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Section: Doctrine of Sin

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**Q33. What is sin?**

Sin is disobeying God; sin is any disobedience in heart or deed to God’s perfect law and commands.

* **Inherited, Imputed, and Practiced Sin**

**Genesis 2:15-17** The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. “

* **Reality #1: Inherited Sin (Original Sin)**

**Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

**Psalm 51:5** (NIV) Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

* **Reality #2: Imputed Sin**

**Federal headship:** When Adam sinned, it was counted for all of us. Adam’s choice to sin means that we are brought forth under the penalty of that sin, and his sin is imputed (credited) to us.

* **Reality #3: Practiced Sin**

**1 John 3:4** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

**See the following passages for a list of sins**: Mark 7:21-22; Romans 1:24-31; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Colossians 3:5-9; 1 Timothy 1:9-10; and Revelation 21:8.

* **Passive and Active Sin**

**Romans 7:18-20** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

**Sins of Commission**: actively doing what God prohibits

**Hebrews 9:7** but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

**Sins of Omission**: failing to do what God requires

**James 4:17** So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

**Disobedience in Deed**: Doing or saying what God forbids, or not doing or saying what God commands.

**Disobedience in Heart**: Having the wrong state of mind, motivation, or desires behind what we do or feel.

* **The Sin of Self-Righteousness**

**Luke 16:15** And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

**Mark 10:19-20**“You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”

As long as you live in “achieve mode,” you will live as a slave. We cannot save ourselves from sin. And we are terrible idols—the idol of self cannot provide true, lasting, God-glorifying joy and resolve.

**Romans 3:23** for allhave sinned and fall short of the glory of God

**Romans 3:10-12** ... “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

**Romans 8:7** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

We do not measure up to our holy God because of our vile sin. We are desperate for Christ alone to do this work for us, and then in us.

* **Unbelief: The Root of all Sin**

**Romans 14:23** … For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

**Hebrews 11:6** (NIV) Without faith it is impossible to please God …

* **The Seriousness of Sin**

**R.C. Sproul**: “Sin is cosmic treason.”

**James 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

When we sin, we don’t just miss the bull’s eye and get a part of the target; we fall short of the entire target of God’s perfection and end up on the ground!

**Jeremiah 17:9** (RSV)The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

* **The Penalty for Sin**

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Revelation 20:11-15**

* **Sin is sin**
* **Not all sin is the same**

**RC Sproul**: “Many portions of Scripture tell us there are degrees of sin, guilt, and punishment. The Jewish authorities who turned Jesus over to Rome were guilty of a greater evil than Pilate was because they had greater access to God’s revelation and had less reason for refusing to acknowledge Christ’s identity (John 19:1–16). Punishments under the old covenant civil law were meted out according to the circumstances of the crime (for instance, see Ex. 21:28–32).”

Every sin is in fact cosmic treason, and it is also true that some sins are worse than others.

* **The varying consequences of sin**

**Matthew 23:23-24**

**1 Corinthians 6:18** Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

**Matthew 5:27-28 “**You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

**Psalms 19:13** Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

* **Exposing and Avoiding Sin**
* **The word of God**

**Hebrews 4:11-13**

* **Brothers and sisters in Christ**

**Galatians 6:**1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

**Hebrews 3:13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

* **The Holy Spirit**

**John 16:7-8 “**Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment”

**Romans 6:11-14, 17-18**