

# **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

**By: Robert Hall**

**Copyright ©2011 by Robert Hall. This material copyrighted and remains the exclusive property of Robert Hall. Permission is given to make copies for personal non-commercial use including for individual and group study and teaching. Written permission of the author is required for any other use.**

# **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>PART ONE: Defining and Describing Sin .....</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Defining sin.....	1
B. We are sinners in at least two ways.....	1
C. Terminology for sin.....	2
D. Acts of sin.....	2
E. Scriptures showing that people possess a sinful nature.....	3
F. The results of having a sinful nature and personal sin.....	4
G. The remedy for sinful acts and the sinful nature.....	4
1. The remedy for our sinful actions.....	4
2. The remedy for our sinful nature.....	5
a. The word of God.....	5
b. The Holy Spirit.....	5
c. Christ's death and resurrection provides victory over sin's power.....	5-6
d. Dedication receives victory over the power of sin.....	7
H. Degrees of sin.....	8
<b>PART TWO: The Beginning of Sin.....</b>	<b>9</b>
A. Satan.....	9
B. Man.....	10-13
<b>PART THREE: Sinless Perfection.....</b>	<b>14</b>
A. Can we be perfect?.....	14-15
B. Error of sinless perfection in this life.....	15
C. Resolving the tension between 1 John 1:8-10 and 3:6, 9.....	16
D. Resolving the tension between 1 John 3:6, 9 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-3.....	16-18
<b>PART FOUR: The Forgiveness of Sins.....</b>	<b>19</b>
A. Introduction to forgiveness.....	19-20
B. Forgiveness by God.....	21
1. Salvation forgiveness.....	21
2. Fellowship forgiveness.....	22
C. Forgiveness of other people.....	23
1. General forgiveness.....	23-24
2. Forgiveness for the restoration of fellowship.....	25-26
D. The unpardonable sin.....	27-28

# **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>PART FIVE: God's Discipline for Sin.....</b>	<b>29</b>
A. Some forms of divine discipline.....	29
B. What causes us to be disciplined for sin?.....	29
C. What prevents discipline?.....	29
D. Details on God's discipline.....	30-31
E. Sin unto death.....	31-33
F. The example of David.....	33
 <b>PART SIX: Identifying Sinful Behavior.....</b>	 <b>34</b>
A. Using the scripture to identify sinful behavior or thoughts.....	34
B. Commands in the form of precepts.....	34
C. Commands in the form of principles.....	35
D. General commands.....	35-36
E. Is the believer under the Old Testament law?.....	36-40
 <b>PART SEVEN: The Principles of Substitution and Motivation for                     God-honoring Change.....</b>	 <b>41-42</b>
 <b>PART EIGHT: Avoiding Sin by Restructuring.....</b>	 <b>43</b>
A. Fleeing sin.....	43-45
B. Avoiding bad company.....	45-47
 <b>PART NINE: Discipline and Dependence.....</b>	 <b>48</b>
A. Contrast of these two essentials to obedient Christian living.....	48
B. Obedience to God requires discipline on our part.....	48-49
C. Obedience to God requires dependence or trust on our part.....	49-50
D. Scriptures which illustrate how discipline and dependence work together.....	51
E. The body of Christ and sin.....	52
F. Checklist for discipline and dependence.....	53
 <b>PART TEN: Temptation and Mental Attitude Sin.....</b>	 <b>54</b>
A. Temptation (=enticement to sin).....	54-56
B. Mental attitude sin.....	57-59

# **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>PART ELEVEN: Chain Problems in Sin.....</b>	<b>60</b>
A. Chain Sin.....	60
1. David.....	60
2. Saul.....	60
3. Cain.....	61
B. Other problems in dealing with sin.....	61
<b>PART TWELVE: Summary of Obedient Living.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>PART THIRTEEN: A Model for Counseling.....</b>	<b>62</b>
A. Using the scriptures to counsel.....	62
B. Chart for Counseling.....	63

# **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

## **PART ONE: Defining and Describing Sin**

### **A. Defining sin**

1. Isaiah 1:2 - \_\_\_\_\_ against God.
2. Isaiah 53:6 – Choosing our own \_\_\_\_\_ instead of God's.
3. 1 John 3:4 – Sin is defined as \_\_\_\_\_
4. James 4:17 – Knowing to do \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ doing it.
5. Romans 14:23 – Any action not based on \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Note: To act in faith requires revelation from God. Most of the time, this will be what God's word commands or forbids and the reason or motivation given for it. If God's word does not say anything regarding commanding or forbidding an action, then our decision will be based on our conscience. In other words God speaks to us through both His word and our conscience with God's word always having the final say (Psalm 138:2).*
6. Romans 3:23 – Coming short of glorifying or the glory of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **B. We are sinners in at least two ways**

1. Romans 7:16-20 – We have a principle or nature within us that produces sin. It is called \_\_\_\_\_ in vv. 17, 20, the \_\_\_\_\_ in Galatians 5:16-17 and the \_\_\_\_\_ in Ephesians 4:22.
2. Romans 3:23 – In our actions all of us commit acts of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Note: Romans 5:12, 19 states that Adam's sin is charged to all people. Some understand this to be distinct from our having a sinful nature while others see our participation in Adam's sin as simply an explanation that when Adam fell he acquired a sinful nature which has been passed down to all his descendents.*

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### C. Terminology for sin

The answers for this section will probably work best with a NAS or NKJV translation of the scriptures. Fill in the term used for "sin." Number 4 has been filled in for you.

#	Scripture Reference	Term Used for sin	Description of the term
1	1 Timothy 2:14		Stepping over God's limits
2	Acts 8:20, 23		Any act altogether or inherently wrong
3	2 Peter 3:17		Disregard of right or going astray
4	Romans 3:23	Sin	Missing the mark required by God
5	Acts 8:22		The outworking and expression of an evil heart or nature
6	Romans 12:17		That which is actually wrong, opposing God
7	Romans 1:18		Lacking a devotion for God
8	Romans 1:18		Failing to obey God's standard
9	Hebrews 3:18	Dis_____	Unwillingness to be led or guided in ways of truth
10	Hebrews 3:19		Failure to trust God
11	1 John 3:4		Persistent contempt of God's law
12	Daniel 9:5, 9		Willfully going against God and His commandments
13	Daniel 9:5	_____ from God's word.	Ceasing to adhere to God's word and choosing another source of authority for beliefs and actions.

### D. Acts of sin

1. Ephesians 4:25 – What is an example of sin against a precept?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 Corinthians 10:31 – What is an example of a sin against a principle?  
Failing to \_\_\_\_\_ God.

3. Romans 3:23 – How many people commit acts of sin? \_\_\_\_\_

4. 1 Peter 2:22 – Who is the one exception to committing acts of sin?

\_\_\_\_\_

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **E. Scriptures showing that people possess a sinful nature**

1. Genesis 8:21 – The imagination of man's \_\_\_\_\_ is evil from his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Job 14:1-4 – Verse 4 states that people are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Job 15:14-16 – According to verse 14, man is not \_\_\_\_\_ nor righteous. Verse 16 describes man as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who indulges in sin as naturally as he drinks water.
4. Job 25:4 – How can man be righteous before God and be \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Psalm 51:5 – The sinful nature is transmitted from one human being to another at the point of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Isaiah 64:6 – We are all like an \_\_\_\_\_ thing.
7. Jeremiah 17:9 – The heart of people is \_\_\_\_\_ above all things and desperately \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Matthew 7:11 – People are said to be – multiple choice:
  - a. basically good
  - b. basically evil
  - c. neither a nor b
  - d. not bad but just need to be educated
9. 1 Corinthians 2:14 – People in their natural state do not \_\_\_\_\_ the things of the Spirit of God and \_\_\_\_\_ understand the things of the Spirit of God because understanding requires the aid of the Holy Spirit.
10. Ephesians 4:17-18 – The mind of people is said to be \_\_\_\_\_, their understanding is \_\_\_\_\_ and their hearts are \_\_\_\_\_.

*Note: The sinful nature is more than just a capacity to sin. Adam and Eve possessed a capacity to sin prior to the fall. After the fall of man, all people have had a sinful nature or an inclination to sin except for Christ (Hebrews 4:15).*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **F. The results of having a sinful nature and personal sin**

1. Romans 5:12; 8:10; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 – The result of having a sinful nature is being subject to physical or bodily \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ephesians 2:1-3 – The results of personal sins is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ or separation from God.

### **G. The remedy for sinful acts and the sinful nature**

1. The remedy for our sinful actions:
  - a. Colossians 2:13 – The cross of Christ provides \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ trespasses or sins, and according to Acts 10:43, this forgiveness is received by \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
  - b. Romans 4:3-5, 23-24; Philippians 3:9 – When we place our faith in Christ, God puts to our credit the \_\_\_\_\_ that He requires.
  - c. Acts 13:38-39 cp. Romans 5:1 – When we trust Christ for salvation, the subtraction of our sins by forgiveness and the crediting of Christ's righteousness to us means that we have been \_\_\_\_\_.

*Note: The NAS and ESV translations of Acts 13:38-39 translates the word "justified" by using the word "freed."*



## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **2. The remedy for our sinful nature**

#### **a. The word of God: 1 John 2:1 – The word of God was written to us– multiple choice:**

- (1) so that we will not sin
- (2) so that we may or might not sin
- (3) so that we will not be concerned about our sin since Christ paid for it all on the cross.
- (4) so that we can reach sinless perfection in this life and not need Christ to speak in our defense as our advocate.

#### **b. The Holy Spirit**

- (1) Romans 8:1-4 – The law of the \_\_\_\_\_ of life (=life-giving Holy Spirit) has set the believer \_\_\_\_\_ from the law of \_\_\_\_\_ and death in order that the requirements of the law might be fulfilled in the believer who chooses to walk or live His life according to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) Galatians 5:16-17 – Our responsibility is to walk or live our lives by the \_\_\_\_\_ so that we will not fulfill the desires of the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **c. Christ's death and resurrection provides victory over sin's power (Romans 6:1-13)**

- (1) Romans 6:10 – Christ died \_\_\_\_\_ sin once and for all.  
*Note: Christ bore our individual sins when He died on the cross but he also bore our sin natures that they might be judged (Romans 8:3). In Paul's letters, when he speaks of sin in the singular, it is synonymous with the flesh or the old man/self.*
- (2) Romans 6:3-5 cp. Colossians 2:12 cp. 1 Corinthians 12:13 – The baptism is accomplished by the \_\_\_\_\_ and not only places us in Christ's body but joins us to His \_\_\_\_\_ or separation from the sin nature, His \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_.

*Note: This along with Romans 6:2, 6-9 emphasizes separation from the power of the sin nature not the presence of it. When Israel crossed the Red Sea, they were separated from the power of Egypt but not the presence of Egypt and it still had influence over the people of Israel (Exodus 16:3; Number 11:5-6, 18-20; 14:2-4). In the same way, although the power of our sinful nature is broken at salvation, it still continues to influence our thoughts and conduct. The believer has new power because of what the Holy Spirit has done for him or her. The believer has the responsibility to live out this new quality of life which is Christ Himself (Colossians 3:4 cp. 1 John 5:12). This new life or eternal life is lived by the Holy Spirit's power.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

(3) Our 5-fold response to this truth:

(a) Romans 6:6 – Our \_\_\_\_\_  
was crucified with Christ so that our body as  
controlled by \_\_\_\_\_ might be  
rendered powerless. As a believer, our first  
responsibility is – multiple choice – is:

- 1) know this truth
- 2) crucify our old nature
- 3) obey this truth
- 4) get our body under control

(b) Romans 6:11 - \_\_\_\_\_  
yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ (=separated  
from) sin, i.e. the power of the sin nature.

*Note: The word translated “reckon”, “consider” or “count” comes from a Greek word which means to count it true whether or not it feels true or looks true. This same Greek word is used in James 1:2 where it tells us to “Count it all joy” when we encounter various trials. This calls for faith in that instance and in this verse. We must take God at His word by faith even when it does not feel or look true.*

(c) Romans 6:12 – Do not let \_\_\_\_\_ (=the sin nature) control your \_\_\_\_\_ to do its \_\_\_\_\_.

