

What is "Sin" ?

Beavercreek church of Christ - Beavercreek, OH - September 20, 2020

Brief Definitions of Some Terms

- Lawlessness - Thayer's Greek Lexicon - STRONGS NT #458: ἀνομία
ἀνομία, ἀνομίας, ἡ (ἄνομος);

1. properly, the condition of one without law — either because ignorant of it, or because violating it.
2. contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness ... opposed to ... to iniquity — personified — in order to work iniquity ... act wickedly ... in the same sense ... manifestations of disregard for law, iniquities, evil deeds ...

Brief Definitions of Some Terms

- Sin - Thayer's Greek Lexicon - STRONGS NT # 265: ἁμάρτημα

... a sin, evil deed, ...

- Transgression - Thayer's Greek Lexicon - STRONGS NT #3847: παράβασις

...properly, a going over; metaphorically, a disregarding, violating; ...absolutely, the breach of a definite, promulgated, tariffed law: ... is wrong-doing which even a man ignorant of the law may be guilty of ... to create transgressions, i. e. that sins might take on the character of transgressions, and thereby the consciousness of sin be intensified and the desire for redemption be aroused, ...

ii

Brief Definitions of Some Terms

- Conscience - Thayer's Greek Lexicon - STRONGS NT #4893: συνείδησις

a. the consciousness of anything: ... a soul conscious of sins, ... consciousness of nobility; a soul mindful of its noble origin, ...

b. "the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending the one, condemning the other; conscience": ...

"Conscience" - noun

...the inner sense of what is right or wrong in one's conduct or motives, impelling one toward right action: to follow the dictates of conscience. the complex of ethical and moral principles that controls or inhibits the actions or thoughts of an individual. an inhibiting sense of what is prudent: ...
- Dictionary.com

iii

Why Do We Need Authority from God?

- A Fair Question.... See Matthew 21:23
- Man needs assistance from a higher source...See Prov. 12:14; Jer. 10:23
- God's Word saves souls...See James 1:21
- We need the benefit of Divine Illumination provided by His revelation - Ps. 119:105
- God as the Creator, with all knowledge, knows what is best for man
- God loves us; He has our best interests in mind & set things up this way
- Remember, we are created "good", but like sheep we go astray....
- God has sent His Son as the perfect sacrifice and invited us to have fellowship with the godhead by "walking in the light" (as shown to us in His Word).
- Notice what Paul told Felix as he spoke along these lines: "But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you." Acts 24:25

2

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no one is declared righteous before him by the works of the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God (which is attested by the law and the prophets) has been disclosed – namely, the righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

- Romans 3:19-24 (NET Bible)

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- James 1:13-15 (ESV)

3

Look, the Lord's hand is not too weak to deliver you; his ear is not too deaf to hear you. But your sinful acts have alienated you from your God; your sins have caused him to reject you and not listen to your prayers.

- Isaiah 59:1-3 (NET Bible)

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- James 1:13-15 (ESV)

4

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

- Psalm 1 (NASB)

5

Numerous Concepts in Understanding "Sin"

- Sin is considered a "trespass" (*i.e. stepping into an 'unauthorized' area*)
- Sin is often described as "missing the mark" (*e.g. Shooting at a target*)
- The Bible describes sin as "lawlessness" (Gk. *anomos* #459)
- Sometimes we speak in terms of "committing the sin of"
- On other occasions, we say "they are living in sin"
- We must also understand there are sins of "omission"
- Who is it that determines what "sin" is?
- How are we to understand what "sin" is?

6

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
 The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
 The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
 The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
 More to be desired are they than gold,
 Yea, than much fine gold;
 Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
 Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
 And in keeping them there is great reward.

