

Understanding Our Sin

Hebrews 12:1-2

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Introduction

- If there were no sin – think how life would be:
 - cf. Romans 4:15 – “... no transgression”
 - ✓ No Consequences (now or eternally)
 - ✓ No need to seek forgiveness
 - ✓ No need to worry about falling
 - ✓ No need to be concerned about children
- But that's not how life on this Earth is
 - As long as we live, there will be the problem of sin.
 - It's a problem as old as man himself
 - Genesis 3:17-19 – “You shall not eat of it”
 - Genesis 4:7 – “sin is crouching at the door”
- Many are still confused about what sin is and how to deal with it
- We need to better understand our day to day sin

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Christians Do Sin

- Baptism didn't prevent that
 - cf. I John 1:8 – “we deceive ourselves”
- Examples:
 - Simon sinned – Acts 8:20-23 – “... bond of iniquity”
 - Peter sinned – Galatians 2:11-14 – “... he stood condemned”
- This just states the facts
 - The Bible nowhere says it's okay to sin
 - Nor does it say sin is excused
 - The Bible also doesn't say you can't help it

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Not Everything Is Sin

- We may be confused about what sin is
- Sin = transgression of law
 - I John 3:4 – “sin is lawlessness”
 - Romans 4:15 – “... where there is no law ...”
- If we transgress the law it is sin
 - No matter how large or small
- But, if we don't violate God's law, it is not a sin
 - Lack of perfection, mistakes, failing to recognize every opportunity

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Misconceptions About Sin

- Some think we sin 24 hours a day
 - That we live a continuous life of sin – every hour
 - That we can't go a day or even an hour without sinning
- Based on a misconception of sin's nature
- Contrary to the plea of I John 2:1
 - “My little children, I am writing these things to you **so that you may not sin**. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

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Misconceptions About Sin

- Others think it is our “nature” to sin
 - “I can't help it”
 - “I'm just human”
 - Of course it's just as much human to do right as wrong
- One of the false doctrines of Calvinism is that mankind has a “sinful nature”
 - Romans 3:10-12 – “... they have become worthless” (cf. Psalms 14:1-3)
 - Context shows this conclusion is not true

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Christians Do Not Walk In Sin

- II John 6 – "... walk according to his commandments"
- Romans 6 – We are not to continue in sin
 - "sin" occurs 17 times in this chapter
- I John 2:1-6 – "... that you may not sin"
- I John 3:4-10 – "... he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God"
- I John 5:16-17 – "... there is sin that does not lead to death"

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Christians Are Not Perfect

- I John 1:5-10 – "If we say we have no sin ..."
- But we must strive for perfection
 - Colossians 1:21-29 (ASV) – "that we may present every man **perfect** in Christ"
 - Matthew 5:43-48 (ASV) – "Ye therefore shall be **perfect**, as your heavenly Father is **perfect**"
 - II Peter 3:18 – "... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
 - Ephesians 4:13 (ASV) – "... a fullgrown man"

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Understanding Our Sin

- Christians Do Sin
- Not Everything Is Sin
- Misconceptions About Sin
- Christians Do Not Walk In Sin
- Christians Are Not Perfect

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How Are You Walking?

- **Have You Heard the Word of God?**
 - James 1:21 – "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
- **Do You Believe the Gospel message?**
 - Hebrews 11:6 – "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

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How Are You Walking?

- **Will You Repent of your sins?**
 - Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"
- **Will You Confess that Jesus is the Son of God?**
 - Romans 10:9-10 – "... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

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How Are You Walking?

- **Will You Be immersed in water?**
 - Acts 2:38 – "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
- **Will You Remain faithful?**
 - Hebrews 3:12-14 – "... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end"

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