

WHAT IS SIN?

Everyone (other than Jesus) is a sinner - Rom 3:23-24 - 23 for **ALL HAVE SINNED** and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Some are more obvious than others - 1 Tim 5:24 The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them.

We are all sinners, but there is a remedy - 1 John 1:8-10 - 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

The dangerous thing is sin is pleasurable - Heb 11:24-25 - 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to **enjoy the pleasures** of sin for a short time.

What is sin?

Disobeying God - Eph 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

Anything not done from faith is sin!! -Rom 14:23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **everything** that does not come from faith is sin.

Sin is not just what we do; it's also what we DON'T do -James 4:17 -Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins

The main sin of the world... - John 16:9 -The world's sin is unbelief in me.

The daily battle we all encounter. - Rom 7:14-20 - 14 We know that the law is spiritual; **but I am unspiritual**, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

When something that isn't a sin, becomes a sin. - 1 Cor 8:9-13 -9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 **When you sin against your brothers in this way** and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

You're not held accountable for what you don't know, but when you know, there is no excuse! – John 15:22-25 - 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, **they have no excuse for their sin**. 23 He who hates me hates my Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

Results of Sin?

Many bad things that happen to us are because of sin. Repentance saves lives -Luke 13:1-5-1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?" 3 **I tell you, no!** But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them-do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 **I tell you, no!** But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Sickness can be the result of sin - John 9:1-3 - As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, **who sinned, this man or his parents**, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."

We miss out on blessings because of sin - Jer 5:23-25-23 But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away. 24 They do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.' 25 Your **wrongdoings have kept these away**; your sins have deprived you of good.

A little sin can spread and cause MUCH damage - Gal 5:7-9-7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

Simply put, sin leaves us open for disaster (i.e., the invalid for 38 years) - John 5:14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

The only way to pay for sin is death - Rom 6:23 -For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Disastrous outcome for those who ignore God to continue living in Sin - 2 Peter 2:4-10 - 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 **IF THIS IS SO**, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10 This is ESPECIALLY TRUE of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

Is all sin the same?

Sin is Lawlessness - 1 John 3:4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

***We are under Christ's Law today (1 Cor 9:21)**

All wrongdoing is sin - 1 John 5:17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

Two types of sins - 1 John 5:16 - 16 If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. **There is A SIN that leads to death.** I am not saying that he should pray about that.

The sin that leads to death - Matt 12:31-32 - 31 And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit WILL NOT be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who **SPEAKS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN**, either in this age or in the age to come.

There are different levels of sin - John 19:11 Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a GREATER SIN."

There are different levels of punishment –

Luke 20:46-47 - 46 "Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 47 They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."

2 Peter 2:17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them.

The higher the church position, the stronger the responsibility - 1 Tim 5:17-20 -17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

18 For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 19 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

20 Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

Sexual sins are sins that are done to the body which is the Temple - 1 Cor 6:18-20 - 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. →

→ 19 Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Where is sin from?

The origin of sin -Rom 5:12-14-12 Therefore, just as **sin entered the world through one man**, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned 13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

The first sin - Gen 3:6-7 - 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, **SHE TOOK SOME AND ATE IT***. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and **HE ATE IT**. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. **(1 Tim 2:13-14)**

Where Adam failed (which doomed us), Jesus prevailed (saves us) -Rom 5:15-17 - 15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16 Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

The biggest source of sin is us - Rom 7:24-25 - 24 What a **wretched man I am!** **Who will rescue me from this body of death?** 25 Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

We recognize sin by reading the word. - Rom 7:7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

How sin develops -James 1:13-15-13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, BY HIS OWN EVIL DESIRE, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin ; and sin , when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

1.) Tempted, 2.) Dragged away and enticed 3.)desires conceives and creates sin 4.)sin fully grows death

Sin is also a product of partnering with the world - James 4:4 **You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?** Anyone who **CHOOSSES** to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

You most definitely don't want to be the CAUSE of someone's sin-Matt 18:7 - "**WOE** to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, BUT WOE to the man through whom they come!

We need to be focused on getting rid of the causes of sin of us as individuals and make sure the cause is not you –

Matt 18:6 But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea

Matt 18:8-9 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Sin is also from your choices... if they are bad - Gen 4: 7 - Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the 7 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**."

