

THE WORLD'S GREATEST DISEASE

1 John 3:4

Introduction: There is certainly something wrong with this world that we live in/on. It can be seen on television, heard on the radio, read in the newspapers, experienced in day to day living by everyone. What our "experts" need to realize is that the trouble is not on the surface but deep and internal in every person. Countless people have appeared normal but were experiencing severe pain. All looked normal on the outside but on the inside a cancer was eating away at their bodies.

Look at our world and you see murder, war, deceit, lust of all kinds. Look deeply into your own heart and the same potentials are there. We say, "these things ought not be" but the Bible tells us that all these things come from one source - SIN - A deeply rooted disease of the soul.

I. WHAT IS SIN?

1. Sin is the transgression of God's law.
 - Transgress means to "go across." For example the traffic lights. Red on one side, green on the other but if one goes through the red light, a law has been broken, transgressed.
 - Our laws are from God's laws. No stealing, no killing, no lying, all these started with God's laws. Knowing right from wrong is basic within every person.
 - To transgress God's laws is sin.
2. Sin is rebellion against God.
 - The prodigal son left home, lived a wild life for a while, then came to his senses and declared, "***I have sinned against heaven and before thee.***" David committed two terrible sins and cried out "***I have sinned against thee, only...***"
 - We sin and usually others are hurt. When children sin they hurt their parents. We sin not only against each other but against God. (***1 Corinthians 10:31***)
3. Sin is the omission of good.
 - ***James 4:17*** - A son who neglects his widowed mother while sinning away their money. The mother dies heartbroken over the son. Surely the son killed his mother with his sinfulness as surely as if he had taken a gun and shot her.
 - There are countless who know that they should accept Jesus but refuse to do so.
 - There are many Christians who should be more active in their Church and to be inactive is to hurt Jesus, while all the time refusing to do what they know they should. This is a sin. Refusing to do good for the Lord is a sin. Neglect can kill a soul.
4. Unbelief is sin.
 - The greatest sin in the world is not murder for one can be forgiven of that, but a person can go to his/her death an unbeliever and be lost forever for that cannot be forgiven after death comes.

- Unbelief is the cause of all other sins. A father who gives to his son all that he has and the son still isn't satisfied and slaps his father. Terrible? Horrible? What does that son deserve? We do the same thing to God. When we do not follow Christ, whom God has given to us, we are slapping God in the face.

II. WHO COMMITS SIN?

1. *Romans 3:23; Eccl. 7:20; Isaiah 53:6; Galatians 3:22*
2. Every great person in the Bible has sinned, except Jesus of course.
 - People of every age, culture, society can get on a Merry-Go-Round, it makes no difference who one is, for all will go the same direction, so it is in real life.
 - Every person, regardless of who they are, who are not saved, are controlled by SIN and are going in the same direction.
 - Sins may vary in degree, in kind, in frequency, but SIN is SIN.
3. A saved person has two natures: to do good and to sin. The two natures are constantly warring against each other for control. The new nature given by the Holy Spirit does not sin.

"That which is born of God commits no sin.."

 - The soul that has been born again does not sin but the old body, the old human nature, does sin. Only Jesus Christ can overcome that old human nature to sin.

III. WHERE DOES SIN COME FROM?

1. Sin comes from the Satan, the old Devil. He started it in heaven, then brought it to the Garden.
2. Sin comes from the sinful nature of man. (*Matthew 15:18*)
 - If the heart is wrong, then the whole life is wrong. Like a disease inside a human body. It is hidden, but it is there and will eventually make it's way to the outside to be seen.
 - Sin is the same. Sooner or later it will appear in our children.

IV. WHAT IS THE PENALTY OF SIN?

1. Physical death is the first penalty of sin.
 - God told Adam not to eat of the certain tree. If he had obeyed, we would not be forced to go through the agony of physical death.
2. Spiritual death and eternal suffering is the final penalty of sin.
 - ***"The wages of sin is death.."*** (*Psalm 9:17; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:15;; 21:8; 20:10*)
 - Surely the truth in these verses is enough to make a person tremble and turn to Christ.

V. WHAT IS THE REMEDY FOR SIN?

1. Education is not the remedy for sin.
 - Some of the most educated people in the world have died and gone to hell.
 - Some of the biggest crooks of today are the most educated people around.
 - At some point or other, the old sin nature will jump in and cause one to sin. One can be trained to act like a Christian but the heart hasn't been changed and the old sin nature will sooner or later take over again.
2. Good environment is not the remedy for sin.
 - Take a pig, bath it, tie a ribbon around it's neck, dress it up, teach it tricks, but sooner or later when given the chance, it will return to it's natural way of life and into the mud it will go.
 - You can change a person's environment but unless the heart has also been changed, that person will return to sinning eventually.
3. Jesus Christ is the only remedy for sin.
 - ***"Ye must be born again.."*** Get the heart right and the rest will come along.
 - Not every little sin needs preaching on. If people get right with Jesus Christ, the other matters will get straight also.
 - Jesus saves from the guilt of sin.
 - Jesus paid the price for our sins. He saves us by our faith and forgives and forgets.
 - Jesus saves us from the power of sin.
 - Only through Jesus Christ can we ever hope to overcome sin. We cannot do it alone.
 - Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin.
 - Each person is going to either heaven or hell and without Jesus Christ, it will be hell.

CONCLUSION:

1. Because of our sins we do not deserve to be saved from Hell.
2. Look at the crucifixion. One man died in sin, another was saved from sin, and the other died for sin.
3. Every human being is infected with the disease of sin. Sooner or later the symptoms will appear and bodily death will occur. However eternal death can be avoided by the only cure and that cure is found in Jesus Christ.
4. Christians, we have been spared eternal death because of our belief in Jesus Christ. Surely we can spread the good news that Jesus Christ Cures the disease of Sin.