

The Reality Of Sin

- *Romans 3:23*

- Sin is not a subject that the average Christian likes to talk about ... much less the average person in our world today.
- In days gone by, when you mentioned sin, people would be convicted & search out their own heart & lives, but not anymore.
- As a matter of fact, the mention of sin fails to move most people at all today b/c they have become so desensitized over sin & fail to realize the danger that sin poses on a person's life.
 - Our government has taken the stand that much of the "sin" that is taking place in the lives of people today is not sin at all; it's just an alternate lifestyle or the "way they were born".
 - From society's standpoint, "sin" is too strong of a word b/c of its offensive nature & sound.
 - And for these reasons, many churches have taken a stand to not talk about sin or its affects b/c of the reaction their congregations may have.
- This is absolutely absurd in my humble opinion & these thoughts change nothing as to the nature & the consequences of sin.
 - It might offend a murder for me to call him a convict or a killer, but the relevance of me warning my family about him does not change b/c it may be offensive to him.
- We can't shy away from the issue of sin ... b/c it is real, it is still destroying lives today, and it still leads people to an everlasting hell. If anyone is going to warn people of the consequences of sin, surely the church will do its part, AMEN!
- But we are living in a culture today that has so watered down what true sin is that the average person (even some Christians) don't really think the things that they are doing are really sin.
 - What happened to holy living? Why aren't people compelled to live a holy & separated life anymore? Simply b/c they enjoy sin too much.
 - Why aren't people convicted over sin in their lives like they should be? Because they don't see the harm that sin does to their lives & the lives of others.
- So this morning, we are going to take a simplistic approach to this issue of sin & address the realness & the severity of living in sin. The first question we will answer is this ...

1) What Is Sin?

- In its simplest, truest form, sin is ...

a) Breaking God's Law

- i) I John 3:4 - "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."
- ii) Transgression: violation of a law; breaking the law.
- iii) God has given us a law to live by that is found throughout the Word of God. He has given us principles & standards to help shape our lives & keep us from the dangers of sin.
 - (1) The Ten Commandments – They were given to Moses to give to God's people to help guide their lives & to establish some boundaries. They are not just to be used as ornaments on our living room walls. They are to be lived by & upheld & shown as an example to our families & our children.
 - (a) "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Is that still real today?
 - (b) "Thou shalt not kill."
 - (c) "Remember the Sabbath day & keep it holy."
 - (d) "Thou shalt not covet."
 - (2) Sermon on the Mount – Do you think that was just for the Israelites or the New Testament followers?
 - (3) Moral laws of our conscience

- iv) Yet, though we know what we should do, we know what is right & wrong, often we choose to do wrong b/c we want to, and that is called sin.
 - (1) The devil didn't make you do it, friends didn't persuade you to do it ... at the end of the day, when we sin, we sin b/c we want to.
 - (2) James 4:17 – "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
 - (3) It may be great or small, at least in our eyes, but we have still broken the law of God.

b) Unrighteousness

- i) I John 5:17 – "All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."
- ii) But what is unrighteousness? What does it mean to live an unrighteous life?
 - (1) Bad Habits
 - (a) Cursing, bad language
 - (b) Anything "addictive" in our life.
 - (2) Complaining
 - (a) When Moses was leading the children of Israel to the Promised Land, all it seemed they did was complain, and God counted their complaining as sin.
 - (3) Criticism
 - (4) Forgetting God
 - (5) Greed (Col. 3:5)
 - (6) Gossip
 - (7) Hatred (I Jn. 3:15)
 - (8) Hypocrisy
 - (9) Lust (Matt. 5:28)
 - (10) Pride (Prov. 21:4)
 - (11) Selfishness
 - (12) Unfaithfulness
- iii) All of these things are a picture of unrighteous living & they should have no part in the life of a Christian, for when we commit these unrighteous acts, we have sinned against God.

c) Lack of Faith

- i) When one doesn't believe in God & in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, this is the greatest of all sins.
- ii) John 3:18 – "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
- iii) Folks, sin is real today.