(d) Romans 6:13 – Do not keep on \_\_\_\_\_ the parts of your body as instruments of \_\_\_\_\_ to sin (=the sinful nature).

(e) Romans 6:13 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to God in a once-and-for-all decisive act and the parts of our body as instruments of practical \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

*Note: The Greek word for “present” means to put something at the disposal of another as used in Matthew 26:53.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **d. Dedication receives victory over the power of sin (Romans 12:1-2)**

- (1) The avenue by which we can even think of dedicating our lives or bodies to God is by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

*Note: Consecration is a once-and-for-all surrender of the believer to the will and control of God as revealed in His word. This surrender is something that is done after salvation. In salvation the individual trusts Jesus Christ to be both God and man and that He died a blood-shed death in our place and was raised bodily from the dead as God's only and complete payment for our sins. The individual receives salvation as a gift from God. However, in consecration the individual gives himself wholly to God. Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). At salvation we receive life, and when we decide to consecrate our lives to God we experience abundant life. The word "offer" or "present" is the Greek verb tense that refers to a once-and-for-all-act.*

- (2) We are not to be \_\_\_\_\_ to this age or time period in which we live.**

- (3) We are to keep on being \_\_\_\_\_ by the continual \_\_\_\_\_ of our minds which is done by the \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 Corinthians 3:18).**

*Note; The Greek word for "transformed" is the same Greek word that is translated "transfigured" which means a visible outward change brought out by something within us.*

### **(4) The tension between Romans 12:1 and Luke 9:23**

*Note: It is like choosing to marry. I make that choice in a moment of time with the idea of being a permanent choice and then I act on that choice day by day. If I suddenly choose not to be married, what is needed is not another wedding but restoration. The same is true of dedication or consecration. I do not need to rededicate by life to Christ. I simply need to be restored as per 1 John 1:9.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **H. Degrees of sin**

1. John 19:11 – What word shows that there is such a thing as degrees of sin? \_\_\_\_\_
2. James 2:10 – If we break one of God's commandments, we are guilty of breaking \_\_\_\_\_ commandment.

*Note: The reconciliation of the two questions above is simple. Each command is like a link in a chain so that if one of them is broken, the chain is broken which illustrates James 2:10. . By the same token, some links are larger than other links so that if that link is broken a larger link is broken. This illustrates John 19:11.*

3. Scriptures teaching degrees of punishment for sins:
  - a. Luke 10:12-14 – What two words show that there are degrees of judgment? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Luke 12:47-48 – Whoever knows God's will and does not respond in faith and obedience will receive - multiple choice for the blank – than the one who did not know God's will and failed to respond in faith and obedience.
    - (1) will receive greater punishment
    - (2) will receive less punishment
    - (3) will receive the same punishment
    - (4) will receive no punishment
  - c. Revelation 20:12-13 – The fact of degrees of judgment is shown by the words \_\_\_\_\_

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### PART TWO: The Beginning of Sin

#### A. Satan

##### 1. Ezekiel 28:11-17

###### a. What was Satan like when he was created?

(1) 28:12

(a) seal (signet or model) of \_\_\_\_\_

(b) full of \_\_\_\_\_

(c) perfect in \_\_\_\_\_

(2) 28:15 \_\_\_\_\_ in your ways

###### b. How is Satan's sin described?

(1) 28:15 \_\_\_\_\_ was found \_\_\_\_\_ you.

(2) 28:16 – inwardly filled with \_\_\_\_\_  
and you \_\_\_\_\_

(3) 28:17

(a) Your heart was \_\_\_\_\_ because of  
your \_\_\_\_\_

(b) You \_\_\_\_\_ your wisdom

##### 2. Isaiah 14:12-15

###### a. Match the 5 "I wills" of Satan

____ (1) ascend to heaven	(a) control the 1 <sup>st</sup> heaven – the area of the clouds and birds
____ (2) raise my throne above the stars of God	(b) control the 2 <sup>nd</sup> heaven – the area of the sun, moon and stars
____ (3) sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north	(c) control the 3 <sup>rd</sup> heaven – where God and the angels reside
____ (4) ascend above the heights of the clouds	(d) be like God
____ (5) make myself like the Most High	(e) either control of Israel or control of the angels

###### b. Isaiah 14:13 – The first sin was – multiple choice:

(1) a visible act

(2) a verbal act

(3) a mental attitude

(4) none of the above

###### c. 1 Timothy 3:6 – What is Satan's sin called? \_\_\_\_\_

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### B. Man

#### 1. Romans 5:12 - Sin entered the world – multiple choice:

- a. from one man
- b. through one man
- c. from one woman
- d. through one woman

*Note: The word choices are very important. First of all, sin originated with Satan and it entered the world through one man. We know that Adam is referred to because the Greek uses the masculine for "man" in Romans 5:12 and also because Adam is referenced in verse 14.*

#### 2. Romans 5:12 cp. 1 Timothy 2:13-14 cp Genesis 3:7, 13 – Why was Adam alone charged with this sin instead of Eve or instead of both of them?

\_\_\_\_\_ was not deceived but the \_\_\_\_\_  
was deceived.

*Note: The lack of deception shows that the sin of the one was deliberate.*

#### 3. Genesis 3:1-7

##### a. 3:1 cp Revelation 12:9 – With whom was the serpent identified?

\_\_\_\_\_

##### b. 3:1 cp. Genesis 2:16-17 – Whose word did Satan try to get Eve to question? \_\_\_\_\_

##### c. Deuteronomy 4:2 – We are not to \_\_\_\_\_ to God's word nor are we to \_\_\_\_\_ from God's word.

*Note: Notice how Eve added and subtracted from God's word:*

<i>God's Word</i>	<i>Eve's Understanding of God's Word</i>
<i>You are <u>free to</u> eat from any tree of the garden (Genesis 2:16)</i>	<i>We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden (3:2).</i>
<i>You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil</i>	<i>You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, <u>and you must not touch it.</u></i>
<i>For when you eat of it you will <u>surely</u> die</i>	<i>Or you will die</i>

##### d. For discussion: When we add to God's requirements in His commands, what does this do to our perception of God? What does it do when we subtract?

##### e. Genesis 3:4-5 cp. 3:7, 22 cp. 2:16-17 – The serpent lied when he denied the certainty of God's judgment by stating you will not \_\_\_\_\_, but told the truth in stating that when they ate of it, they would know \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

*Note: Notice the following comparison:*

<b>John 2:16</b>	<b>Genesis 3:6</b>	<b>Luke 4:1-13</b>
<b>The World</b>	<b>Eve</b>	<b>Christ</b>
<i>Lust of the flesh</i>	<i>Good for food</i>	<i>Command this stone to become bread</i>
<i>Lust of the eyes</i>	<i>Pleasant to the eyes</i>	<i>Showed Him all the kingdoms of the world</i>
<i>Pride of life</i>	<i>Desirable to make one wise</i>	<i>The pinnacle of the temple .... Throw yourself down</i>

### 4. The way of man – Genesis 3:7-10, 21

- a. 3:7 - What was the first problem that the man and the woman saw? They knew that they were \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 3:7 – How did they try to address this problem? Made themselves \_\_\_\_\_
- c. 3:21 – Who had the solution for this problem and what was that solution? Who? \_\_\_\_\_; What? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ which had to be gotten by the shedding of \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 9:22).
- d. 3:8 - Whom did they hear walking in the garden? \_\_\_\_\_ and how did they respond? They tried to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.
- e. Job 34:21-22; Hebrews 4:13 – What made this response unworkable? There is no way that the sinner can \_\_\_\_\_ themselves from God because according to Proverbs 15:3, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord are in \_\_\_\_\_ place beholding the evil and the good.
- f. 3:9 cp. Luke 19:10 – What do we see God seeking man or man seeking God? \_\_\_\_\_
- g. 3:10 – What are the effects of sin? Put T by the statements that are true and F by the statements that are false:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Man cannot hear God's word.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Man can hear God's word.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Man has the wrong kind of fear of God.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Man has the right kind of fear of God.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (5) Man understands he has a problem
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (6) Man does not understand he has a problem
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (7) Man readily wants to face God in light of His sin.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (8) Man does not readily want to face God in light of His sin.

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### 5. Genesis 3:11-13 – Match the following:

___ a. Adam	(1) Did you sin?
___ b. Eve	(2) I'd be spiritual, God, if it weren't for this wife <u>You</u> gave me.
___ c. God	(3) I'd be spiritual, God, but the devil made me do it.

### 6. Genesis 3:14-19 - The results of the fall

- a. 3:14 – The serpent was cursed \_\_\_\_\_ all the other living creatures and was sentenced to move on his \_\_\_\_\_ for all of his life.

*Note: A curse is a sentence of judgment. Some have speculated that the serpent was upright before the curse but that is complete speculation.*

- b. 3:15 – The devil was told that there would be \_\_\_\_\_ between his seed and the seed of the woman. This seed of the woman would bruise Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ (a career ending blow) and Satan would bruise Christ's heel (not end Christ's career).

*Note: We know the seed of the woman is singular because the singular pronoun "He" refers to that seed in Genesis 3:15 (see also Galatians 4:4). The seed of Satan are His children (1 John 3:10). The words "your (singular) seed" makes it clear that it is not the offspring of snakes in general that are in view but the offspring of one being. Romans 16:20 makes it very clear that Christ will crush Satan at His second coming.*

- c. Genesis 3:16 - The curse or sentence of judgment on the woman  
 (1) Pain and sorrow associated with having \_\_\_\_\_ born to them.  
 (2) Desire for her \_\_\_\_\_ who would \_\_\_\_\_ over her.

*Note: Desire refers to a desire to control or exercise headship over her husband. Note this concept in Genesis 4:7 where sin desires to control Cain.*



## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

d. Genesis 3:17-19 – The curse or sentence of judgment on the man

- (1) This judgment happened because the man obeyed his \_\_\_\_\_ instead of God.
- (2) The ground or earth was \_\_\_\_\_. In order to eat it would require hard \_\_\_\_\_. To make growing food more difficult, the earth or ground would bring forth \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- (3) This hard life would end for man when he returned to the \_\_\_\_\_ in death where he would become the \_\_\_\_\_ of which he was made.
- (4) Genesis 2:16-17 – The day Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, they experienced – multiple choice:
  - (a) physical death in body and spirit being separated from one another cp. James 2:26)
  - (b) spiritual death in being separated from God
  - (c) the second death in the lake of fire (cp. Revelation 20:14-15)
- (5) Romans 8:19-22 – The \_\_\_\_\_ was subjected to frustration or futility not by its own \_\_\_\_\_ but by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God who subjected with the expectation that the creation would be delivered from its bondage to \_\_\_\_\_. As a result the \_\_\_\_\_ creation has been suffering like a mother in childbirth. This includes those of us who have the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit (i.e. believers).