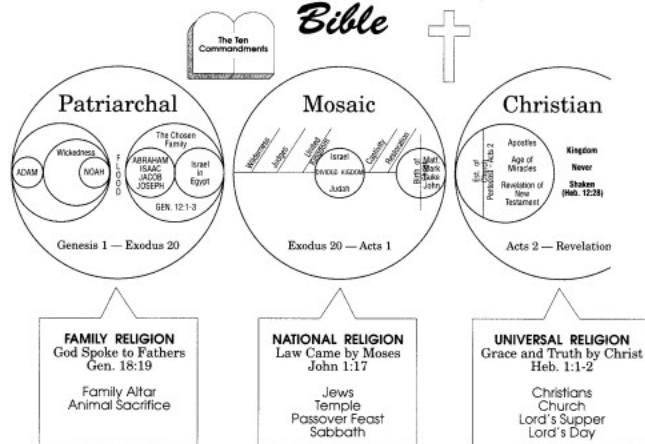
- Psalm 19:7-11 (NKJV)

7

Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away. Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest. You shall stumble by day; the prophet also shall stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

- Hosea 4:1-6 (ESV)

Historical Periods of the Bible



3 LAW AGES

- God gives the instruction
- His Instruction can be understood
- Mankind either sins or submits

3 EXAMPLES

- Eating of pork
Mosaic Law vs NT Law
(Lev. 11:1-8 and Acts 10:9-16)
- Passover Observance
Mosaic Law vs NT Law
Num. 28:16 and Col. 2:14-17
- Circumcision 8th day
Mosaic Law vs NT Law
Lev. 12:1-3 and Gal. 5:1-4

Chart from Basic Bible Doctrines, Book 1, pg 3, Robert Harkrider

**Our
Law Today...**



**The New
Testament**

Hebrews 9:15

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

- *Hebrews 9:15 (KJV)*

10

**The New
Covenant**



**The Perfect
Law of Liberty**

James 1:25 & 2:12

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

- *James 1:25 (KJV)*

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

- *James 2:12 (KJV)*

11

The New Covenant



The Gospel of Christ/Lord Jesus

Romans 1:15-17

2 Thess. 1:5-8

So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."
- *Romans 1:15-17 (NKJV)*

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, ... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. - *2 Thess. 1:5-8 (ESV)*

12

The New Covenant



The Doctrine of Christ

2 John 9,10

I Timothy 4:6

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:
- *2 John 9,10 (KJV)*

If thou put the brethren in mind of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished in the words of the faith, and of the good doctrine which thou hast followed until now

- *I Timothy 4:6 (ASV)*

13

The New Covenant



The Law of Christ

Galatians 6:1,2

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

- Galatians 6:1,2 (NASB)

14

The Concept of the Sum of God's Word is Truth

- In any law age, the totality of what God said about a matter is the truth on that particular matter.
 - Psalm 119:160 - The sum of thy word is truth (ESV, NASB, ASV)
 - $1+2+3 = "6"$ 7 is the wrong answer...5 is the wrong answer
 - Cannot "confuse" laws from different covenants: yield wrong answer
- SOLUTION:**
- Take ALL God said in the NT, for example, on a subject
 - Rightly divide and harmonize all those passages
 - Discern the proper answer....God's Divine Will for the NT age!

15

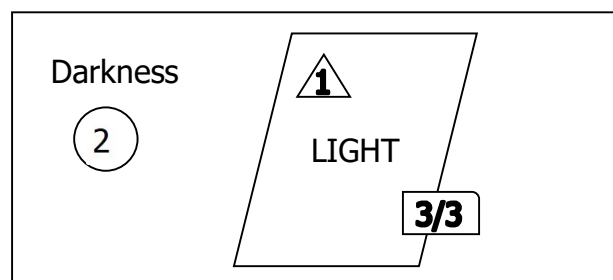
The Light and Darkness Concept

- In any law age, the totality of what God said about a matter is the truth on that particular matter.
- Psalm 119:105 - Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path...
- When we are walking IN God's Word, we are in the light
- When we are NOT walking in God's Word, we are in darkness
- The light represents the truth and darkness represent sin
- One can be said to be "walking" (i.e. continuing) in sin (I John 1:6-9)
- We can also "step" out of the light in a moment (sin) into darkness

