

Message Notes

"What is Sin, Anyway?"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "I am a poster child for grace!"

What is Sin? A buggy ride through the Bible toward a definition of Sin

I. How Sin entered the world

1. The One and Only Law Given to Adam

Genesis 2:16, 17

2. The One and Only Law is Broken by Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:1-6

II. How Sin spread through the OT

1. Sin is "crouching" at your door

Genesis 4:3-7

2. Sin spreads and has a cumulative factor

Genesis 15:12-16

3. The clearest "standards" of what holiness requires

Exodus 20:1-17

4. The EXACT OPPOSITE of holy living

Exodus 32:1-10

5. Following the holiness of God brings blessings; Disobedience will have consequences

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

6. Sinful living increases throughout the rest of the Old Testament

Judges 2:11, 2:19, 21:25

7. Even the "major hero" of the Old Testament is an Adulterer and Murderer

2 Samuel 12:1-9

III. Finally, the people of the OT are punished

1. Sin is violent, shameful, lying, unjust, ruining and destructive with the result being separation from God

Isaiah 59:1-8

2. Sin is MUCH MORE than just disobedience - there is actually something wrong with us

Jeremiah 2:9-13

IV. Jesus' Teachings on Sin

1. Jesus is the Answer to our sin problem... He will "take away" our sin!!

John 1:29

2. And yet, Jesus has radical things to say about sinful living

Matthew 5:27-30

V. Paul's theology of sin in Seven Parts

Part One - Sin is defined as an "exchange" of God to idols

Romans 1:18-32

Part Two - this has led all of us to "fall short of the glory of God"

Romans 3:23

Part Three - This happens not only because we are sinners by choice. It is part of our inheritance from Adam (Original Sin)

Romans 5:15, 16

Part Four - The person who has trusted Christ is freed not only from the penalty of sin, but also from the power of sin

Romans 6:1, 2

Part Five - If you work at sin, you will get paid for your labor!

Romans 6:23a

Part Six - Even though it is a defeated foe, sin is not going down easier

Romans 7:19-23

Part Seven - For the Christian, there is NEVER an excuse to fall into sin

1 Corinthians 10:13, 14

VI. Other NT writers views of sin

1. Sin for the believer is THE dangerous journey - sin is harsh, powerful, deceptive and bloodthirsty. You are at war with it.

Hebrews 3:12-14

2. Everyone of us WILL wrestle with sin

1 John 1:8-10

3. The Sin Cycle

James 1:13-15

4. James' simple definition of sin

James 4:17

5. John's simple definition of sin

1 John 3:4-6

VII. The Death of Sin!

1. Jesus Christ is THE victor and destroyer of sin!

Revelation 1:5, 6

2. There will come a day where there is no more death, mourning, crying or pain!

Revelation 21:3, 4

3. See ya, CURSE!

Revelation 22:1-3

Application - *Sin knows you...will you take time to know sin?*



**BE KILLING SIN
OR IT WILL BE
KILLING YOU!**

A study of John Owen's "A Mortification of Sin"



"The very word, 'sin,' which seems to have disappeared, was once a proud word. It was once a strong word, an ominous and serious word. But the word went away. It has almost disappeared - the word, along with the notion. Why? Doesn't anyone sin anymore? Doesn't anyone believe in sin?"

