

Foundations Lesson #11

Sin

The people of this world minimize the idea of sin by laughing at it, sluffing it off as insignificant, calling it an illusion, or considering it the invention of some “religious fanatics.” They even cloud it over in acceptable language (“alternate lifestyle” for homosexuality, or “retroactive fertility control” for murdering precious human babies in the womb). Among those few who actually acknowledge the existence of sin, most continue on in their sin with little or no thought of its penalty.

To God, however, sin is extremely important and it carries **great** consequences. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden because of sin. Saul was rejected as king; David was plagued with the sword; Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land; and Ananias & Sapphira dropped dead; all because of sin. God says, “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), and “the soul who sins is the one who will die” (Ezekiel 18:20). **God hates sin**. The presence of sin cannot be escaped in this life, but the Christian can overcome sin by the power of God.

I. sin defined, described, and explained

- defined: anything contrary to the nature or desire of God
- described by word studies
 - hattat (O.T.): to lose the path, miss, or miss the mark (can be used as an archer's term)
 - awon (O.T.): iniquity, deviation (This word carries the idea of crookedness, of twisting away intentionally from God's straight path of righteousness.)
 - pasha (O.T.): rebellion, transgression (rebellion to a superior or unfaithfulness to an agreement)
 - ra (O.T.): bad, evil (anything harmful, not restricted to things morally bad)
 - hamartia (N.T.): sin (as a theological term), which can be a single act, a state, or a condition or power
- explained in the Scripture
 - whatever falls short of the glory of God – Romans 3:23
 - whatever is not of faith – Romans 14:23
 - whatever should have been done but was left undone – James 4:17
 - lawlessness, breaking the law – I John 3:4
 - all wrongdoing – I John 5:17
 - not restricted to actions – Psalm 66:18 / Hebrews 3:12 / James 4:3

II. the origin of sin

1. sin entering the angelic realm – turning from God to self (internal)
 - Ezekiel 28:11-19 / Isaiah 14:3-15 (five times “I will”)

2. sin entering the human realm – yielding to temptation (external)

- God made a perfect environment, and gave the humans the choice to obey or disobey him by not eating or eating of the forbidden fruit. – Genesis 1:1 - 2:25
- Satan's tactics – Genesis 3:1-5
 - doubt: “Did God really say...?”
 - perversion, twisting: “eat from any tree”
 - lying: “You will not surely die,”
 - stirring up pride: “your eyes will be opened... be like God,” (see Isaiah 14:14)
- The humans fell from innocence into sin. – Genesis 3:6-7, 11-13
 - They died as God had said they would. relationally, mentally, physically, etc.
 - They now had a sin nature, which they passed on to their descendants.
 - They tried to cover over their sin. “fig leaves” (v.7)
 - They hid from God. (v.8)
 - They tried to pass off the blame to someone else. (vs. 12, 13)
- God went after the fallen humans. He desires close relationship. – Genesis 3:8-10
- God pronounced judgment on sin. – Genesis 3:14-19, 22-24
 - the serpent: cursed / crawl / eat dust
 - the woman: increased pains in childbirth / husband rule over her
 - the man: food produced by painful toil / ground cursed
 - the man and the woman: banished from the Garden of Eden
- God's remedy: garments of skin (blood shed) – Genesis 3:20-21 / (see Hebrews 9:22)

III. overcoming sin

- hating my sin, desperately wanting to be free, seeing how deeply God is pained by my sin
 - Psalm 63:1 / Psalm 142:5-6 / Psalm 61:1-2 / Amos 5:15 / Hebrews 1:9
- having zero confidence in self to get free from sin
 - Psalm 60:11-12 / Jeremiah 48:7a / Philippians 3:3
- trusting in God's mighty deliverance, realizing that **He** is in the life-transformation business
 - Ephesians 3:20-21 / Hebrews 11:1-2 / Psalm 31:1 34:17,19 50:15 79:9

IV. closing scriptures

- He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. – Proverbs 28:13
- If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. – I John 1:8-9
- [Jesus speaking] “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’” – Mark 9:43-48