16

The Light and Darkness Concept

- Jesus said when we follow Him, we are in the light John 8:12
- God teaches, via Paul, that when we follow brethren, we are to ONLY do so as we understand them to be following Christ!
- "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." I Cor. 11: 1 (ESV)



17

The Sin of Omission Concept

- There are passages that teach us to "do good" Gal:6:10
- "Good" is defined in the NT by God in His Word
- Matthew 25 is full of teaching concerning sins of omission
- Ability + Opportunity = Responsibility Parable of the Talents Mt 25:14-29
- To him that knows to do good and does not do it...it is SIN James 4:17
- Eph. 4:28; Gal. 6:10; James 1:25-27; I Tim. 5:16: teach responsibilities
- Can we check on the shut-ins, caregivers, sick, the erring? Gal. 6:10
- Remember the story of the "Good Samaritan"? Who sinned by omission?
- Personal Bible study, spreading the gospel, encouraging the weak, etc.

18

Consider: Our Own Conscience

- Our conscience is that part of us that believes what is right and wrong
- Our conscience is the basis for our "*personal right and wrong meter*"
- This "sense" is something that *might be* "notional", "a feeling", etc.
- Our consciences can mislead us if they are not aligned with God's will
- Our conscience can even be "hardened" and we can have "knowledge" of what is wrong and no "guilty conscience" in doing it!
- Paul said in Acts 23:1, he had no guilty conscience persecuting saints
- It is admirable to consistently live according to one's conscience
- How far apart on some subjects are "our" consciences & Divine truth?
- Ever wonder what kind of problem this can pose? Consider....

19

Things Mandatory, Liberties, Forbidden & Our Conscience

- John has a "conscience" that it is wrong to drink grape juice. However, drinking grape juice is mandated in the LS and John believes it is forbidden! (Mt. 26; I Cor. 11)
- Mary believes it is wrong to eat pork. Her "conscience" won't allow it. Mary's dilemma is not as bad as John's. She believes that something that is really a "liberty" is "forbidden". Her *belief* is wrong, but she is not sinning by never eating pork.
- Notice the combinations possible with these activities:

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | M/L | M/F, | L/F | L/M | F/L | F/M |
| SOLUTION: | M/M | | L/L | | F/F | |

20

The Sin Against Our Own Conscience Concept

- While living consistently "true" to your conscience, is admirable, it does us no good "for eternity" if not in accordance with God's law
- We face a huge delimma when our conscience is not fully taught in accordance with the law of God we are amenable to.
- Romans 14:23 says that whatsoever is not of faith is sin....
- Doesn't this passage teach that if we are guilty of violating our own personal convictions (and/or conscience) we sin?
- Growth in learning and understanding and then applying properly the law of Christ is essential to our spiritual well-being!