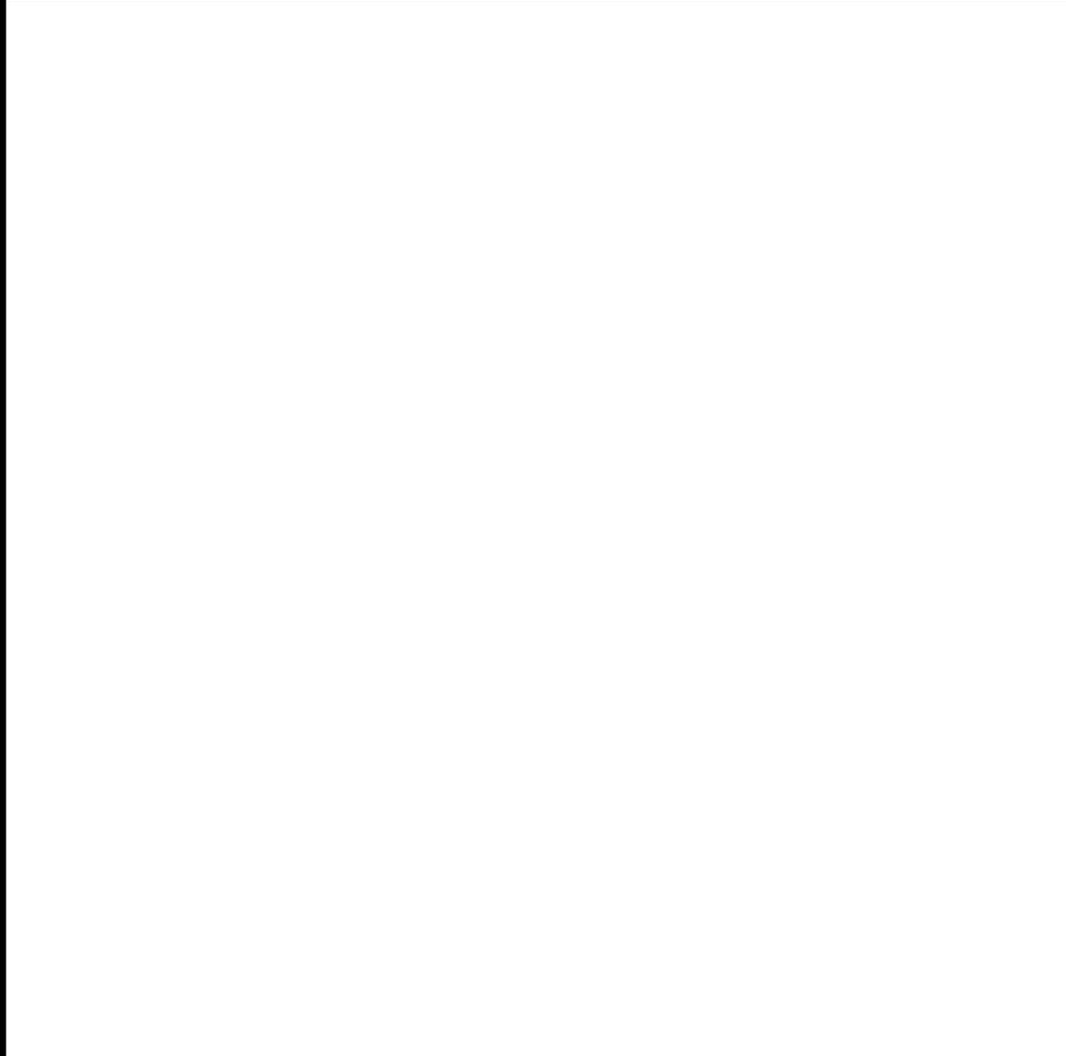
Karl Menninger in 1973

Question 24: What is sin?

Question 24: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, any law of God, given as a rule to the reasonable creature.

What is sin?



I. How Sin entered the world

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1. The One and Only Law Given to Adam

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1. The One and Only Law Given to Adam

Genesis 2:16, 17

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man,
“You are free to eat from any tree in the
garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree
of the knowledge of good and evil, for when
you eat of it you will surely die.”