2) Where Did Sin Come From?

a) Satan

- i) Isaiah 14:12-15 – "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."
- ii) I John 3:8 – "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning."
- iii) Sin originated with the Father of Sin, Lucifer. As a result of his rebellion against God, he & 1/3 of all the angels were cast out of Heaven.

3) Who Commits Sin?

a) ALL

- i) Not some, not most, not just bad people ... the Bible says we ALL have sinned.
 - (1) Ecclesiastes 7:20 – "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."
 - (2) Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

- ii) We rank sins, we categorize sins, we see the murderer as worse than telling a lie, the thief worse than gossip; but in God's eyes, sin is sin.

4) What Does Sin Do?

- **This is a good question. Actually, this is a question we need to think about more often than we do, b/c when we are sinning, we are not thinking about the consequences, but the consequences are real.**

a) Tricks You

- i) The alcoholic thought at the first drink he could control it, now it controls him.
- ii) The adulterer thought looking at women & lusting after them was harmless, now it has wrecked his life & his family.
- iii) The thief thought one dollar wouldn't make a big difference, now it controls his life.
- iv) You see, sin is the great deceiver among people b/c it always takes you much farther & causes more damage than you ever intended.

b) Tortures The Soul

- i) All of the sadness in our world today, the depression, the tragedy ... is a result of sin.
- ii) Teenagers, you play with sin today, you will suffer the consequences tomorrow.
- iii) Adults, get out of the sinning business. It is destroying lives, it's destroying homes, it's destroying your testimonies!

c) Scars Your Life

- i) Now I am speaking to you as a Pastor this morning, but I am also speaking to you as a Christian brother ... if you play with sin, God will forgive you, but there are scars that you will have to deal with for the rest of your life.
 - (1) Girls, listen to me this morning. There's not a one of you that are old enough to be seeing or dating any guy, Amen parents? Don't you get involved in a relationship with some guy & allow him to do whatever he wants with you.
 - (a) #1 – It's not his to have, you belong to God.
 - (b) #2 – If you choose to go against the Word of God & get involved in an inappropriate relationship ... that is sinning against God. Now God will forgive you, but there will be scars that you will have to live with for the rest of your life.
 - (2) Guys, you mess around with other teenagers that are involved in drugs, alcohol, sex & other sins, it will not only leave you empty, but it will leave your life scarred.
 - (3) You see, I don't have to be 60+ years old to stand up here & tell you that sin leaves scars on your life. In my short time in the ministry, I have already seen several lives wrecked & scarred b/c they didn't get rid of sin in their lives.
 - (a) Now you may think this morning that it can never happen to you & I could take you to some young people today who said the same thing, yet their lives are scarred by sin today.
 - (4) Adults, we are supposed to be the examples to this generation. We are the ones that are supposed to show these kids what a holy, God-fearing life looks like. What kind of example are you showing them with your life?

- ii) The greatest question that needs to be asked this morning though is ...

5) What Is The Remedy For Sin?

a) Jesus Christ

- i) This is the simplest part of the entire message. Jesus is the ONLY remedy for the sin in your life this morning.
 - (1) We just celebrated Easter a few weeks ago & our Lord's triumphant return from the grave. But the reason He died is that we could have forgiveness.
- ii) It has been said there are 2 things we can be certain of in this life:
 - (1) Sin is present,
 - (2) But God is willing to take you from the grips of sin & save your soul if you will come to Him.

- iii)** If I came to you this morning & informed you that you would die in the next hour unless you took this medication, would you even hesitate to take it?
- (1)** I wouldn't be concerned with the side effects,
 - (2)** I wouldn't be concerned with the cost,
 - (3)** Why? Because it would save my life.
- iv)** On Calvary's cross, Jesus paid for your salvation by giving His life. If you turn your back on this remedy, there is nothing left for you but eternal life in a place called hell.