

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY

Sin

July 10, 2022

1. What is sin?

*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.
Genesis 1:31 (ESV)*

A. Sin is commission and omission.

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

B. Sin is in our thoughts, not just our actions.

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:28 (ESV)

C. Sin is ignoring God.

*Such are the paths of all who forget God; the hope of the godless shall perish.
Job 8:13 (ESV)*

D. Sin is idolatry.

E. Sin is not necessarily a crime.

F. Sin is breaking God's laws.

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Romans 13:7 (ESV)

G. Sin is breaking the law of conscience.

But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. Romans 14:23 (ESV)

- H. Sin is taking something good and twisting it into something evil.
- I. Sin is taking a good thing and making it a God thing.
- J. Sin is finding our identity in anyone or anything other than Jesus.

2. Are all sins equal?

A. All sin makes us guilty before God.

*You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
Matthew 5:48 (ESV)*

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. James 2:10 (ESV)

B. Not all sin is equally devastating and equally judged.

Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin. John 19:11 (ESV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. James 3:1 (ESV)

*But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV)*

3. What is total depravity?

Utter depravity means I am as sinful as I could possibly be.

Total depravity means everything about me is touched by sin.

- Sin affects our bodies.
- Sin affects our minds.
- Sin affects our emotions.
- Sin affects our thoughts.

- Sin affects our motives.

4. What are some sinful views of sin?

- A. Sin is just breaking an arbitrary rule.
- B. Since Jesus died for my sin, it doesn't matter if I continue in sin.
- C. If I don't confess every sin, I will go to hell.
- D. When I sin, God knows my heart. That is what counts.

You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Matthew 12:34 (ESV)

- E. Since sin is fun, I sin a little. I don't want to live a boring life.
- F. Sin doesn't matter as long as nobody gets hurt.
- G. There is nothing wrong with a little secret sin.
- H. If it is popular, it must be ok since everybody is doing it.

5. What are some sinful responses to my sin?

- A. I minimize my sin.
- B. I think my sin is the exception to the rule.
- C. I blameshift my sin on someone or something else.

D. I only partially confess my sin.

E. I only have worldly sorrow for my sin.

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV)

F. I justify my sin by claiming I am a victim of circumstances.

G. I express mere confession of my sin instead of genuine repentance.

6. How does God respond to sin?

A. God judges sin.

B. God sent his Son to save us from our sin.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. How did this message change your understanding of sin?
2. We talked about the difference between sins of omission and commission. How did that change the way you think about your own sinfulness?
3. Read Romans 14:23. This verse reminds us that violating our conscience is a sin. What is sinful for some people may not be sinful for others. How does this help you better understand that what may be sinful for you that is not sinful for others?
4. What is the difference between total depravity and utter depravity? Why is it important to make this distinction?
5. We discussed some sinful views of sin. Which of those sinful views was most meaningful to you? Why?
6. We talked about sinful responses to sin. Share an example from your own life where you sinfully responded to your sin in one of the ways we talked about in our study.
7. How did this study help you fall more in love with Jesus now that you better understand your sin?