I. How Sin entered the world

**2. The One and Only Law is Broken by
Adam and Eve**

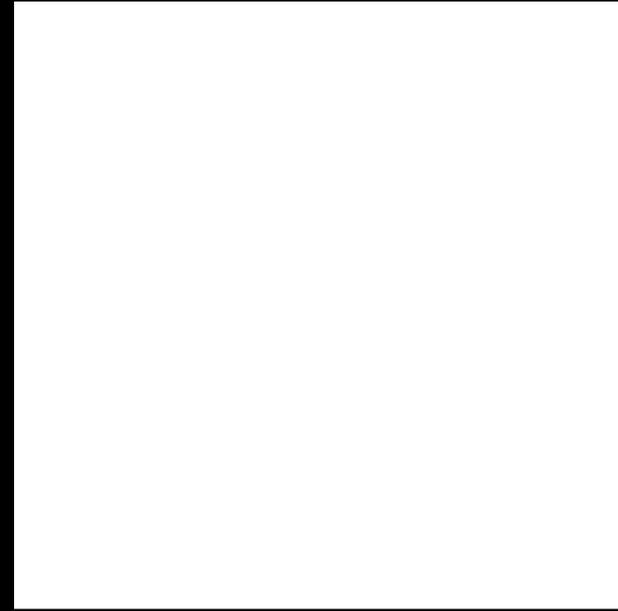
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2. The One and Only Law is Broken by Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:1-6

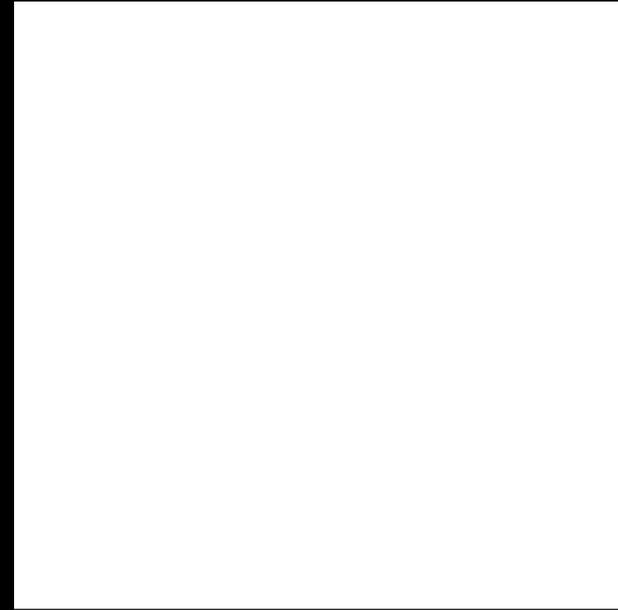
¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶When 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.

II. How Sin spread all through the OT



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1. Sin is “crouching at your door...”



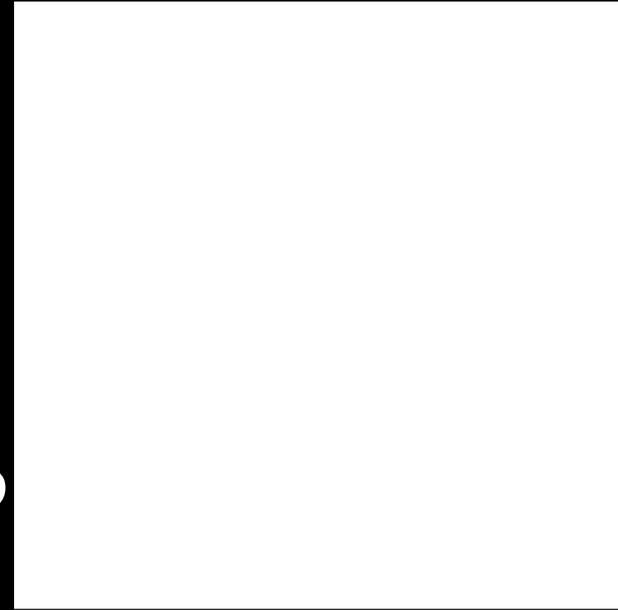
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Genesis 4:3-7

