

The Reality Of Sin

by

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November 21, 2013

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The Nature of Sin

Definition of sin: 1 John 3:4 is a key passage that presents a biblical definition of sin. John stated, “*Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*” (NKJV)

Sin = Not doing what God says to do

God has given positive laws to man. For example, James commanded, “*...visit orphans and widows in their trouble...*” (James 1:27). This is a POSITIVE COMMANDMENT; something that God has told us to do. If one refuses to do this, he sins against God’s law.

Sin = Doing what God says not to do

An example of a negative law would be, “*Let him who stole steal no longer...*” (Eph. 4:28). This is a negative statement of law, something that God has told us not to do.

Sin is man’s personal free-moral choice to either not to do what God has told him to do or do what God has told him not to do.

Sin = Omission And Commission

Sin is a way of life

The word sin is used in the Bible to refer to a way of life. For example, when one continues in the practice of sin in general, he or she does what Paul described to the Ephesians concerning their former way of life, “*...in which [sin] you once walked according to the course of this world, ... in the lusts of our flesh ... and of the mind...*” (Eph. 2:2-3). John said that this is the one who “*walks in darkness*” (1 John 1:5-10). The Ephesians lived in a sinful behavior that was commonly practiced in their culture. This was before they were converted.

Sin is a particular action of life

There is also the definition of sin as a **particular action** which the Christian does that is contrary to God’s will. John says, “*... if anyone sins, we have an Advocate ...*” (1 John 2:1). This is the

“occasional” sin that Christians commit but do not practice as a way of life. Therefore, there is a difference between **living in sin** and **committing a sin**. The unrepentant will lose his soul for practicing sin. The repentant will be forgiven of a sin if he or she willingly confesses the sin (1 John 1:7-9). There is, therefore, a difference between the unbeliever who lives in sin and the believer who commits sin. The unbeliever will be lost because he or she did not obey the gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-9). The believer who continues in a sin will be lost because he or she is unrepentant of a particular sin in life for which he or she will not repent (Heb. 10:26; 1 John 5:16).

The Result Of Sin Is Separation And Death

All men have sinned (Rom. 3:9-10, 23). Sin in the life of the individual separates one from God (Isa. 59:1-2), and in separation from God there is spiritual death (Rom. 5:12; 6:23). The result of sin is separation from God which is spiritual death; whenever we think of sin, therefore, we must think of spiritual death.

When we become a Christian, we do not lose our ability to sin. We are still free-moral agents. God does not make us robots. For this reason Paul exhorts Christians, “*awake to righteousness, and do not sin*” (1 Cor. 15:34; Eph. 4:26). He said “*But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection....*” (1 Cor. 9:27). This is a warning to every Christian concerning the deceitfulness of sin in one’s life.

A Christian’s salvation as a result of obedience to the gospel in baptism is conditional. Christians must remain faithful.

The salvation of Christians is at least based upon the following conditions of maintaining faithfulness:

- We must hold fast the word of God (1 Cor. 15:2).
- We must be faithful until the end (Heb. 3:6).
- We must continue in faith (Col. 1:23).
- We must be faithful even to death (Rev. 2:10).
- We must bear fruit (John 15:1-7).
- We must abide in Jesus (John 15:4).
- We must walk in the light (John 1:7).

Read the following:

- Phil. 2:12.
- 1 Tim. 4:16

- Heb. 3:13

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