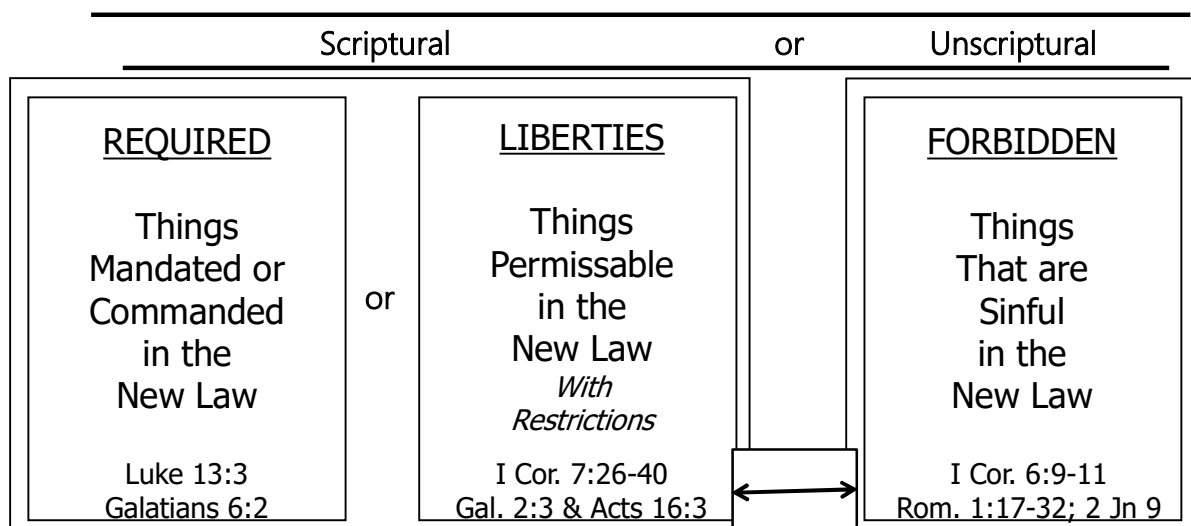
21

The Sin Against Our Brother's Conscience Concept*

- * This sin involves violating the conscience of a brother or sister in "liberties only" in the NT age
- We must do the mandated & abstain from the forbidden!
- We must learn our brothers' and sisters' conscience or.....
- We should also, in time, encourage study and growth on such a matter
- I Corinthians 8 & Romans 14 speak to liberties and this type of sin

22

All Activities are Either...



23

Conclusion

- Sin is determined by God; We can only know it by proper study!
- All have sinned! (Rom. 3:23) God provides remedies for sin.
- Those not Christians - God's Plan of Salvation for alien sinners
- Those who are erring Christians - God's Plan of forgiveness for saints
- God is not happy when we stop studying and growing in knowledge
- 2 Peter 3:18; Matthew 7:17,18; John 15:1-15
- We must correct ALL sin...God provides the remedies for our sins...It is our CHOICE to use His remedies!
- We are told to learn to HATE SIN (Psalm 119:104) Do we?

24

The Sin of Misapplying Passages in the NT for the Individual to the Local Church

- The devil will use any and all tactics in spiritual warfare to win
- One very tricky method is to tempt us to take passages that are instruction in the NT for the "individual" and apply them to "the local church"!!!
- This has caused *terrible division in the body of Christ*
- Some Christians teach that "*whatever two or more individuals can do, the church can do*"
(Ref. Study between myself and Will Mayhue, former preacher for the Cartaret church of Christ in Brunswick, GA)
- What sounds "good" to some, is still lacking in scriptural support from the NT:
 - Can 2-7, for example, individual Christians operate a furniture store? **Yes**
 - Can the local church operate a furniture store? **No**
- Passages to the individual (*for example*). I Tim. 5:16b; Gal. 6:1-10; Jas. 1:25
- How can we tell the difference? (Study, check immediate context, remote context, personal pronouns, etc.)
- Consider these passages to the church (*for example*). I Tim. 5:16:b; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:17-34
(Note: "eat at home" is instruction for the members of a local congregation as to what NOT to do in the church assembly)

25

Examples of Misapplying Passages in the NT for the Individual to the Local Church

- Church funded/sponsored recreation.
- Spending the local church treasury funds to support orphan asylums or old aged institutions.
- Church putting "coffee, Starbucks-like shops" in buildings owned or rented with local church funds.
- Churches sending funds to one church, in evangelism, to allow the elders of the receiving church to oversee the evangelistic work (of many churches? the work of the receiving church only? -----either way they are both without authority!
- The NT pattern for the local church limits the oversight of the elders to the flock which is among them, NOT to oversee the work of several churches in evangelism!
- A local church doing benevolent work for those who are not saints! 2 Jn 9

26

Thanks for considering this message from God's Word !
If you would like to ask questions, make comments, or are interested in a
free Bible study by phone, please contact:

Mark J Ward
teacher@religiousinstructor.com
 - +1 912.269.7637 -

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.....If we follow Jesus, we can be saved!

John 14:6 - Matthew 16:24 - John 6:68

www.religiousinstructor.info
www.religiousinstructor.com

END