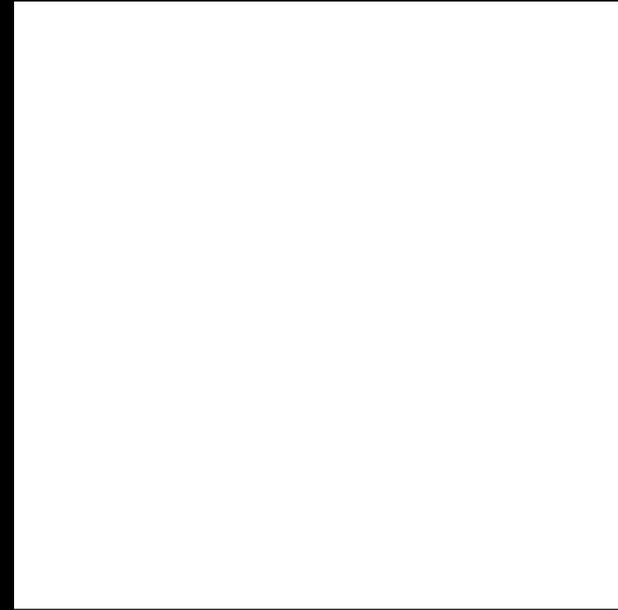
³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. ⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If 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.”



II. How Sin spread all through the OT

2. Sin spreads and has a cumulative factor

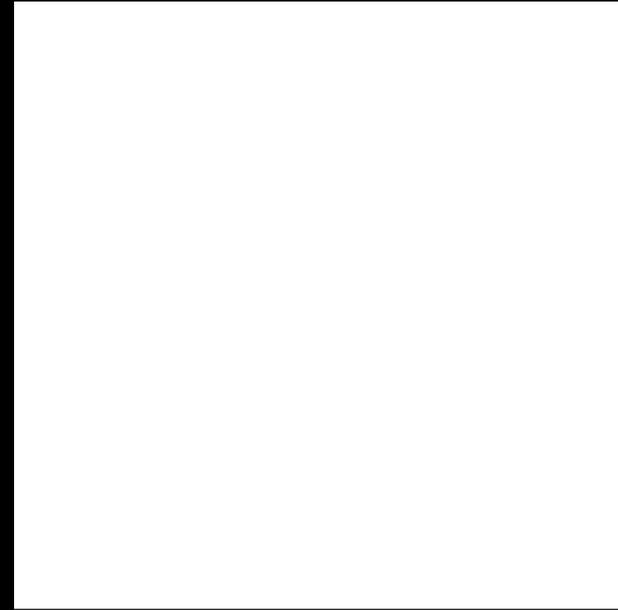


II. How Sin spread all through the OT

2. Sin spreads and has a cumulative factor

Genesis 15:12-16

¹²As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and ill-treated four hundred years. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterwards they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”



II. How Sin spread all through the OT

3. The clearest “standards” of what holiness requires



II. *How Sin spread all through the OT*

3. The clearest “standards” of what holiness requires

Exodus 20:1-17

¹And God spoke all these words: ²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand *generations* of those who love me and keep my commandments.

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

3. The clearest “standards” of what holiness requires

Exodus 20:1-17

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

3. The clearest “standards” of what holiness requires

Exodus 20:1-17

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

4. The EXACT OPPOSITE of holy living

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Exodus 32:1-10

¹When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered round Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.” ²Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold ear-rings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” ³So all the people took off their ear-rings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.”

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

4. The EXACT OPPOSITE of holy living

Exodus 32:1-10

⁶So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterwards they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry. ⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’” ⁹“I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

- 5. Following the holiness of God brings blessings;
Disobedience will have consequences**

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

5. Following the holiness of God brings blessings; Disobedience will have consequences

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

¹When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, ²and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, ³then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

5. Following the holiness of God brings blessings; Disobedience will have consequences

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

⁴Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. ⁵He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. ⁶The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

6. And it just keeps getting worse

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Judges 2:11

¹¹Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals.