*Note: The historicalness of the fall from the standpoint of the scripture is clearly documented in Romans 5:12-14; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:13-14.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **PART THREE: Sinless Perfection**

#### **A. Can we be perfect?**

- 1. Hebrews 10:14 – Believers are said to be perfected \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ's sacrifice.**

*Note: This is positional perfection which means that we are perfect in our standing.*

- 2. Philippians 3:12 cp. 1 John 3:1-2 – We are not yet \_\_\_\_\_ but when Christ returns, we will be \_\_\_\_\_ Him.**

*Note: This is plenary (=full) perfection which we receive when Christ returns.*

**3. Practical perfection or maturity**

- a. Philippians 3:12-15 – We know that this does not refer to sinless perfection in this life because Paul say, not that I am already \_\_\_\_\_ but that those who are \_\_\_\_\_ in their mind regarding forgetting the past and pressing ahead to achieve a rewarded life.**
- b. Ephesians 4:11-13 – The purpose of spiritual gifts is to \_\_\_\_\_ believers for service to \_\_\_\_\_ the body of Christ until there is \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith (=the truths of the New Testament) and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God which is to be a \_\_\_\_\_ man as measured by what it means to be completely like Christ.**
- c. Hebrews 5:11-14 – The Hebrew Christians were lacking in their understanding of Christ's present work and were at the point that they should have been able to be teachers (in the sense of teaching new converts how to live for Christ as mentioned in Matthew 28:20) by this \_\_\_\_\_. They needed the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's word which is for \_\_\_\_\_ (=the immature) but the solid food of God's word is for those who are \_\_\_\_\_ that is those who because of \_\_\_\_\_ of God's word are trained to \_\_\_\_\_ good and evil.**

*Note: Maturity requires time and use or practice of what we know in God's word to develop the ability to understand the more advanced or solid food of God's word and to properly discern good and evil.*

- d. James 1:2-4 – God uses trials to test our faith to develop \_\_\_\_\_ in us and then allow it to have its full effect so that we are \_\_\_\_\_ and complete (=balanced) in our Christian lives.**

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

*Note: Notice that maturity takes time, testing or suffering, faith and obedience to God's word and receiving the benefit of the spiritual gifts of other believers. However, in this life a Christ-like state is never completely achieved, It is rather the direction of growth so that we are continually under construction. The term "mature" can be used of a believer when he can not only produce spiritual children (1 Corinthians 4:14-15) but bring this children to maturity by carrying out Matthew 28:20.*

### **4. Matthew 5:48 – God's standard of righteousness for the believer is to be perfect as \_\_\_\_\_ is perfect.**

*Note: While this is always God's standard for us, it is one that we never fully achieve in this life (1 John 1:8, 10). It needs to be the target we for which we continually aim.*

### **B. Error of sinless perfection in this life**

#### **1. 1 John 1:8 – What is true of us if we claim we have no sin (=sin nature)?**

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **2. 1 John 1:8, 10 – What if we say we have not been doing acts of sin?**

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **3. Philippians 3:12 – Paul testified that he was not yet \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### **4. James 3:2 – James testified that we \_\_\_\_\_ stumble or sin in \_\_\_\_\_ things.**

#### **5. 2 Chronicles 6:36 – There is \_\_\_\_\_ who does not sin.**

*Note: In questions 2 through 5 above, it is very clear that no believer has attained sinless perfection. John was an elderly man when he wrote 1 John 1:8, 10. If John had not figured out how to live without sinning, what makes the modern advocates of sinless perfection think that they have attained that condition. The answer to question 1 answers those who would teach that we can eradicate the sin nature in this life as again, the elderly John includes himself as part of those who have a sin nature (Notice the word "we"). Take note also of Paul's struggle in Romans 7:15-25.*

#### **6. 1 Corinthians 10:13 – Does the fact that we sin mean that we cannot avoid sinning in any situation? No, because when the temptation comes, God will provide a way \_\_\_\_\_ that we may be able to \_\_\_\_\_ it.**

#### **7. 1 John 2:1 – God's word was \_\_\_\_\_ to us so that we may not sin.**

*Note: It is possible for the believer in any given situation to avoid sinning. However, he will not be successful in avoiding sin altogether in the situations of his life. The believer must be mindful that there is never an excuse for choosing to sin.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **C. Resolving the tension between 1 John 1:8-10 and 3:6, 9**

1. 1 John 1:8, 10 – It is clear that every believer does \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Look at 1 John 3:6, 9 in the NKJV translation and the ESV.
  - a. In 3:6, according to the NKJV, if we sin we have not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.
  - b. In 3:9, according to the NKJV, the one who has been born of God does not \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. In 3:6, according to the ESV, if we \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, we have not \_\_\_\_\_ Him or \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.
  - d. In 3:9, according to the ESV, no one who has been born of God makes a \_\_\_\_\_ of sinning and he cannot \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.

*Note: Those who believe that sinless perfection is attainable in this life often appeal to these verses in 1 John 3:6, 9 because on the surface many translations appear to support their view. The ESV and other translations show that what John is talking about in 1 John 3:6, 9 is the fact that once a person becomes a believer, he is not constantly controlled by sin. He does not have an uninterrupted pattern of sin. The notes in the following study Bibles support this conclusion: The McArthur Study Bible, The Ryrie Study Bible, and the Scofield Reference Bible. Also study 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-5.*

### **D. Resolving the tension between 1 John 3:6, 9 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-3**

1. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 – What word shows that these people were believers? \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1 Corinthians 1:8 cp. 3:1-3 – Christ will keep these believers strong (better “He will confirm” these believers) as \_\_\_\_\_ on the day of Christ (i.e. when Christ returns).

*Note: Picture sin as a swimming pool. The carnal Christian takes many dips in the swimming pool while the spiritual Christian generally avoids dips in the swimming pool. The counterfeit Christian is more frequently found in the pool than out of it. The chart under number 3 on the next page shows how these three groups are distinct from one another. The counterfeit Christian claims to have trusted Christ but his lifestyle says otherwise (Titus 1:15-16; Matthew 7:21-23), or in some cases his doctrine says otherwise (2 John 1:7-9; Galatians 1:8-9). The line between the carnal and counterfeit believer is not clear from a human perspective but is completely clear from God's perspective (2 Timothy 2:19). From a human perspective this is sometimes clear (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3-5) but with others we simply cannot know in this life. In his booklet, Rightly*

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

*Dividing the Word of Truth, Dr. C.I. Scofield wisely said, "The judgment of professors {counterfeit believers} is not committed to us, but is reserved to the Son of Man."*

### 3. COMPARISON CHART

<b>Scripture references</b>	<b>Counterfeit Christians Destiny - Hell</b>	<b>Carnal Christians Destiny - Heaven</b>	<b>Spiritual Christians Destiny - Heaven</b>
Hebrews 12:5-13; 1 Corinthians 11:30-32	No discipline from God when he goes into sin	Discipline from God when he sins with increasing intensity	Discipline from God when he sins
1 John 3:14,15	Hates true believers	Shows more love for true believers than he did prior to salvation	Very rarely fails to show love for true believers
1 John 3:6-10	More sinful direction	Less sinful direction	Sinless direction but not sinless perfection
1 John 2:3,4,29; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3	Righteousness is not dominant nor prominent	Righteousness is dominant but not prominent	Righteousness is both dominant and prominent.
1 John 4:5,6; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14	Is not concerned about importance of God's word	Realizes that God's word has some importance and can live out the basic teachings of it.	Is convinced of the priority and importance of God's word and can live out the advanced and basic teachings of it
1 John 5:5; 2:15; James 4:4	The world's value system is dominant in this one's life, values and speech	The world's value system is clearly seen but not dominant in this one's life values and speech	The world's value system is rarely seen and is not dominant in this one's life values and speech
1 John 5:1; Colossians 2:6	Profession of faith or trust in Christ for salvation does not continue	Faith in Christ for salvation persists although he fails to trust Christ with the situations of life	Faith in Christ for salvation persists and he generally trusts Christ with the situations of life

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **4. Example of a carnal believer and of a counterfeit believer**

#### **a. carnal believer – Lot**

(1) Genesis 19:30-38 – What awful sin did Lot commit – multiple choice:

- (a) drunkenness
- (b) sexual immorality in the form of incest
- (c) cursed God
- (d) both a and b
- (e) both b and c.

(2) 2 Peter 2:7-8 – What word is repeatedly used to show that Lot was saved? \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: see Romans 4:3-5*

#### **b. counterfeit believer – Judas Iscariot**

(1) John 6:64 – Judas who betrayed Christ was obviously not a \_\_\_\_\_

(2) John 6:70-71 – Jesus stated – multiple choice

- (a) one of you will become a devil
- (b) one of you is a devil
- (c) one of you was a devil
- (d) no comment with regard to Judas.

(3) John 17:12 – What action word and noun describe the spiritual state and destiny of Judas.  
Son of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **PART FOUR: The forgiveness of sins**

#### **A. Introduction to forgiveness**

1. Definition – means to “send away.” The concept is to separate the sin from the sinner. This concept was vividly pictured by the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament mentioned in Leviticus 16:5-22. The priest would take two goats one of which was slain as a bloodshed sin offering and one which he would send away alive into the wilderness with the people's sins.
2. God's forgiveness requires the execution of the penalty.
  - a. Hebrews 9:22 – Without the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, there is no forgiveness or remission of sins.
  - b. Leviticus 4:32-35 – Under the Old Covenant forgiveness was accomplished through - multiple choice:
    - (1) the bloodshed sacrifice of an animal
    - (2) the paying of silver to the priest
    - (3) the bloodshed death of the sinner
    - (4) an offering of grain, vegetables or fruit
  - c. Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7 – Under the New Covenant forgiveness was accomplished through – multiple choice
    - (1) washing of water baptism
    - (2) our good deeds
    - (3) a combination of the washing of water baptism and our good deeds.
    - (4) the bloodshed sacrificial death of Christ.
3. The difference between the sacrifices of the animals under the Old Covenant and the sacrifice of Christ for the New Covenant.
  - a. Hebrews 10:4 - The animal sacrifices were not able to \_\_\_\_\_ sins.
  - b. John 1:29 – Jesus Christ was called the lamb of God who \_\_\_\_\_ the sin of the world.

*Note: The Hebrew word “kaphar” (which is translated by the word “atonement” in the passage above in Leviticus 4:32-35 and many other places in the Old Testament) literally means “to cover.” The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament merely covered the sins of the one for whom the offering was made. It was a temporary provision to point to Jesus Christ who would take away or erase the sins of everyone.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **4. Notes on God and forgiveness**

- a. Daniel 9:9 – To whom does the right to forgive sins belong?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Micah 7:18 – God's forgiveness of sins – multiple choice:
  - (1) shows that He is a God who makes us earn it.
  - (2) shows that He is a harsh God like the other gods that people worshipped.
  - (3) shows that our sin does not really offend Him
  - (4) shows that God is unique or different
- c. Mark 2:5-12 – Jesus claimed the authority to \_\_\_\_\_  
sins which only God can do. This showed that Jesus was Himself \_\_\_\_\_.

### **5. Match the following scriptures with the statements on God's**

forgiveness: Psalm 103:10, 14      Psalm 103:12      Isaiah 38:17  
Isaiah 43:25      Micah 7:18-19

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. wiping out or blotting out our sins and not remembering them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Casting all our sins behind His back
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Casting or hurling our sins into the depths of the sea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. God knows our weakness and has not dealt with us according to our sins.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. God has removed our sins from us as far as possible.



## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **B. Forgiveness by God**

1. Salvation forgiveness – defined – A once-and-for-all forgiveness extended at the very moment of belief to the one who trusts Christ.
  - a. Provided for all people by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.
    - (1) Matthew 26:28 – Christ shed the \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Covenant for \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins.
    - (2) John 1:29 – Christ's sacrifice \_\_\_\_\_ the sin of the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (3) Hebrews 9:22 – Without the shedding of \_\_\_\_\_ there would be no forgiveness or remission of sin.
    - (4) Hebrews 10:18 – Because Christ's sacrifice provides forgiveness of sins, there is no longer any other \_\_\_\_\_ for sin.
  - b. The sacrifice that Christ provided must be received by faith.
    - (1) Acts 10:43 – Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ receives \_\_\_\_\_ of sins.
    - (2) Acts 26:18 - By \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ we receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified.
    - (3) Romans 4:5-8 – This forgiveness and imputed righteousness we receive by faith is apart from \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The extent of salvation forgiveness
    - (1) Colossians 2:13 – Forgiveness for our sins is for – multiple choice:
      - (a) past sins
      - (b) past and present sins
      - (c) all sins – past, present and future
    - (2) How many of your sins were future when Christ died?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

2. Fellowship forgiveness – Definition – A restoration of fellowship given by God and provided by Christ's shed blood to the believer who confesses his sins.

