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**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES  
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION  
SESSION 6 –  
SIN**

**WHAT IS SIN?**

In dealing with sin, it is important to know what sin is. If asked to define sin, people will come up with many different definitions as to what sin is and they are usually the things that the individual does not like. One of the most common definitions of sin is missing the mark which is failure to live up to an expected standard. The problem with this definition of sin is found in **1 John 3:4** which says, *“Sin is the transgression of the law.”*

Put simply, according to this verse, sin is anything that is contrary to what the Word of God commands or forbids. This definition, however, does not consider those things about which the Word of God is silent. The best definition for sin is found in **1 John 5:17** where it says, *“All unrighteousness is sin.”*

In considering the question of sin, we are faced with two startling facts.

The first fact is that man makes so little of sin. To some, it is an illusion – a religious mirage -the invention of some fanatic. It is denied, joked about, and laughed at by man. Many who believe sin to be a fact, continue in it with little thought of its penalty.

The second fact is that God makes so much of sin. God said In **Ezekiel 18:20**, *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die”*. And in **Romans 6:23**, it says, *“The wages of sin is death.”* All sins are an abomination unto God” (**Prov. 6:16-19**) and *“He hates those who work iniquity.”* (**Ps. 5:5.**) In **Deuteronomy 25:16** Moses said, *“... All that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord.”*

Sin is an evil force. Its presence cannot be escaped in this life, but it can be overcome by the power of God.

**ORIGIN OF SIN**

The origin of sin is one of the mysteries of the Bible. **Deuteronomy 29:29** says, *“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God.”* Its origin is one of the “secret things” that will remain wrapped in obscurity. Sin is first noted in the heart of Satan. He was created a perfect being, *“... till iniquity was found in thee.”* (**Ezek. 28:11-19.**) Satan fell from perfection when he

exerted his will above the will of God. In **Isaiah 14:12-14** he said *“I will”* five times. It was his will over God’s will – this is sin.

## 1. Sin is transgression of the law.



**1 John 3:4** *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”*

It is impossible to deny the existence of sin when the whole world is in conflict between good and evil. If sin were not a fact, there would be no crime; we would not need jails or prisons. We would need no locks on our doors, or vaults for our valuables. To some, sin is being indiscreet, or it is a weakness of the flesh. To others, it is the absence from good. To the so-called scholar, sin is ignorance, and to the evolutionist, it is the nature of the beast. The latest theory is that sin is a disease to be treated by science, because man is not a sinner – he is only sick. To others, sin is a form of selfishness, but God declares that:

Transgression means illegal, wickedness, unrighteousness, and iniquity. In **Matthew 7:23** it deals with iniquity by stating that those that are workers of iniquity will depart from God. In **Matthew 24:12** it speaks of the end times that iniquity shall abound, and the love of many shall wax cold. It is evident that this is exactly what is happening at this point in time.

## 2. Sin is coming short of the glory of God.



**(Romans 3:23)**. Like a dart board with the center in red, we come short of hitting the target as God’s creation. Sin keeps us from being in the presence of God and knowing the glory of God. It separates us from God until it is repented of. Only those with clean hands and a pure heart and hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully shall ascend into the hill of the LORD. **(Psalm 24:3-7)**

## 3. Sin is rebellion against God.

Rebellion means apostacy, or to turn away from God and do wrong. Satan rebelled, and many have followed his lead. Another definition of rebellion is bitterness. Most bitter people are in rebellion. Some scriptural examples are **Isaiah 1:2** *“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.”* **1 Samuel 15:23; Nehemiah 9:16-28; Deuteronomy 31:26-30; Proverbs 17:11; Jeremiah 28:15-17; Jeremiah 29:32**

#### 4. Sin is unbelief. It makes God a liar!

1 John 5:10; *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.”*

Unbelief is a serious sin. We would not call God a liar to his face, yet when we do not believe his Word or his promises, we are literally doing just that. God cannot do mighty works where there is unbelief (Matthew 13:58) Unbelief caused the disciples not to cast a devil out of a man. (Matthew 17:20) Mark 9:24; and Mark 16:14 tell us that unbelief and hardness of heart caused Jesus to upbraid the disciples after the resurrection. Hebrews 3:12-19 and Hebrews 4:6 lets us know that the Hebrews could not enter into rest because of their unbelief. Unbelief must be confessed as sin and repented of if we are to receive the blessings of God.

#### 5. Sin is going your own way, planning your life according to your own will, without seeking the will of God.

(Isaiah 53:6) You can watch a child and see the sin nature in them. You tell them “no”, and they do things anyway. This is the nature of sin, wanting to do our “own thing” in our “own way”. A child must be trained right from wrong, and the only way that can be done is through training from God’s word. That is the only source of truth, and the only source that rightly divides truth. Remember, all have sinned, so it is not an issue that only a few are dealing with. All means all.

#### 6. All unrighteousness is sin.

(1 John 5:17). All means all. A person may call it their little problem, or their style, or even their right, but unrighteousness is sin. Living a lifestyle of unrighteousness will eventually lead to physical death; and without Christ to redeem them before they die, they will also have a spiritual death.



Sin is **a folly to deceive you, a force to destroy you and a fact to condemn you.** Sin is a volitional act of disobedience against the revealed will of God.

### WHAT SIN DOES

Sin, regardless of its degree, always has an effect which is separation. Sin separates one from God. This separation from God is death. Adam was told that if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that he would die (**Genesis 3:3**). Adam ate of the tree and immediately died spiritually, that is, his soul was separated from God. Then he began to die physically.

The entrance of sin into the human race brought with it death (**Romans 5:12; 6:23**). That man is a sinner is proven by the fact that he dies. Where there is death, there is sin. Sin's penalty, death, can be remedied by life which is union with God. This is achieved by belief in Jesus, the penalty of sin is then broken. Yes, man will die physically (unless he is alive when Jesus returns to take all believers unto himself) but physical death for the believer is only the doorway into the presence of God.

