



Sin

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Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

What is sin?

Sin is wrongdoing, rebelling against God, a transgression God's Law. Ultimately, sin is a state of human nature where a person is estranged from God.

What does I John 5:17 tell us about sin?

I John 5:17 - All unrighteousness is sin, This is a good definition of sin... any and all unrighteousness is sin. To not be righteous is to not be right with God. So anything that keeps us from being right with God is sin.

What was the origin of sin?

Satan was the first of God's creatures to sin... his pride made him rebel against God and act against His will.

Ezek 28:16 - By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.

Did God create sin?

No, by giving us the capacity to make choices, He created the potential for us to sin but He was not the author of sin.

The Nature of Sin

What does Romans 5:12 say about the nature of sin?

Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

The nature to sin as well as the consequences of sin both entered the world through Adam. We all have the same sin nature as Adam because we are all descendants of Adam.

What does Romans 3:23 say about the nature of sin?

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Sin is universal, all people have sinned not able to achieve the perfection that God has....

Psalms 14:3 - They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.

Sin is doing what is not good, a failure to meet the divine standard of God and all people have this problem...

Romans 3:10 - There is none righteous, no, not one;

When do people get their sin nature?

All people are born with a sin nature, it is a part of being human, we have a sin nature from the time we are conceived:

Psalms 51:5 - Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

You can see this in the behavior of children: parents do not train their children to rebel, act selfishly, or be bad; they come by this naturally...

Psalms 58:3 - The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.

What does Romans 8:22 say about the nature of sin?

Romans 8:22 - For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Even nature is affected by the consequences of sin. Before Adam's sin, there was no death even among the animals. We know this because the completed creation was called very good by God and the first we hear of death was as a consequence for sin. Also, the animals were not given to mankind to use as food until after the flood.

What does Joshua 7:11 say about the nature of sin?

Joshua 7:11 - Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them.

Sin is disobeying God's command, transgressing or crossing the boundary God has set for us. When a person disobeys God, they act as though there is no law or certainly that they are not subject to God's law...

I John 3:4 - Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

What does Leviticus 5:17 say about the nature of sin?

Leviticus 5:17 - If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity.

Sin is iniquity which is an inherently wrong, immoral act.

Sin is sin even if you do not know it is wrong. Not knowing the speed limit is no excuse for speeding.

What does Ephesians 5:6 say about the nature of sin?

Ephesians 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Sin is disobedience which is rebellion against authority and it angers God. Also, sin always has consequences.

What does Ephesians 2:1 say about the nature of sin?

Ephesians 2:1 - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
Sin is trespassing on God territory... trying to usurp God's will with your own. Thank God that He has made a way for our trespasses to be forgiven...

Matthew 6:14 - For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

What does Romans 4:5 say about the nature of sin?

Romans 4:5 - But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,
Sin is ungodliness, having characteristics that are not consistent with God. Fortunately, "*Christ died for the ungodly*" (Romans 5:6).

What does 1 John 5:10 say about the nature of sin?

1 John 5:10 - He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.
Sin is unbelief. The person who does not believe that Jesus is who He claimed to be is essentially calling God a liar which really makes that person the real liar.

What does Psalm 90:8 tell us about sin?

Psalm 90:8 - You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.
This passage distinguishes our secret sins from our public sins. Public sins are things such as profanity, lying, theft, murder; secret sins are allowing our emotions to harbor thoughts that constitute envy, jealousy, lust, pride, or hatred.

Is it necessary to do something to sin?

No, sin begins with an evil thought...

Mark 7:21-23 - "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Jesus equated anger with murder and lusting after with adultery (Matthew 5:21-22 & 5:28).

Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

How is it that our thoughts are sinful even if they never result in a public sin?

Certainly a secret sin could lead to a public sin...

James 1:14-15 - But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

However, it is more important to recognize that God knows our thoughts and our motivations for why we do what we do. We can do the right thing for the wrong reason and this is considered sin by God. Doing the wrong thing for the right reason may or may not be sin depending on what the wrong thing is. So the best policy is to strive to do the right thing for the right reason.

What is the sin referred to in Matthew 12:31 that God will not forgive?

Matthew 12:31 - Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.
This is sometimes called the "unforgivable sin." This is the sin of rejecting the testimony of the Holy Spirit about Christ. The person who persists in rejecting Jesus is in danger of being in a permanently lost condition...

Proverbs 29:1 - He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Consequences of Sin**What does John 9:39 say about what sin does to people?**

John 9:39 - And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."
Sin obscures a person's view of reality. Believing Jesus helps a person to understand spiritual matters. Those who claim to understand spiritual matters and do not recognize Jesus for who He is are really blind to spiritual truth...

1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

This distorted view of reality is a universal problem. All people have a distorted view of reality unless they are born again...

Romans 3:11-12 - There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

What does Romans 1:22-23 say about what sin does to people?

Romans 1:21-22 - although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
Professing to be wise, they became fools,
Sin corrupts the soul... it causes people to be unappreciative, to have ineffective and negative thoughts, to think they are wise when they are really foolish.

What does Romans 6:23 say are the consequences of sin?

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

When a person commits a sin, they earn death. This refers to spiritual death since we all have inherited physical death because we live in a world suffering under the consequences of sin.

What is spiritual death?

Spiritual death is separation from God...

Luke 13:27 - But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.'

Over the course of eternity, this separation from your Creator will be terrible...

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 - in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

The Bible refers to this permanent separation from God as the second death...

Revelation 21:8 - But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Why is it fair that people have to pay eternally for sin they committed during the finite period of their lifetime.

Ultimately, the source of all sin is rejecting God. People who reject God do this knowing that this life is a test and they are choosing to spend eternity separate from God.

Romans 1:20-22 - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.

What does Hebrews 12:6 say about the consequences of sin for the Christian?

Hebrews 12:6 - For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

Sometimes the reason bad things happen to Christians is due to chastening from the Lord. Being a Christian is not license to sin, there are consequences in eternity as well as the here and now. God chastens us to get us back in His will so that we can receive all the blessings He has in mind for us. Chastening is a little reminder that we need to take action to correct our own behavior...

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 - For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are

judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

What kind of sin is referred to in 1 John 5:16-17 that leads to death to the believer?

1 John 5:16-17 - If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

This passage is referring about the "sin unto death" of a believer. We know this is talking about a believer who sins because it refers to him as a brother of a believer. Believers can sin so greatly that God will prematurely end their life so as not to harm the witness of the church. I believe this is what happened to Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5.

What should the Christian do who is convicted about their sin?

The Christian should immediately acknowledge his sin to God and ask to be forgiven as soon as he becomes aware of it:

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Remedy for Sin**What does Galatians 3:22 give as the remedy for all of us with a sin nature?**

Galatians 3:22 - But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Our sins may be forgiven by believing that Jesus was indeed the Messiah as He claimed and that His dying on the cross paid the price for our sins. This good news is proclaimed by the same Scripture that helps us see that we all have a chronic sin condition.

What does Romans 1:16 say about the remedy for sin?

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

The sin of the person not trusting in God for salvation should be repented of and they should believe God...

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.