- a. 1 John 1:7 – Cleansing for fellowship is provided by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- b. 1 John 1:9 – Forgiveness of sin is received by \_\_\_\_\_ the sin to \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 32:5) with an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ it (Proverbs 28:13).
- c. Matthew 6:14-15 – Failure to \_\_\_\_\_ those who sin against us prevents God from \_\_\_\_\_ us for fellowship with God.
- d. James 5:16 – If we confess our sin or sins to other believers, they are to \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
- e. Consequences of broken fellowship. Match by putting the following scripture references in front of the correct statement:  
2 Samuel 12:14; Psalm 40:12; Psalm 51:12; Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 48:22; Jeremiah 5:25; John 14:21; 1 Corinthians 11:30-32
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (1) unanswered prayer
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (2) loss of peace
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (3) loss of knowing Christ better
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (4) discipline from God in the form of:  
loss of spiritual power, sickness,  
or premature physical death
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (5) loss of testimony with enemies of  
God
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (6) loss of good or blessing from God
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (7) loss of joy
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (8) loss of spiritual sight so that we  
lack God's guidance and wisdom

*Note: An excellent passage to illustrate the distinction between fellowship and forgiveness is John 13:8-10. After having received a once and for all bath of cleansing at salvation as noted in verse 10 from the condemnation of sin, we need cleansing in our daily walk or life from the defilement of sin so that we may have partnership or fellowship with Christ.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **C. Forgiveness of other people**

#### **1. General forgiveness**

##### **a. Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26; Luke 11:4**

(1) We are commanded to forgive if we have anything against \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Do these verses mention anything about the need for the offender to repent? Circle: YES NO

(3) What consequence will happen if we do not do this?  
God will not \_\_\_\_\_ us so that we can have fellowship with Him.

##### **b. 2 Timothy 4:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:15**

(1) How should a believer respond to someone who knowingly harms him in some way? Leave it to the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ the person and do not try to \_\_\_\_\_ the person with evil.

(2) If someone does harm us, we need to be \_\_\_\_\_ them and warn others.

(3) In relating to one who harms us, we need to seek after that which is good for \_\_\_\_\_ as believers and for \_\_\_\_\_ people.

##### **c. 1 Peter 3:9 – How to demonstrate general forgiveness**

(1) How are we to handle someone who does evil to us?  
We are not to \_\_\_\_\_ to them to get even.

(2) How are we to handle someone who reviles (=insults) us?  
We are not to \_\_\_\_\_ them to get even.

(3) In a positive sense what we do to them or say in response to them should be a \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

- d. Romans 12:17-21 – Key points on general forgiveness
- (1) 12:17 - We are to do \_\_\_\_\_ to those who do evil to us for the purpose of getting even.
  - (2) 12:18 - We are to live peaceably with \_\_\_\_\_ people as far as \_\_\_\_\_ behavior and words are concerned.
  - (3) 12:19 – When someone does or says something to wrong us, we are commanded not to try to get \_\_\_\_\_ but to leave room for \_\_\_\_\_ wrath to work in the situation because God has declared that \_\_\_\_\_ belongs to Him, and He has promised to \_\_\_\_\_ those who have said or done something to wrong us.
  - (4) 12:20 – What are some examples of how you should respond to the one who has wronged you? if the enemy is hungry \_\_\_\_\_ him and if he is thirsty, give him a \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) 12:21 – As we encounter people who do evil to us or say evil to us, we are not to give into the impulse to respond to their words or actions with evil words or actions and be overcome by \_\_\_\_\_ but rather to do and say what is \_\_\_\_\_ to overcome their evil words and actions.
- e. What if the people speak or act against you because they believe they are doing what is right and don't really know what they are doing?
- (1) Luke 23:34 – Ask God to \_\_\_\_\_ them.
  - (2) Acts 7:60 – Ask the Lord not to charge or hold this \_\_\_\_\_ against them.
- f. 2 Timothy 4:16 – How should we respond when people wrong us because they fear for their own well-being? Ask that it not be charged, held or counted \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- g. Luke 6:28 – One thing we can always do to show our forgiveness and to do good toward those who harm us is to \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
- h. Obedience to the command to extend forgiveness would forbid revenge against another individual who wronged us or one of our loved ones according to Romans 12:17-21. According to Romans 13:4 (please use NKJV, NAS or ESV), government is God's minister or servant to be an \_\_\_\_\_ to execute or carry out God's \_\_\_\_\_ on the one who does evil.

*Note: Obedience to the command to extend forgiveness would forbid revenge against one who wronged us or one of our loved ones. It does not forbid the believer from taking the matter to government who is God's servant.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **2. Forgiveness for the restoration of fellowship**

- a. Luke 17:3-4 – If a fellow-believer sins against you, your responsibility is to \_\_\_\_\_ him or her. If he or she \_\_\_\_\_ you are commanded to forgive the individual.
- b. Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13 – What is the model for this forgiveness? The forgiveness that \_\_\_\_\_ gave us.
- c. Acts 2:38 – What was necessary on our part to receive God's forgiveness? To \_\_\_\_\_ (=change our mind on what we trust) and then be baptized because our sins have been forgiven.
- d. Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:20 – True repentance results in \_\_\_\_\_

- e. Luke 19:8 – What did Zacchaeus do to show He had really repented? \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Repentance may be defined as "a God-ward change of mind that results in a God-ward change of behavior." It can be the change of mind that occurs when we cease trusting in whatever we were trusting before salvation to trusting in the bloodshed and substitutionary death of the God-man Jesus Christ for our salvation. After one has trusted Christ for salvation and sins, it is the change of mind that occurs when he confesses and forsakes the sin and makes things right with a fellow-believer against whom he has sinned.*

- f. Matthew 18:21-22 – How many times must one forgive a believer who has sinned against you and repents?

- g. Matthew 18:34-35 – Failure to forgive and restore fellowship with a fellow-believer who repents – multiple choice:

- (1) is strictly the problem of the unforgiven believer.
- (2) is simply a misunderstanding that God will explain in eternity.
- (3) brings about God's severe discipline and restriction until the unforgiving believer's sin debt is paid.

*Note: Restoration of fellowship does not necessarily mean restoration of trust. For example, a Christian business partner might financially take advantage of the other partner. The business partnership might be dissolved by the offended partner even though the offending party repented and made restitution. There simply would not be that trust and confidence. However, they could have close fellowship as believers in praying together or serving together or some joint-endeavor. It would not be prudent in such a situation to allow the offending party to have anything to do with handling church monies. Believers who as friends spent time together could fellowship when forgiveness is extended but might not want to spend time together as they had in the past.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

3. Forgiveness never means enabling those who are forgiven to be irresponsible.
  - a. Galatians 6:5 – Each one should bear his own \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 – If an individual will not \_\_\_\_\_, do not let him \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Some issues in forgiveness
  - a. Ephesians 4:32 – We are to forgive as God has \_\_\_\_\_ us in Christ.
  - b. Hebrews 10:17 – The concept of God's forgiveness is expressed by the statement that, He will \_\_\_\_\_ our sins and lawless deeds no more.
  - c. 1 John 3:20 – God knows \_\_\_\_\_ things and according to Psalm 147:5, His understanding is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Does an all-knowing God: (1) actually forget our sins or (2) does He treat us as though He had forgotten them? Underline your answer.
  - e. Proverbs 17:9 – If we have forgiven someone in the sense of fellowship forgiveness, we are not to \_\_\_\_\_ the matter to the one we have forgiven or to others.
  - f. What if I do not feel like forgiving someone?
    - (1) Consider your heart
      - (a) Jeremiah 17:9 – Our heart is \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to the truth or reality.
      - (b) Proverbs 28:26 – The one who trusts in himself (literally "his heart") is a \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (2) Consider God
      - (a) Hebrews 6:18 – It is \_\_\_\_\_ for God to lie.
      - (b) John 17:17 – God's word is \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (3) Proverbs 3:5 – What are your two choices?
      - (a) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord
      - (b) leaning to your \_\_\_\_\_
    - (4) 1 Corinthians 10:13 – If I choose to give into the temptation not to forgive, it is because – multiple choice:
      - (a) I cannot forgive
      - (b) I am right not to forgive
      - (c) I am willfully choosing not to forgive
      - (d) God has an alternate plan
  - g. Philippians 3:13 What does not want us to do regarding:
    - (1) The past - \_\_\_\_\_ what lies behind.
    - (2) The future - \_\_\_\_\_ to what lies ahead.

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **D. The unpardonable sin**

#### **1. Matthew 12:22-32**

- a. 12:22 - Jesus healed a man who had the 3 problems of:  
\_\_\_\_\_ possession, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. 12:24 – The Pharisee's charged that Jesus did this by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Beelzebul (=Satan) the ruler of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. 12:25-26 – Jesus pointed out that a kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ against itself will not stand and if Satan casts out Satan, his kingdom shall not \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. 12:28 – Jesus stated "If (=since – 1<sup>st</sup> class condition) I cast out demons by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God."
- e. 12:31 – Jesus stated that \_\_\_\_\_ against the Holy Spirit shall not be \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. 12:32 – Jesus stated this sin will not be forgiven in \_\_\_\_\_ age or the age \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **2. Mark 3:29-30**

- a. 3:29 – Jesus stated that whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ has forgiveness but is guilty of an \_\_\_\_\_ sin resulting in condemnation.
- b. 3:30 – Jesus stated this because the scribes and Pharisees kept on saying that Jesus had an \_\_\_\_\_ spirit.

#### **3. John 12:37-40 – John's observation on the seriousness of unbelief among most of the Jewish leaders**

- a. John 12:37 – Although Jesus had performed \_\_\_\_\_ signs, yet they kept on choosing not to \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.
- b. 12:38 cp. Isaiah 53:1
  - (1) Their unbelief was fulfilled by the word of Isaiah the prophet who had predicted, "Lord who has believed our \_\_\_\_\_."
  - (2) The supporting miraculous signs were referred to by the word of Isaiah the prophet in the statement, "And to whom has the \_\_\_\_\_ (=power) of the LORD been revealed."
- c. 12:39- Because of their choice to keep on not believing in Jesus despite the awesome display of signs and miracles, they \_\_\_\_\_ not believe.
- d. 12:40 – This inability to believe fulfilled the words of Isaiah 6:10, "He \_\_\_\_\_ their eyes, and \_\_\_\_\_ their hearts; lest they \_\_\_\_\_ with their eyes, and \_\_\_\_\_ with their hearts, and be healed."

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

*Note: Bible teachers are divided over whether the unpardonable sin can be committed today. It would appear that if someone were to carefully examine the scriptures, and after weighing the evidence, were to sincerely and positively declare that he sincerely believed Jesus' miracles were done by Satan or one of his angels (i.e. demons), then he would be committing the unpardonable sin. It is not simply bad-mouthing the Holy Spirit nor is it simply denying that the Holy Spirit did the miracles. The unpardonable sin involved these elements: (1) full knowledge of Jesus' miracles either by eye-witness observation or by study of scripture, (2) a repeated, stated and sincere conclusion that Satan or his demons did the miracles instead of the Holy Spirit. Anyone who is worried whether he committed this sin has not done so. John 12 above makes it very clear that people who repeatedly reject Christ after much spiritual illumination will arrive at the point where they lack the capacity to believe. We never know when someone has reached that point and should faithfully share the gospel to anyone and everyone for their consideration and urging them to trust Christ for salvation.*



## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **PART FIVE: God's discipline for sin**

#### **A. Some forms of divine discipline**

1. 1 Corinthians 11:29-32 – What forms may God's discipline take in response to our sins? Fill in the words from your Bible which are used to describe these:
  - a. loss of power to do God's work \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. loss of health to do God's work \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. premature physical death \_\_\_\_\_
2. Psalm 32:3-4 – Divine discipline may come in the form of reduced \_\_\_\_\_.
3. 2 Samuel 12:14 – Another way divine discipline may come would be the \_\_\_\_\_ of a loved one.
4. What are some other forms of God's discipline?
  - a. Psalm 51:12 – loss of \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Isaiah 48:22 – loss of \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Psalm 66:18-19 – God's refusal to answer \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Jeremiah 5:25 – God's withholding of \_\_\_\_\_ from our lives.

#### **B. What causes us to be disciplined for sin?**

Match the following scriptures with statements below:

Psalm 32:3-5; Psalm 119:67; Psalm 119:71; 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 1. Failure to bother to learn God's word.                    |
| _____ | 2. participating in the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner. |
| _____ | 3. Failure to confess sin                                    |
| _____ | 4. Sin itself  |

#### **C. What prevents discipline?**

1. 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves so we will not be judged by God's discipline.
2. Psalm 32:3, 5 - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ our sins to God and committing to not \_\_\_\_\_ it. God promises to \_\_\_\_\_ the guilt or iniquity of our sin.

