc. may be obsolete words. Society may try to do away with sin, but sin is sin according to God's standards.