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Judges 2:19

¹⁹But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshipping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

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Judges 2:11

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Judges 2:19

¹⁹But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshipping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

Judges 21:25

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

7. Even the “major hero” of the Old Testament is an Adulterer and Murderer

2 Samuel 12:1-9

¹The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

II. How Sin spread all through the OT

7. Even the “major hero” of the Old Testament is an Adulterer and Murderer

2 Samuel 12:1-9

⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.” ⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

III. Finally the OT People of God are punished

- 1. Sin is violent, shaming, lying, unjust, ruining and destructive with the result being separation from God**

Isaiah 59:1-8

¹Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. ²But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. ³For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things. ⁴No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

III. Finally the OT People of God are punished

1. Sin is violent, shaming, lying, unjust, ruining and destructive with the result being separation from God

Isaiah 59:1-8

⁵They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider's web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched. ⁶Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. ⁷Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways. ⁸The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks in them will know peace.

III. Finally the OT People of God are punished

2. Sin is MUCH MORE than just disobedience – there is actually something wrong with us

Jeremiah 2:9-13

⁹“Therefore I bring charges against you again,” declares the LORD. “And I will bring charges against your children’s children. ¹⁰Cross over to the coasts of Kittim and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: ¹¹Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols. ¹²Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the LORD. ¹³“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

IV. Jesus' teachings on sin

1. **Jesus is the Answer to our sin problem...**
He “takes away” our sin!!

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

IV. Jesus' teachings on sin

2. And yet, Jesus has radical things to say about sinful living

Matthew 5:27-30

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

Part One – Sin is defined as an “exchange” of God to idols

Romans 1:18-32

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

Part One – Sin is defined as an “exchange” of God to idols

Romans 1:18-32

²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is for ever praised. Amen. ²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

Part One – Sin is defined as an “exchange” of God to idols

Romans 1:18-32

²⁸Furthermore, since they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

**Part Two – this has lead all of us to
“fall short of the glory of God”**

Romans 3:23

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

Part Three – This happens not only because we are sinners by choice. It is part of our inheritance from Adam (Original Sin)

Romans 5:15, 16

¹⁵But 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! ¹⁶Again, 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.

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

Part Four – The person who has trusted Christ is freed not only from the penalty of sin, but also from the power of sin

Romans 6:1, 2

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

Part Five – If you work at sin, you will get paid for your labor!

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death...

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

**Part Six – Even though it is a defeated foe,
sin is not going down easy**

Romans 7:19-23

¹⁹For 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. ²⁰Now 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. ²¹So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

V. Paul's Theology of Sin in Seven Parts

**Part Seven - For the Christian, there is NEVER
an excuse to fall into sin**

1 Corinthians 10:13, 14

¹³No 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. ¹⁴Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

VI. Other NT writers views on sin

1. Sin for the believer is THE dangerous journey – sin is harsh, powerful, deceptive and bloodthirsty. You are at war with it.

Hebrews 3:12-14

¹²See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. ¹⁴We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

VI. Other NT writers views on sin

2. Everyone of us WILL wrestle with sin

1 John 1:8-10

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

VI. Other NT writers views on sin

3. The Sin Cycle

James 1:13-15

¹³When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

VI. Other NT writers views on sin

4. James' simple definition of sin

James 4:17

¹⁷Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

VI. Other NT writers views on sin

5. John's simple definition of sin

1 John 3:4-6

⁴Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

⁵But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

VI. Death to Sin!!

1. Jesus Christ is THE victor and destroyer of sin

Revelation 1:5, 6

⁵and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

VI. Death to Sin!!

2. There will come a day where there will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain!

Revelation 21:3, 4

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

VI. Death to Sin!!

3. See ya, CURSE!

Revelation 22:1-3

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

The Challenge:

Sin is ...

stevetreichler.blogspot.com