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **D. Hebrews 12:5-13 – Details on God's discipline**

1. 12:5 – Against what two things are we warned when disciplined by God? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
a. Of which of these is Numbers 16:31-50 an example? \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Of which of these is Joshua 7:5-11 an example? \_\_\_\_\_
2. 12:6 – God's discipline shows that God \_\_\_\_\_ us
3. 12:6 – God's discipline includes \_\_\_\_\_ son whom He receives or accepts.
4. 12:7 – The Greek in the NU text and Majority text reads, "It is for discipline you endure" in the first part of the verse. What character quality is produced along with discipline? \_\_\_\_\_
5. 12:7 – In disciplining the believer, God deals with him as a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. 12:8 – If one is without discipline when he fails to forsake sin, he is an \_\_\_\_\_ child and not a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. 12:9 – Normally most people have \_\_\_\_\_ fathers who discipline them and the result is \_\_\_\_\_ for these fathers.
8. 12:9 – In the same way we need to \_\_\_\_\_ to our spiritual Father and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Note: The word "live" implies that a failure to respond to God's discipline means the possible early loss of physical life (see 1 Corinthians 11:29-32).*
9. 12:10 – Normally human fathers discipline their children as \_\_\_\_\_  
but God disciplines us for our \_\_\_\_\_ so that we may partake of or share His \_\_\_\_\_.
10. 12:11 - For the present time or at the moment, no discipline seems to be \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.  
However, \_\_\_\_\_ it produces the peaceable result of practical \_\_\_\_\_ in the believer's life for those believers who have been \_\_\_\_\_ by it.

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

*Note: Every believer is appointed to suffering because of the fall of man (Romans 8:19-23) and because he belongs to Christ (Philippians 1:29 cp. 1 Thessalonians 3:3). There are also developmental sufferings in which God is preparing us for some future unknown purpose (Genesis 50:20; Job 23:10; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10). These sufferings are intended to teach us obedience (Hebrews 5:8). The believer is expected to learn God's word and obey it. If he does not do this, God has to introduce additional sufferings for our lives over and above the sufferings mentioned above. We can avoid this by quickly confessing and forsaking sin and walking the path of learning God's word and responding in faith and obedience. This additional suffering is called God's discipline or chastening. However, God's goal in chastening is that we learn through our sufferings what we failed to learn through faith and obedience.*

- 11. Hebrews 12:12–13 – Because of God's discipline, believers are to grow stronger in their actions (=pictured by their \_\_\_\_\_) and in their lifestyle (=pictured by their \_\_\_\_\_). In addition the believer is get his lifestyle on the \_\_\_\_\_ path of obedience to the light of God's word (Psalm 119:105). The purpose of responding to God's discipline in this way is to prevent more intense discipline and suffering as pictured by what is lame being \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Note: Some commentators are of the opinion that the strengthening referred to concerns other believers who may be very discouraged and spiritually paralyzed as a result of experiencing God's discipline.*

### **E. Sin unto death**

*Note: In 1 John 5:16-17, the word translated "a" is not in the Greek text.*

#### **1. 1 John 5:16-17**

- a. What are we to do if we see a fellow-believer sin, and he does not drop dead? \_\_\_\_\_ God in prayer for him and God will continue to give him \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. On the other hand if we see a fellow-believer sin and he drops dead, we are not to \_\_\_\_\_ about it.
- c. What 2 types of sin are there?
  - (1) Sin leading to \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Sin not leading to \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This refers to physical death and life rather than spiritual death and life. If this were referring to spiritual death and life, then it would mean that salvation could be lost which would conflict with John 5:24; 10:28-29; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 and other passages. If salvation could be lost, then this would be saying that anytime that you see a believer sin, you could pray and he would receive spiritual life without him repenting.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **2. 1 Corinthians 11:27-32**

- a. Some of the Corinthian believers suffered premature physical death as a result of – multiple choice:
  - (1) sexual immorality
  - (2) failure to judge themselves by examining themselves and confessing sins before participating in the Lord's supper.
  - (3) being judged with the world and losing their salvation.
  - (4) using wine instead of grape juice as one of the elements.
- b. 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 – This makes it clear that this did not mean loss of salvation for those who suffered premature physical death because when we are judged, we are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord so that it will not be possible for us to be \_\_\_\_\_ with the world.

### **3. Acts 5:1-10 – Ananias and Sapphira suffered premature physical death because of the following sin? – multiple choice:**

- a. not giving the property to the church.
- b. indifference to the urgency of the need of their fellow-believers
- c. not giving all the money they received from the sale of the property to the church.
- d. Falsely telling people they gave all the money from the sale of the land to the church when they only gave part of the money to the church and kept the rest for themselves.

### **4. Moses and Aaron**

- a. Number 20:12; 27:12-14 – They suffered premature physical death because of the following sins – multiple choice:
  - (1) idolatry and sexual immorality
  - (2) covetousness and greed
  - (3) lying to the people and cursing God
  - (4) lack of faith or trust and failure to treat God as holy
- b. Deuteronomy 3:24-26
  - (1) Did Moses pray to God about this matter? CIRCLE  
YES      NO
  - (2) What was God's answer? \_\_\_\_\_ to Me  
\_\_\_\_\_ more about this matter.

### **5. 1 Chronicles 10:13-14 – What brought about Saul's premature physical death? His trespass or unfaithfulness in not \_\_\_\_\_ the word of the LORD and consulting a \_\_\_\_\_ for guidance.**

*Note: Some have disputed whether Saul was saved or not but 1 Samuel 10:6, 9 speaks of his heart being changed and him being changed into another man. Also we see in 1 Samuel 28:19 that Saul would be with Samuel when he died which strongly suggests that he was saved since Samuel was a saved man.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

6. 1 Corinthians 10:10; Numbers 16:41, 49; 17:5, 10 – What sin caused the premature death of the people of Israel in the wilderness?
- 

7. From your observations, does the sin resulting in physical death refer to specific categories of sin or can any type of sin qualify?
- 

### **F. The example of David – 2 Samuel 12:9-14**

1. What discipline was inflicted upon David?
  - a. Loss of family peace – The \_\_\_\_\_ would not depart from his house.
  - b. Out of his own household, \_\_\_\_\_ would arise against David.
  - c. Someone who was \_\_\_\_\_ to David would commit adultery with his \_\_\_\_\_ in broad daylight.
  - d. The son born to David and Bathsheba would \_\_\_\_\_
2. In light of God's purpose in discipline, do you believe this discipline was more to punish David or was it more to keep him in close fellowship with God? Discuss. Consider God's purposes in discipline in Hebrews 12:5-13.

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### PART SIX: Identifying sinful behavior

#### A. Using the scripture to identify sinful behavior or thoughts

What word in 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that the scripture is useful for identifying sin? \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Commands in the form of precepts

*Note: A precept is a specific command such as 1 Thessalonians 4:3 which is to abstain from sexual immorality.*

##### 1. Examples of explicit precepts or commands

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE	WHAT ARE WE NOT TO DO?	WHAT ARE WE TO DO?
1. Ephesians 4:25		
2. Ephesians 4:28		
3. Ephesians 4:29		

##### 2. Examples of implied precepts or commands:

a. Matthew 5:8 – Something to do - What implied precept is in this verse?  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Matthew 15:18-19 – Something not to do – What is the first implied precept mentioned after the words “evil thoughts”?  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Titus 2:4-5 –Young wives are to \_\_\_\_\_ their husbands and children.

d. 2 Thessalonians 3:11 – We are not to act like \_\_\_\_\_ (hint – last word of the verse).

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### C. Commands in the form of principles

*God's word has certain things that are not forbidden or commanded. It is important that believers know these principles so that they can make decisions on: what types of entertainment that they will not participate in, drinking alcohol or using legal drugs, observing of days and anything else God's word does not command or forbid*

**Put the verse reference in front of the question that we should ask ourselves before deciding whether we should or should not participate in something not commanded nor forbidden by God's word:**

**1 Corinthians 6:12a**

**1 Corinthians 6:12b**

**1 Corinthians 6:19**

**1 Corinthians 8:9, 13**

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

**1 Corinthians 11:1**

**2 Corinthians 8:21**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 1. Will this cause another believer to stumble into sin?   |
| _____ | 2. Will what I do look right to people as well as be right to God?                                       |
| _____ | 3. Is this activity something which could bring me under its power or control?                           |
| _____ | 4. Will this activity bring glory to God?  |
| _____ | 5. Would I want other believers following my example on this?  |
| _____ | 6. Will this activity harm my body?  |
| _____ | 7. Will this activity be helpful to promote Christ-likeness in my life and the lives of other believers? |

*Note: If the answer to any of these questions would cause us to not follow any one of these principles, then we need to avoid the activity.*

### D. General commands

*Note: General commands are commands that state a general category. Commands to love, rejoice, trust are subjective and have to be measured by other specific commands. Some examples are below.*

1. John 13:34-35 – We are commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ one another as Christ \_\_\_\_\_ us.
2. 2 John 1:5-6 – How would we determine if someone were obeying or not obeying this command? This is love that we \_\_\_\_\_ His commandments.
3. 2 Corinthians 5:7 – We walk or live by \_\_\_\_\_ not by sight.

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

4. James 2:17-18 – How would we determine if someone were obeying or not obeying this command? By observing or seeing their \_\_\_\_\_.
5. James 4:4 – We are commanded to not be a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
6. Philippians 2:14 cp. 1 Corinthians 10:10 – Someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ is obviously not rejoicing.

*Note: Another example that would show a lack of joy would be the verbal response of a believer to the joy of another believer (Romans 12:15).*

### **E. Is the believer under the Old Testament law**

1. Romans 7:1-7
  - a. 7:4 – The believer is said to have \_\_\_\_\_ to the Old Testament law.
  - b. 7:6 – The believer is said to be \_\_\_\_\_ from the Old Testament law by having \_\_\_\_\_ to that by which he or she was bound or held.
  - c. 7:7- The fact that this includes the ten commandments or moral law is shown by the example of Paul on the command which prohibited \_\_\_\_\_.
2. 2 Corinthians 3:6-13 – According to vv. 11 and 13, which covenant or testament was fading or passing away? The \_\_\_\_\_ testament or covenant. Which covenant was to last or remain? The \_\_\_\_\_ testament or covenant.
3. Hebrews 8:13 – The fact of a new covenant or testament makes the first covenant or testament \_\_\_\_\_ and ready to disappear or vanish.
4. 1 Corinthians 9:21 – Which law is the believer under? The law of \_\_\_\_\_.



## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

5. The law of Christ can be observed in two parts:
- a. The material in the 4 gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John plus the first 11 verse of Acts 1. John 14:26 explains that the \_\_\_\_\_ would help the Apostles and their associates recall \_\_\_\_\_ things Jesus said to them.
  - b. The material in the rest of the book of Acts through the end of the book of Revelation. Look at John 16:12-14
    - (1) 16:12 – During His earthly ministry, Jesus told the Apostles and their associates that He still had \_\_\_\_\_ to tell them.
    - (2) 16:13 – This additional information would be given to them by the \_\_\_\_\_ who would guide them into \_\_\_\_\_ truth.
    - (3) 16:14 – The Holy Spirit would take information from Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ it to them.