There is no excuse for sin. - Job 1:21-22 - 21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." 22 **In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing**.

Can we stop sinning?

Christ not only saves us from the consequence of sin, HE saves us from the grip of Sin - John 8:34-36 - 34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be FREE INDEED.

Repentance leads to our sins being forgiven and forgotten - Rom 4:4-8 - 4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. 6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Christians are to stop living in sin - Rom 6:1-4 - What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 **BY NO MEANS!** We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

In fact, real Christians no longer live in Sin - 1 John 3:5-10 - 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 **NO ONE WHO LIVES IN HIM KEEPS ON SINNING**. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. 7 Dear children, **do not let anyone lead you astray**. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work**. 9 **NO ONE WHO IS BORN OF GOD WILL CONTINUE TO SIN, BECAUSE GOD'S SEED REMAINS IN HIM**; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 **THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHO THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE** and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother

This doesn't mean true Christians don't sin - 1 John 2:1-2 - My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. **BUT IF ANYBODY DOES SIN, WE HAVE ONE WHO SPEAKS TO THE FATHER IN OUR DEFENSE** — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

THE STEPS TO STOP LIVING IN SIN

*** Stopping sin is a task for both the individual AND The Church, both totally relying on Christ**

We have all we need to stop sinning; we just have to do it - 2 Peter 1:3-10 -3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. **For IF YOU DO THESE THINGS, YOU WILL NEVER FALL**,

Recognize, Sin is a choice, and voluntary slavery - Rom 6:11-18 - 11 In the same way, COUNT YOURSELVES DEAD TO SIN but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore **DO NOT LET sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires**. 13 **DO NOT OFFER** the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather **offer yourselves to God**, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? **BY NO MEANS!** 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Grow in God's grace - Titus 2:11-13 -11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 **It teaches** us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live **self-controlled, upright and godly lives** in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Let go and let God mold you - Heb 12:4-6 - 4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Know Christ, who is our example. Study Christ. - 1 Peter 2:21-25 - 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "**He committed no sin , and no deceit was found in his mouth.**" 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. **Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.** 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The main key is to recognize the sinful nature is why we need to BE Spiritual. - Gal 5:19-25-19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS have CRUCIFIED THE SINFUL NATURE with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Focus on Christ only!!!

Realize Christ has gone through all we have, are, and will be going through. -Heb 4:15-16 - 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

We need to react in order to stop sinning - Heb 12:1-2 -1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Focus on who we represent and stop focusing on self - Rom 13:14 - 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

HELP YOU TO STOP SINNING

Realize Sin is a spiritual battle - Eph 6:12 -For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

We must fight it with Spiritual weapons - 2 Cor 10:4-6 - 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

There is always a way out...the question is will you take it? -1 Cor 10:13 -No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And **God is faithful;** he will **not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.** But when you are tempted, HE WILL also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Check all teachings and teachers, they could be dangerous. - Col 2:18-23 -18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. 19 He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, →

→grows as God causes it to grow. 20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Turn away from ungodly people, and ungodly frame of mind no matter how they seem. - 2 Tim 3:1-7 - But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. 6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.

HELP EACH OTHER TO STOP SINNING

We cannot tolerate sin because it's contagious and dangerous to others - 1 Cor 5:9-13 - 9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man **do not even eat.** 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. **"EXPEL THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOU."**

We must disassociate from a brother living in sin the Godly way only - 2 Thess 3:14-15 - 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Be careful when helping others and don't get trapped by their sin. - Gal 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should **RESTORE HIM GENTLY.** But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

Be responsible with our freedoms - 1 Cor 6:12 "Everything is permissible for me"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-but **I will not be mastered by anything.**

We must look out for other believers when they go astray - James 5:19-20 - 19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

We must love other believers to help cover sin - 1 Peter 4:8- Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Daily encouragement is necessary - Heb 3:13- But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

The final decision is ours - Heb 10:26-31-26 If we **DELIBERATELY** keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 **It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

10. What is a Christian called who continues to live in sin?
11. How does Grace help us with sin?
12. What will be the evidence of a person living in sin versus a person who does not?
13. What did Jesus go through that all men go through also?
14. Which temptations have no way out?
15. When helping a Christian caught in a sin, what does it mean, for you not to be tempted?