Sin, however, does have an effect upon the believer, for it mars his fellowship with God. Sin in the believer's life is a terrible thing and is not to be tolerated. While it is evident that the believer will sin at times because of his old nature, it is never necessary for him to do so. (**1 John 2:1.**)

## **WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT SIN?**

The believer should never condone or attempt to excuse his sin. There are only two things that should be done about sin:

1. Confess it.
2. Forsake it.

The Old and New Testaments are in agreement on this. David confessed his sin and experienced the Lord's forgiveness. (**Psalm 51.**) John agrees with this in **1 John 1:9** where he points out, ***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

To confess means to acknowledge or to say the same thing as. The believer is instructed that he is to say the same thing as God says about his sin. "It is sin." When the believer confesses his sin, he has the assurance that God "is faithful" and "just." He can count on God to keep his Word. God is just because he paid the price for our sins on the cross so he could forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

There is no sin too great and no sin too small that God is unable to cleanse us completely from. This is consistent with God's moral character.

Once we have confessed our sin to God, then we are to forsake our sin and yield ourselves totally to God. Forsaking means you don't go back and willfully do it again. In doing this the believer is restored to full fellowship with God.

## **TEMPTATION BY THE WORLD**

1 John 2:15 says, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*

The term “world” does not always refer to the universe as created by God. It is often used to describe the community of sinful humanity that possesses a spirit of rebellion against God (1 John 5:19). Because of its opposition to God, the world values those things which are contrary to God's will: 1 John 2:16 says, *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”*

Its temptations are thus twofold: lust for the sensual and pride in mastery of his own life. The attraction of the world is amplified by Satan who is the head of the world system. He is called the “prince of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). The world is said to be under his power, (1 John 5:19) where “wickedness” can be translated “wicked one”.

Some of the tragic effects that love of the world will produce in the believer's life are:

1. A turning away from the Lord's work and other believers (2 Timothy 4:10).
2. Alienation from God (James 4:4).
3. Corrupting sins (2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 2:15-17).
4. Deception by false teachers (1 John 4:1; 2 John 7).

The solution to the love of the world is to have a greater love for the Father (1 John 2:15). The Christian who seeks daily to please God in everything and who strives for spiritual growth through prayer, study of God's Word, and witnessing need not fall prey to the temptations of the world.

## **TEMPTATION BY THE FLESH**

Flesh in the Bible often means something other than the substance of the human body. It is used constantly to refer to the carnal, sinful principle within man that is opposed to God (**Romans 8:7**). The actions produced by the flesh are given in detail in **Galatians 5:19-21**. Among these are all types of sexual immorality, impurity, hatred, anger, false religions, envy, and drunkenness. A person whose life is characterized by these sins cannot be a true Christian and is under the wrath of God (**Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 2:3**).

Though the flesh is not eradicated for the Christian at his salvation, he does not have to obey it. (**Romans 7:15-25**). He possesses a new nature empowered by the Holy Spirit. Since the flesh and the Spirit are totally opposed to each other, the one whom the believer allows to dominate him will take charge in his life and produce its own fruit.

The solution to the urges of the flesh lies in acknowledging that the power of sin was nullified by Jesus' death (**Romans 6:11**) and in living under the control of the Holy Spirit's power (**Galatians 5:16**). The latter is a moment-by-moment dependence in faith on being empowered by the Holy Spirit. The believer must choose by an act of his will to benefit from the Holy Spirit's enablement.

## **TEMPTATION BY SATAN TO SIN**

The role of Satan against the Christian is well summed up by the meaning of the name Satan, which is "adversary." He is also called "the devil," which means "accuser." He can appear as a hideous dragon (**Rev. 12:3, 4, 9**) or as a beautifully deceptive "angel of light" (**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**) who promotes defiance among men (**Mark 4:15; Job 2:4-5**).

When Satan sinned, he was expelled from heaven (**Luke 10:18**) although he continues to have some access to God (**Job 1:6**). A multitude of angels (one third of the heavenly host) cast in their lot with him in his fall, and subsequently became the demons mentioned often in the bible. Although Satan's doom was secured by Jesus' death on the cross, he will continue to hinder God's program until he and his angels are cast into the lake of fire (**Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10**).

The terrifying work of Satan in the unbeliever is described in scripture as follows:

1. He blinds their minds (**2 Cor. 4:4**).
1. He takes the Word of God from their hearts (**Luke 8:12**).
3. He controls them (**Acts 13:8**).

In regard to Christians, Satan may:

1. Accuse them (Rev. 12:10).
2. Devour their testimony for Christ (1 Peter 5:8).
3. Deceive them (1 Cor. 11:3-4).
4. Hinder their work (1 Thess. 2:18).
5. Tempt them to immorality (1 Cor. 7:5).
6. Used by God to discipline Christians (2 Cor. 12:7).

The Christian's response to Satan is to:

1. Recognize his power and deception (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph 6:11)
2. Adhere steadfastly to the faith. (1 Peter 5:9)
3. To resist him openly (James 4:7).
4. To not give him opportunities (Ephesians 4:27).

In practice, the best way to oppose him is to be a growing Christian. Also, in the light of his tremendous power to blind men to the gospel, Christians must always be aggressively and compassionately witnessing to the lost in order to snatch them from sin and from Satan's control.

Believers can respond to temptation from Satan with confidence. We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Romans 8:28-39.)

We must also remember that temptation is not a sin in itself. It is when we yield to the temptation that sin comes in. If we do not yield to temptation, then we are not sinning. Satan plants thoughts in our minds but we cast them down and we don't yield to them.