*Note: All scripture is profitable or useful (2 Timothy 3:16) but not all scripture is directly applicable. We will continue to look at how this works itself out for the Christian life. The best illustration that this author has found is that of moving from one country to another. If one grew up in China, he would be under the law code of China. However, if he moves to the United States and becomes a citizen, he would be under the law code of the United States. Those law codes would have similarities (prohibition of murder, robbery, assault and kidnapping) and the law codes would have differences. In China he could get in trouble for criticizing the government or deciding to move from one location to another without government permission, but in the United States he would be free to criticize the government and move from one location to another. In the same way there are Old Testament commandments that are repeated in the New Testament. Also some of the Old Testament commands clarify the meaning of some of the New Testament commands. However, some Old Testament commands are not repeated in the New Testament and in some cases even repealed by the New Testament.*

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

6. Fill in the answers in the table below. Note whether the command is repeated or not repeated.

<b>Ltr</b>	<b>Old Testament command</b>	<b>New Testament reference for law of Christ</b>	<b>Is this command repeated In the New Testament law of Christ?</b>
a.	Exodus 20:3 – no other gods	1 Corinthians 10:14; 1 John 5:21	Circle: YES NO
b.	Exodus 20:4-6 – no idols or likeness of the created world	Acts 17:29; Romans 1:21-25	Circle: YES NO
c.	Exodus 20:7 – not misusing God's name	Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 4:29; 5:4	Circle: YES NO
d.	Exodus 20:8-11 – keeping the Sabbath	Romans 14:5-6; Colossians 2:16-17	Circle: YES NO
e.	Exodus 20:12 – honoring parents	Ephesians 6:1-3; Mark 7:9-13	Circle: YES NO
f.	Exodus 20:13 – no murder	1 Peter 4:15; 1 John 3:14-15; Matthew 5:21-22	Circle: YES NO
g.	Exodus 20:14 – no adultery	Hebrews 13:4	Circle: YES NO
h.	Exodus 20:15 – no stealing	Ephesians 4:28	Circle: YES NO
i.	Exodus 20:16 – no bearing false witness	Ephesians 4:25	Circle: YES NO
j.	Exodus 20:17 – no coveting	Ephesians 5:5; Hebrews 13:5	Circle: YES NO

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

7. Since all scripture is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16), how is the command to keep the Sabbath in Exodus 20:8-11 profitable?

- a. Exodus 20:8-11 – The people of Israel were commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ six days and 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 commands believers to \_\_\_\_\_ while minding their own business and leading a quiet (uncontentious life) so that they may behave properly toward \_\_\_\_\_ and so that they will not be in \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Exodus 20:8-11 – The people of Israel were commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. In Mark 6:31 Jesus urges believers to set aside time to \_\_\_\_\_ for a while.
- c. Leviticus 23:2-3 – The people of Israel were commanded to have a \_\_\_\_\_ in addition to resting on the seventh day and Hebrews 10:25 commands believers to not give up or forsake \_\_\_\_\_ together.

*Note: For the Christian living under the New Covenant, the Sabbath is not a day to be observed (Colossians 2:16-17) but a way of life to be experienced by faith and obedience as we see in Hebrews 4:9, 11. For the believer under the Old Covenant, the Sabbath was a day to refrain from his own ways and seeking his own pleasure in a spirit of rejoicing (Isaiah 58:13-14). As a way of life, the believer living under the New Covenant is to seek God's pleasure not his own pleasure (2 Corinthians 5:9) and to be consistently rejoicing (Philippians 4:4).*

### 8. Old Testament commands not repeated in the New Testament

O.T. Scripture Reference	What is the precept?	Is this precept in the N.T.?	What is the principle?	Where is this principle in the N.T.?
a. Deuteronomy 22:5	Women shall not wear men's clothing nor are men to wear women's clothing.	No	Men and women should look distinct from one another.	1 Corinthians 11:14-15
b. Deuteronomy 22:8	Wall or parapet on the roof to keep people from falling off of it.	No	Love avoids doing what would harm a neighbor	Romans 13:10
c. Deuteronomy 22:11	Don't wear material mixed of wool and linen.	No	Avoid any form of witchcraft or sorcery.	Galatians 5:20

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

*Note: Wearing linen and wool mixed together was done by priests of idols because they believed it had magical powers. Many Old Testament commandments are not repeated in the New Testament, but since all scripture is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16), it is good to look for the principle behind a New Testament commandment that is common with the principle behind the Old Testament commandment.*

### 9. The Old Testament clarifies the meaning of certain New Testament commandments.

	<b>New Testament commandment</b>	<b>Old Testament clarification</b>
a.	Ephesians 4:28 prohibits _____	Leviticus 19:35-36 _____ weights and measurements
b.	1 Peter 4:15 – Besides stealing, evil doing and meddling, _____ is prohibited.	2 Samuel 1:9-15 - _____ killing is treated as murder.
c.	Romans 1:26-27 – Having _____ sexual relations including homosexual relations instead of natural sexual relations.	Leviticus 18:23 gives the example of unnatural relations with an _____.
d.	Ephesians 4:29 prohibits _____ communication.	Proverbs 26:18-19 gives an example of such communication in saying we were _____.
e.	Ephesians 6:2 commands children to _____ their parents.	Exodus 21:15, 17 shows this includes _____ or _____ our parents.

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### PART SEVEN: The principles of substitution and motivation for God-honoring change

*Note: It is not enough to just quit a sinful behavior pattern. It is necessary to substitute a God-honoring behavior pattern in its place. It is also necessary to be biblically motivated. We must not substitute man-made motivations for the divine motivations set forth in God's word.*

#### A. Fill out the following chart:

#	Scripture reference	Sin to be put away	Righteous behavior to be substituted	Motivation for this change
1.	Ephesians 4:25			
2.	Ephesians 4:28			
3.	Ephesians 4:29			
4.	Hebrews 10:25			
5.	Hebrews 13:5			
6.	Philippians 4:6-7			
7.	1 Corinthians 6:18-20			
8.	Romans 13:1-2			

#### B. Using the context to find other motivations for quitting sinful behavior and substituting righteous behavior

*Note: The context refers to the verses preceding and/or following the verse or verses being studied.*

1. Ephesians 4:22-24 - What are some additional motivations for putting off the sinful behaviors in Ephesians 4:25, 28-29 and putting on righteous behaviors? The putting off of the \_\_\_\_\_ man or nature which we had before we were saved, being \_\_\_\_\_ in our innermost mind, and the putting on of the \_\_\_\_\_ man or nature which restores to the likeness of God with respect to true \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

2. Romans 13:5 – What is an additional motivation for putting off the sinful behavior in Romans 13:1-2 and putting on the righteous behavior?  
The possibility of experiencing \_\_\_\_\_ and for the benefit of our \_\_\_\_\_.

### C. Using cross-references to find motivations for quitting sinful behavior and substituting righteous behavior

1. 1 Peter 2:13 – Another motivation regarding Romans 13:1-2 for quitting sinful behavior and substituting righteous behavior is for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.
2. 1 Peter 2:15 – Even another motivation regarding Romans 13:1-2 for quitting sinful behavior and substituting righteous behavior is because it is God's \_\_\_\_\_ that by doing \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (= means rebelliousness not stupidity) people.

### D. Using God's word to address a life problem

Example: Bill has a very difficult work situation with an ill-tempered and demanding boss. Use the following charts to set up a biblical way for him to handle this situation.

<b>Ephesians 6:5-8</b>		
<b>Avoid</b>	<b>Do</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
<b>Titus 2:9-10</b>		
<b>Avoid</b>	<b>Do</b>	<b>Motivation</b>
<b>1 Peter 2:18-20</b>		
<b>Avoid</b>	<b>Do</b>	<b>Motivation</b>

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **PART EIGHT: Avoiding sin by restructuring**

#### **A. Fleeing sin**

**1. 1 Corinthians 6:18 — multiple choice:**

- a. This means that we allow ourselves as much liberty as we feel like so long as we avoid the act itself.
- b. This simply means we are not to seek to be sexually immoral but not to be concerned if it happens naturally.
- c. This means that we are to only have sex with people we feel some love for.
- d. This means it's okay so long as both parties agree to it.
- e. This means we are to avoid behaviors which would arouse desires that cannot be righteously satisfied based on what God's word says.

*Note: Joseph is a great illustration of what it means to flee sexual immorality in Genesis 39:7-12. He verbalized his refusal openly and also implied that it would destroy the basis of trust with others, i.e. her husband (vv. 7-8). He testified and made it clear that pleasing God was His priority (v. 9). He did three things: he avoided listening to her, he avoided spending time with her, and he refused her compromise to just lie down beside her (v. 10 especially the NAS or NKJV). He was forceful in his refusal (v. 12).*

**2. 1 Timothy 6:11 – According to 1 Timothy 6:9-10, the two things we are to flee are desiring to be \_\_\_\_\_ and the love of \_\_\_\_\_. There are several attitudes and behaviors that will help us do this.**

- a. 1 Timothy 6:11 – Positively pursue \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 – Attitude of \_\_\_\_\_
- c. 1 John 3:17-18 - sharing with believers in \_\_\_\_\_
- d. 2 Corinthians 8:3 – \_\_\_\_\_ to God's work.
- e. Romans 12:2 – Avoid being conformed to this \_\_\_\_\_.

*Note: It is not a sin to be rich (Genesis 13:2; Matthew 27:57). It is the love of money not money itself that is a root of all kinds of evil.*

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

3. 1 Corinthians 10:14 – We are commanded to avoid behaviors which would lead to the sin of \_\_\_\_\_ (=substitutes for the true God). Practical suggestions for avoiding this sin. Match the listed scripture references with the statement which belongs with it: Exodus 20:3-6; Deuteronomy 7:3-4; 1 Samuel 15:22-23; Ezekiel 14:3-4; Matthew 6:24; Luke 6:46; Galatians 5:16-20; Colossians 3:5; Titus 2:11-12.

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Since idolatry begins in the heart, we are discipline our thoughts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Continually ask yourselves, “Am I violating biblical commands to gain or retain material things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Do not enter close relationships with unbelievers so that they will not heavily influence your attitudes and behavior.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Don't try to serve God and another source of authority which overrules God's word.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. Keep in mind that God is a jealous God which means that He requires our exclusive devotion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. Keep godly living as a command not an option.
- \_\_\_\_\_ g. Live in dependence on the Holy Spirit's power.
- \_\_\_\_\_ h. The bottom line of living under Christ's Lordship is obeying His word.
- \_\_\_\_\_ i. The sin of arrogant, stubborn and defiant insubordination to God is the same as idolatry.

4. 2 Timothy 2:22 – We are to flee youthful \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. To make this successful, what behaviors are to be pursued intently?
  - (1) Practical \_\_\_\_\_ (=living by God's standards).
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (=learning to trust God in all circumstances for all things).
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (= actions toward other believers based on a concern to see them become more like Christ).
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (=calmness internally and harmony externally with other people).
- b. To live this way requires being with other spiritually-minded believers because it to be done with those who \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord out of a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.



## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

*Note: It is probably more helpful to think of this command in terms of the principle behind it which would be to flee the desires which are common to the age group in which you find yourself. Remember, this is obviously referring to sinful desires not just desires.*

- c. List the desires common to today's youth and those desires which are common to your age group? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Other ways of fleeing sinful behavior

- a. Proverbs 5:8 – Keep \_\_\_\_\_ from anyone who tempts you to enter an illicit sexual relationship. We are not to even go \_\_\_\_\_ of the door of that person.
- b. Proverbs 6:23-24 – Be teachable from God's \_\_\_\_\_ and the reproof of His \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Proverbs 15:1 – By not responding in kind to those who are \_\_\_\_\_ but rather giving a \_\_\_\_\_ answer.
- d. Proverbs 15:28 – Taking time to \_\_\_\_\_ before you speak.
- e. Proverbs 26:17 – Interfering or involving oneself in the \_\_\_\_\_ of other people.
- f. Proverbs 26:28 – Avoid the sins of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- g. Proverbs 29:25 – Don't let \_\_\_\_\_ of what others will say or do keep us from doing what God's word requires.
- h. 1 Timothy 5:13 – Avoid the habit of being \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid getting involved in gossip and meddling in matters for which you have no biblical responsibility.

### B. Avoiding bad company

- 1. 1 Corinthians 15:33 - \_\_\_\_\_ company corrupts good \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Proverbs 13:20 - Avoid spending time with \_\_\_\_\_ and spend time with \_\_\_\_\_ people to avoid destruction or spiritual ruin.

*Note: Matthew 7:24-27 carefully distinguishes between being wise and being foolish. The wise individual knows and obeys God's word while the foolish individual knows God's word but does not obey it.*

- 3. Proverbs 14:7 – Avoid hanging around with foolish people because of his handling of the words of \_\_\_\_\_.

