

WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT SIN, ANYHOW?

Job 22:5; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8, 10

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Job was afflicted with countless tragedies and one of his "friends" told him that he must have done something awful for God to punish him so much. However Job was and had always been a very righteous man and his friend's accusations were entirely wrong. No question Job had sinned from time to time as had everyone else since Adam and Eve started sin. What's the difference between a sin and a crime? Sin and wickedness?

Sin is considered by many as being a crime, or violation of human law or some rule of honesty. So if a person obeys the law, lives a moral life, he/she has few sins to answer for. Being "wicked" according to human understanding is when a person openly is immoral or profane and who ignores religion.

Sin according to the Bible, however, means a violation of the divine law which first of all requires people to love God with all their hearts and then love their neighbors as themselves. Sin is a transgression, a deviation from God's law. The Gospel requires that one repent, have faith and be obedient and therefore neglecting to obey these things, it is sin in the highest degree.

When one does not obey perfectly ALL of God's commands in feelings, thought, word and action he/she sins. When one does not feel, think, speak and do as God requires, it is sin. When one feels, thinks, speaks or acts in a manner which God forbids, he/she sins.

There is a big difference between what the world and people define sin as being. People won't stand before God and answer for what the world or others call sin, but what God has called sin.

I. SIN STARTS IN A PERSON'S HEART

1. From the heart comes one's attitudes and feelings which can be sinful.

- The outward appearance of a person may appear to be clean, so whatever a person is thinking doesn't really matter, just as long as the outside is acceptable.
- God requires right feelings and attitudes.
- When a person does not love God with all his/her heart, he/she sins.
- When a person does not love his/her neighbor as him/herself, he/she sins.
- When a person does not repent of his/her sins, he/she sins.
- When a person does not have faith in Jesus Christ, he/she sins.
- When a person does not set his/her affections on heavenly things, he/she sins.
- When a person does not rejoice in God, he/she sins.
- When a person does not forgive and love his/her enemies, he/she sins.
- When a person hates anyone, he/she sins.
- When a person feels revengeful or unforgiving, he/she sins.
- When a person envies those above him/her, he/she sins.
- When a person covets anything that somebody else has, he/she sins.
- When a person loves the world, he/she sins., etc.

2. One's thoughts can be sinful.

- Where do thoughts come from? The mind as feelings are from the heart, and can be sinful.
- Sinful thoughts cause thefts, murders, adulteries.
- **Jeremiah 4:14**
- If foolish thoughts are sinful, who can number his/her sins? Who can number this kind of sin of which one is guilty of in just one day?

- What of one's profane, impure, covetous, vain, foolish and idiotic thoughts that pass through one's mind countless times a day?
- A FACT: One's thoughts are WORDS in the ear of God!
 - What one thinks is no less than if one had actually spoken of every thought in plain, aloud words.
 - Can not one "think" a prayer and expect God to hear it? Ah, then if God hears our silent prayer thoughts, does He not hear ALL our thoughts?
 - Every imagination of one's thoughts is from his/her heart/mind and therefore mostly sinful.

3. From the mouth/tongue comes sin.

- "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks..."
- Sin which is in the heart, comes out over one's lips as he/she speaks.
- What of the lies, slanders, profane, indecent words, the idle, empty, words?
- Every idle word is a sin. Idle words are those which do nobody any good.
- "... *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, let your speech be always with grace, let no foolish talking or jesting be named among you...*"
- Every word that comes out of one's mouth that does not speak of others as one would want others to speak of him/her is a sin against the law of love.
- "... *Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even the same to them. Happy is the man, who can truly say, that in this respect alone his transgressions are not numberless...*"

4. Outward actions can be sin.

- Outward actions defined by God, not the world or human laws and ignored by most people.
- There are sins of omission, not doing certain things. "... *withhold not good from him to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. For to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin...*"
- Whenever one has an opportunity to do good, whether to the flesh or the soul and neglect to do it, it is a sin.
 - How many opportunities have YOU let go by?
- God commands that "... *whether we eat, or drink, or whatever we do, to do all to the glory of God...*"
- Every word not spoken, every action not taken, every opportunity to promote the glory of God is a sin.
- Sinful actions come from wrong motives, not having the right feelings, not done with the right attitude that God requires and are defective and sinful.
 - Like a body without a soul - empty.
- Every feeling, thought, word, and action not as God requires it to be is sinful.

II. EVERY SIN COMMITTED DESERVES PUNISHMENT

1, Sin is committed against GOD!

- If a child hits a brother/sister and then hits his/her mother or father, which is worse? Which demands the stricter punishment?

- To violate one of man's laws is one thing, but to violate (sin) one of God's laws is a different matter and more punishment is called for.
- The law of God is perfect, holy, just and good and is for all mankind.
 - Disobedience to God's law demands universal and endless punishment.
- Take away God's law and what is left? Only universal discord, violence and confusion.

2. Every sin tends to promote/produce more sin.

- Sin started with ONE "person" - Lucifer/Satan.
 - Lucifer then led countless other angels into sin.
 - Lucifer/Satan then came to earth and led Adam and Eve into sin.
 - From Adam and Eve sin spread into every human being that has ever lived.
- Who do you know that has committed ONLY one sin? Is it YOU?
- Sin is like a spark of fire which if quickly extinguished does not harm, but if let alone, it will spread and spread and will consume and destroy.

3. Sin has a way of growing in proportion to its opposition.

- What do children do when they are told NOT to do this or that? As quickly as they can they try to do what they were told not to do. Grown ups do the same thing and it is called sin.
- Human law has degrees of punishment for crimes. The more severe the crime, the more severe the penalty.
- God's penalty for sin is everlasting misery if one persists in sin, but promises everlasting happiness if sin is renounced.
- Infinite happiness or infinite misery people are free to choose.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Our sins, so infinite in number and severity deserve everlasting punishment according as God describes in His Word.**
- 2. It is perfectly right for God to inflict such severe punishment upon sinners.**
- 3. God is bound by the strongest obligation to inflict such punishment because He must do that which is just and right.**
- 4. God sent Jesus to provide a way of atonement for the awful sinfulness of mankind for great is the wickedness of man's sins and transgressions.**
- 5. There is no way for any human being to make things right between him/her and God and only eternal punishment will happen - BUT GOD -**
 - **But God made the way for any human being, no matter the number, the degree of sins to be spared from eternal punishment.**
 - **Jesus Christ, God's Son, has made THE way and according to God, anyone who believes in His Son, Jesus Christ, shall be given eternal life and pardoned from all his/her sins.**
- 6. FACT: Every human being is a sinner.**
 - **FACT: Every human being is condemned to eternity in hell.**
 - **FACT: Jesus Christ has made the way for every human being to be saved from hell, have his/her sins forgiven and be accepted into God's heaven.**
 - **FACT: Whosoever believeth in Jesus Christ shall be saved.**