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

4. Proverbs 20:19 – Do not associate with one who \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Proverbs 22:24-25 – Do not associate with a \_\_\_\_\_ person because you may \_\_\_\_\_ his ways.
6. Proverbs 23:20-21 – Avoid hanging around with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ because their ways lead to \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Proverbs 24:1-2 – We are not to \_\_\_\_\_ evil people nor \_\_\_\_\_ to be with them because they are set on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Proverbs 24:21-22 – We are to avoid association with those who are \_\_\_\_\_ because both God and those in authority can bring \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ into our lives.
9. Romans 16:17-18 – We are to avoid those who cause \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ not in harmony with God's word. The danger of hanging around these people is that they can \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts or thinking by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ speech.
10. 2 John 1:9-11 – We are to avoid those who do not abide or remain in the doctrine or teaching concerning \_\_\_\_\_.
11. 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 – If believers do not \_\_\_\_\_ God's word, we are not to associate with them. Yet we are to \_\_\_\_\_ them as we have opportunity to speak with them.
12. What are some reasons given for avoiding close association with unbelievers?
  - a. Joshua 23:12-13 – It can result in even closer associations such as \_\_\_\_\_ and be a \_\_\_\_\_ (= it traps us in our inability to completely do what God commands), like a whip it can bring extra suffering into our lives, and hinder our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ or understanding and cause us to \_\_\_\_\_ the land which pictures God's blessing.
  - b. 1 Kings 11:2 – It can cause us to be loyal to the world's substitutes for \_\_\_\_\_.

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

13. Matthew 9:10-13 – Jesus associated with such outcasts as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

What was his two-fold purpose in this?

- (a) To introduce them to Himself as the \_\_\_\_\_ for those who are sin-sick.
- (b) To show them that God values \_\_\_\_\_ more than religious duties carried out from a prideful heart.

*Note: This passage does not nullify the other passages regarding relationships. It emphasizes the need to build relationships with unsaved people for the purpose of introducing them to the Great Physician. As we have occasion to socialize with unbelievers, we must continually ask the question: "Am I doing this for enjoyment and helping the sickness of sin to spread, or am I using this to take definite steps to introduce them to the Great Physician?"*

14. 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 – With respect to the immoral, the covetous, swindlers, drunkards and idolaters:

- a. We are not to associate with anyone who does these things who claims that he or she is \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. We can associate with anyone who does these things who is \_\_\_\_\_.

- c. cp. 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 – If it is a believer involved in these sins, does the command in 1 Corinthians 5 mean that we should avoid speaking to them? Circle one:      YES      NO

15. 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 – We are not to be \_\_\_\_\_ with unbelievers. The following chart explains the differences that are the reasons for this command.

<b>Unbelievers represent</b>	<b>Believers represent and are</b>
Lawlessness	Righteousness
Darkness	Light
Belial (=Satan)	Christ
Unbelievers own interests	Christ's interests
Temple of idols	Temple of God

*Note: Examples of this command include marriage and business partnerships. If a believer is already married to an unbeliever he or she is to remain married to that unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:12-14). One may work for an unbeliever so long as he is not in a business partnership with him (1 Timothy 6:1-2). Neither does this command prohibit associating with a unbeliever such as going out to eat with them (1 Corinthians 10:27).*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **PART NINE: Discipline and dependence**

#### **A. Contrast of these two essentials to obedient Christian living**

1. Discipline emphasizes our responsibility to obey God's word and to avoid sin. If we distort this, we get the idea that living for Christ is totally a matter of grinding it out on our own. If we distort it, it overlooks our need for help in living obediently.
2. Dependence emphasizes that we must trust or depend on Christ to provide the power we need for obedient living. If we distort this, we become caught up in the idea of "let go, and let God" and overlook our responsibility to act in obedience on what we know God's word says.

#### **B. Obedience to God requires discipline on our part**

1. Luke 9:23 – What are the 3 essentials of coming after Christ in full discipleship?
  - a. Say "no" to or deny \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Take up our own cross \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

*Note: This is talking about coming after Christ in full discipleship and not about coming to Christ for salvation. Our cross is the sufferings that come our way because we choose to obey Christ. It may involve putting up with an irritating step child or an unpleasant marriage. It may involve staying in a job situation we do not like because there is no alternative at the time and because God commands believers to provide for their family (1 Timothy 5:8). 1 Samuel 12:14 defines what it means to follow Christ: to fear God or take Him absolutely seriously, serve Him with our time, abilities and possessions, and not rebelling against His commandments by willful disobedience.*

2. Romans 13:1 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ those who govern us.
3. 1 Peter 2:18-19 – What requires discipline in living for God in the work place?
  - a. being in \_\_\_\_\_ to our supervisor with complete \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. We are to do this even if the boss is not good and gentle but is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. This may involve suffering \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Colossians 4:2 - We are to devote ourselves to or continue earnestly in \_\_\_\_\_ and earnestly \_\_\_\_\_ in it.  
(Colossians 4:12) \_\_\_\_\_

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

5. 2 Timothy 4:5 – We are to do the \_\_\_\_\_ of an evangelist which is to tell people how to be saved by trusting Christ.
6. Hebrews 12:4 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ against sin.
7. 1 Timothy 4:7 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves for the purpose of godliness.
8. Personal responsibility
  - a. Psalm 106:32-33 – The people of Israel \_\_\_\_\_ against God's Holy Spirit and provoked Moses to speak \_\_\_\_\_ but it \_\_\_\_\_ with Moses as a result.
  - b. 1 Samuel 3:12-14 – Who had brought a curse or sentence of judgment on themselves because of their sin? The \_\_\_\_\_ of Eli. God was unhappy with \_\_\_\_\_ because he did not \_\_\_\_\_ them.

*Note: There is dual responsibility for sin. Moses was provoked but God still held him accountable. At the same time God considered the action that provoked Moses rebellion on the part of the people. In the case of Eli, his sons were involved in despising God's offering (1 Samuel 2:12-17) and in sexual immorality (1 Samuel 2:22), and as the high priest in charge, he did not restrain their behavior but showed favoritism to them because they were his sons (1 Samuel 2:29).*

### **C. Obedience to God requires dependence or trust on our part**

1. Hebrews 13:20-21 – We depend on God to \_\_\_\_\_ in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight.
2. Colossians 2:6 – We are to live our life by faith in Christ just as we \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.
3. 2 Corinthians 5:7 – We walk or live our Christian lives by \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Proverbs 3:5-6 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ in the LORD with all our hearts and not to lean on our own \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Galatians 2:20 – Those of us who have trusted Christ for salvation and as a result share His death are to live their present lives in the body by \_\_\_\_\_.
6. 1 Corinthians 15:10 – When we work for God, it is not really us working but God's \_\_\_\_\_ working with us.

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

7. John 15:4-5 – We cannot produce \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ unless we \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ because apart from Him we can do \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Ephesians 3:16 – We are strengthened with power in the inner man by God's \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Ephesians 3:20 – God's \_\_\_\_\_ works in us.
10. The ministry of the Holy Spirit:
  - a. Zechariah 4:6 – God states that His work is not done by might or power but by His \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Ephesians 5:18 – The believer is commanded to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Galatians 5:16 – We are promised that if we \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit, we will not fulfill the desire of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Galatians 3:1-5 – This teaches that – multiple choice
    - (1) We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation by works and after salvation our works appropriate the Holy Spirit's working in our lives.
    - (2) We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation by faith in Christ and after salvation our works appropriate the Holy Spirit's working in our lives.
    - (3) We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation by works and we appropriate the Holy Spirit's working in our lives by faith in Christ.
    - (4) We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation by faith in Christ and we appropriate the Holy Spirit's working in our lives by faith in Christ.

*Note: In John 7:37-39 Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit will flow out of the one who keeps on believing in or trusting in Him in v. 38. In v. 39 John explains that those who trusted Christ at a point of time would receive the Holy Spirit. This is consistent with Galatians 3:1-5. Faith in Christ receives the Holy Spirit at salvation and faith in Christ for power and direction after salvation appropriates the Holy Spirit's working in our lives.*

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### D. Scriptures which illustrate how discipline and dependence work together in our struggle against sin

<b>Scripture reference</b>	<b>The believer's part</b>	<b>God's part</b>
1. Colossians 1:29	I labor _____	According to His _____ which mightily _____ within me.
2. Philippians 2:12-13	_____ out your salvation	For it is God who _____ in you both to _____ and _____ His good pleasure.
3. Philippians 4:13	I can _____ all things	through _____
4. Romans 8:13	Put to death the _____ of the body	By the _____
5. 1 Corinthians 3:9	We are _____	with God.
6. Romans 12:19	Do not _____ yourselves	God says, I will _____

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### E. The body of Christ and sin

Put the following scriptures where they belong in the table below:  
Matthew 5:23-24; Luke 17:3-4 – Romans 15:14 – 1 Corinthians 11:1 –  
Ephesians 4:32 – Hebrews 3:13 – James 5:16

<b>Scripture</b>	<b>My need</b>	<b>My obligation</b>	<b>Reason</b>
1.	Be able to receive rebuke	Be able to give rebuke	Restoration of fellowship with one another and with God
2.	Seek encouragement daily	Give encouragement daily	Sin hardens and is deceitful
3.	Enlist other believers' prayers for my sins	Pray for other believers' sins	Correction
4.	Imitate Christlike characteristics of other believers	Be a Christlike model for other believers	Provide a visible model
5.	Seek forgiveness of fellow-believers	Forgive fellow-believers who have sinned against me.	God as the model has forgiven us
6.	Be able to receive admonition	Be able to give admonition	Prevention of sin and careless Christian living

*Note: This is one of the ways in which we express our dependence on the Lord by looking to the body of Christ for what God says that I need and by disciplining myself to act on my obligations to the other members of the body of Christ.*



## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **F. Checklist for Discipline and Dependence (Ephesians 6:10-18)**

1. 6:10 - We are to depend on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.
2. 6:11, 13 – Our responsibility is to use \_\_\_\_\_ armor of God which is all of His spiritual provisions.
3. God's spiritual armor or provisions:
  - a. 6:14 -The belt pictures the need for \_\_\_\_\_ in the believer's life.
  - b. 6:14 – The breastplate pictures the need for practical \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. 6:15 – Our footwear is to be prepared to share the \_\_\_\_\_ which brings peace with God.
  - d. 6:16 – The shield which represents the \_\_\_\_\_ by which we live out the Christian life day by day.
  - e. 6:17 cp. 1 Thessalonians 5:8 – The helmet represents the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f. 6:17 – The sword represents the \_\_\_\_\_ of God which the Holy Spirit uses to penetrate people's hearts.
  - g. 6:18 – continuous \_\_\_\_\_ in the Spirit, i.e. under the control of the Holy Spirit.
4. 6:13 – After we have done \_\_\_\_\_, we are to \_\_\_\_\_ firm.

*Note: In Ephesians 6:10 we are trusting Christ to help us obey while in Ephesians 6:13 we are trusting Christ for the outcome of our disciplined and dependent obedience. To balance the concept of dependence and discipline in the Christian life, we are to trust Christ like it all depends on Him - and indeed it does - and we are to discipline ourselves as though it all depended on us. In the preface of His book, The Pursuit of Holiness author Jerry Bridges speaks of farming as an illustration of how a holy life is lived. The farmer is utterly dependent on God to cause the seed to germinate, for rain and sunshine. Yet the farmer must plow, plant, fertilize, cultivate and harvest in order to have a crop. He is a partner with God and will only have success when he fulfills his responsibilities. The farmer cannot do what God must do, and God will not do what the farmer is supposed to do. In the same way, a holy life is a partnership between God and the believer with God working in the believer's life and the believer exerting effort on his own part.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **PART TEN: Temptation and mental attitude sin**

#### **A. Temptation (=enticement to sin)**

1. Sources of temptation: Match by placing the following scriptures by the source of temptation: 1 Corinthians 7:5      James 1:13  
James 1:14-15      Proverbs 1:10
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Our sinful nature  
\_\_\_\_\_ b. The world or other people  
\_\_\_\_\_ c. Satan  
\_\_\_\_\_ d. Not from God
2. Ephesians 2:1-3 – What term is used for the sources of temptation which are linked together in this passage?  
a. Satan \_\_\_\_\_  
b. According to the course of this \_\_\_\_\_  
c. The lusts, desires or cravings of our \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 Corinthians 10:13  
a. Our temptations are \_\_\_\_\_ to people.  
b. What attribute of God applies to this situation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
c. God does not allow our temptation to be \_\_\_\_\_ what we are able to handle.  
d. In each temptation God makes the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ that we may be able to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*Note: Notice that God's concept of escape is not that we get out of it but that we are able to bear it. Some common cop-outs which ignore this truth are: "I can't quit that sin." "That's just the way I am." "I can't forgive him." "I could do that if so and so would ..." "I have a need to ..." "I could quit that sin if..."*

4. Hebrews 4:15 – This verse shows – multiple choice:  
a. It is a sin to be tempted.  
b. If we are tempted, we will surely sin.  
c. It is not a sin to be tempted.  
d. If we are tempted, we cannot help keep ourselves from sinning.

*Note: The distinction between temptation and mental attitude sin is well illustrated by the adage, "You cannot stop a bird from landing on your head, but you do not have to let him build a nest there." An evil thought that crosses our mind is merely a temptation unless we harbor it, maintain it or focus on it.*

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

5. 1 Corinthians 7:5; 1 Timothy 6:9-11 – Which of these statements is correct? – multiple choice:
- a. We should behave to have more temptation.
  - b. We should behave to have less temptation.
  - c. We should just do as we think and not worry about whether it causes temptation
  - d. The level of temptation does not matter because we just have to focus only on self-control.

6. Show what helps us to defeat temptation by putting the scripture references below with the statement that best summarizes what that reference teaches:

Matthew 4:1-11  
Ephesians 6:16

Matthew 26:41  
Hebrews 2:17-18

2 Corinthians 2:11  
James 4:7

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Christ as High Priest now in heaven helps us to battle temptation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. First submit to God and then resist the devil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. By continuing faith in Christ's power, we shield ourselves from Satan's attacks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Knowing and obeying God's word to meet each attack of Satan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. Knowing Satan's strategies or devices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. Being alert or discerning and praying helps to defeat or avoid temptation.

7. Notice the two devices or tactics that Satan uses:

- a. To crush – 1 Peter 5:8-9

(1) He is compared to a \_\_\_\_\_ lion seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

(2) Our response is to be:

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ = guarding our thoughts from outside influences including Satan.

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ = to be discerning

(c) We are to \_\_\_\_\_ Satan by being \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
(= the New Testament truths)

*Note: This strategy appears to involve the infliction of suffering that we see as common among other believers. Job 1 and 2 are good examples of this.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

b. To camouflage – 2 Corinthians 11:14-15

(1) Satan represents himself as a \_\_\_\_\_ angel  
and his servants represent themselves as standing for \_\_\_\_\_

(2) cp. Isaiah 8:20 – This camouflage or disguise is removed  
by holding it up to the light of \_\_\_\_\_

8. 1 John 2:15-17 –

a. What 3 areas does the world system use to tempt us?

(1) Pleasure – the lust or desires of the \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Possessions – the lust or desires of the \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Prominence – the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
life.

b. What attitude are we to maintain toward the things of this  
world? To know or recognize that they are \_\_\_\_\_

c. What is to motivate this attitude? The \_\_\_\_\_  
of God.

9. James 1:13-14 cp. Ephesians 2:3 – Our sinful nature uses our  
\_\_\_\_\_ as a lever to tempt us.

10. Hebrews 11:25 – What makes sin so tempting and what must we  
remember? The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin which are  
\_\_\_\_\_, however.

11. Hebrews 3:13

a. What makes sin so dangerous? It \_\_\_\_\_  
us and then it \_\_\_\_\_ us.

b. We avoid this by giving and receiving \_\_\_\_\_  
to and from one another.

*Note: When dealing with temptation, many believers try to resist thinking about it. The best way to handle temptation is to do something else that is not sinful but requires some thought and concentration to do it. This will take your thought off the temptation.*

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### B. Mental attitude sin

1. Why is obedience to the word of God so important in this area?
  - a. Proverbs 4:23 – The issues or well-springs of \_\_\_\_\_ come from our heart or our thinking.
  - b. Proverbs 23:7 – As an individual \_\_\_\_\_ in his heart, so is he.
  - c. Matthew 15:18-19 – All categories of sin proceed from the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What can we do to have obedient thoughts?
  - a. Philippians 4:6-7 – Problem of worry
    - (1) Stop \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for specific things with giving of \_\_\_\_\_
    - (3) To motivate us, we are promised that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God through Christ will \_\_\_\_\_ our emotions and thoughts.
  - b. Philippians 4:8 – What God-honoring behaviors and attitudes are we to focus our thoughts on?

#	Whatever is:	Explanation
(1)		Expressing truth in love
(2)		Worthy of respect
(3)		In keeping with God's standards
(4)		God-approved sexual thoughts and not lustful
(5)		That which produces peace or harmony
(6)		Things which if known by others would be commendable
(7)		Best moral options
(8)		Self-explanatory but avoiding anything of which we should be ashamed (Philippians 3:19)

*Note: 1 Peter 1:13 and 2 Corinthians 10:5 make it abundantly clear that we must take responsibility for disciplining our thoughts.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **c. The eye gate – guarding our thoughts by limiting what we view**

#### **(1) Examples of our vulnerability to sinful thoughts through the eye gate**

- (a) Genesis 3:6 – The woman saw that the tree was a delight or pleasant to the \_\_\_\_\_, she sinned by taking the fruit and \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- (b) Joshua 7:21 – Achan \_\_\_\_\_ among the spoils a Babylonian garment, 200 shekels of silver and gold weighing 50 shekels which resulted in him \_\_\_\_\_ them and \_\_\_\_\_ them and hiding them.
- (c) 2 Samuel 11:2-4 – David \_\_\_\_\_ from his roof a woman bathing who was very beautiful to look at. He then sent someone to \_\_\_\_\_ about the woman. He then sent messengers and took the woman and \_\_\_\_\_ with her.
- (d) Matthew 5:27-28 – Jesus stated that whoever \_\_\_\_\_ at a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her in his \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **(2) The need to guard what we view**

- (a) Psalm 101:3 – We must commit ourselves to placing nothing \_\_\_\_\_ before our \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) Psalm 119:37 – We must pray to God to turn our \_\_\_\_\_ away from looking at \_\_\_\_\_.

*Note: Each one of us needs to ask ourselves how we are vulnerable through the eye gate. This involves being careful what we read, view on TV, the computer, movies, and plays, on the street (example: looking through people's windows). In the area of sexual lust, Jesus taught that we are to be as drastic as necessary (Matthew 5:29-30). We may need to limit or completely give up TV, movies, or use of the internet on the computer unless under someone's watchful eye. Christians have a tendency to know that bad language and sexual content are wrong but forget other seemingly innocent viewings of disrespect for parents, spouses, those in authority and anyone is wrong and is not good to view lest we become hardened (Hebrews 3:13).*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

- d. Guarding the ear gate or what we listen to
- (1) Isaiah 33:15 – We are to stop our \_\_\_\_\_ from listening to plots to commit murder.
  - (2) Genesis 39:10 – The NAS translates this verse to say that Joseph refused to listen to the pleadings and arguments of his master's wife trying to entice him to have an immoral relationship with her. Those who try to talk us into any compromise of purity should not be listened to.
  - (3) Proverbs 28:9 – We are not to turn away our ears from hearing \_\_\_\_\_ or our \_\_\_\_\_ to God will be detestable.
  - (4) Proverbs 22:17 – We are to listen to or hear the words of the \_\_\_\_\_ (=those who know and obey God's word).
  - (5) Mark 4:24 – We need to be careful \_\_\_\_\_ we hear or listen to.
  - (6) Luke 8:18 – We need to be careful \_\_\_\_\_ we hear or listen.
- e. Psalm 19:14 – We are to pray that our words and our thoughts be \_\_\_\_\_ in God's sight.
- f. Five ways to use God's word to promote thoughts honoring to God
- (1) Romans 10:17 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ God's word as this helps us to have \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) Deuteronomy 17:19 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ God's word each day to learn to \_\_\_\_\_ God and to \_\_\_\_\_ all of it.
  - (3) Acts 17:11 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ God's word daily to see if what we are being taught is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (4) Psalm 119:11 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ God's word in our hearts to avoid \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (5) Joshua 1:8 – We are to \_\_\_\_\_ on God's word for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ obedience to experience \_\_\_\_\_ (=growth) and \_\_\_\_\_ (= laying hold of the purpose for which Christ laid hold of us).

*Note: The failure to be obedient in our thinking often occurs because we merely try to quit thinking sinful thoughts. We fail to fill the vacuum with thoughts and activities that honor God and that are in harmony with His word. Beware of those who say, "I thought of doing such and such sin so I might as well go ahead and do it." This type of thinking is fallacious because when one does this, he is committing two sins instead of one: the mental-attitude sin and the behavioral sin. Sin is not like the department store with God. There are no two for one specials.*

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **PART ELEVEN: Special problems in sin**

#### **A. Chain sin**

##### **1. David (2 Samuel 11:1-17)**

- a. 11:1-2 – How should have David been using his time?  
By being involved in \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. 11:2 – He failed to guard what he \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. 11:2-3 cp. 1 Corinthians 6:18 – He failed to \_\_\_\_\_  
sexual immorality by moving in the opposite direction.
- d. 11:4 cp. Exodus 20:14 – He committed the sin of  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- e. 11:6-12 cp. 1 Peter 2:1 – This led to David's next sins of hypocrisy  
and \_\_\_\_\_ in his dealings with Uriah.
- f. David sinned by involving others in trying to cover his sin:
  - (1) 11:13 - David involved Uriah by getting him \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) 11:14-15 – David involved Joab by ordering him to put  
Uriah in a position where he would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- g. 11:17 cp. 12:9 cp. Exodus 20:13 – David's final sin was arranging  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of Uriah.

##### **2. Saul – Match the following references with the statement showing the chain sin of Saul: 1 Chronicles 10:4      1 Chronicles 10:13**

1 Samuel 18:6-9      1 Samuel 18:17-19      1 Samuel 15:22-24  
1 Samuel 13:8-14      1 Samuel 14:24

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. doing what only the priest was to do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. rash oath
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. partial obedience and fear of people
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. jealousy
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. attempted murder and deceit
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. consulting a medium
- \_\_\_\_\_ g. suicide



## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **3. Cain**

- a. Genesis 4:1-5 cp. 3:17 cp. Galatians 3:10 cp. Hebrews 11:4, 6  
Cain tried to please God by offering the fruit of what was \_\_\_\_\_ by God instead of coming to Him by \_\_\_\_\_ and a bloodshed offering (Hebrews 12:24).
- b. Genesis 4:5-6 cp. Matthew 5:22 – Cain's next step was the sin of \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Genesis 4:7-8 cp. 1 John 3:12-15 – The rest of the chain in Cain's sins would be in this order – multiple choice:
  - (1) envy, hate, murder
  - (2) murder, hate, envy
  - (3) murder envy, hate
  - (4) a bloodshed offering, indifference, deceit

#### **B. Other problems in dealing with sin**

Match the following scripture references with the statement to which they belong:

Exodus 32:19-24 cp. 32:2-4

1 Samuel 15:18-23

1 Kings 13:1-24

Acts 5:1-10

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Insincere obedience
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sincere disobedience
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Minimizing sin or my role in sin  
"My sin is not so bad."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Partial obedience

## **What God's Word Teaches About Sin**

### **PART TWELVE: Summary of obedient living**

1. Discipline (self-discipline)
  - a. Do's including forming thoughts pleasing to God
  - b. Don't's
    - (1) Avoid sinful thoughts and behavior
    - (2) restructuring activities and relationships
2. Dependence – attitude of trusting Christ to help us obey and to avoid sin. By doing this we activate the teaching, guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. This may be additionally expressed through our dependence on the body of Christ.
3. Doctrine (Motivation) – Forming a motivation based on scripture rather than merely what is practical from a human standpoint.

### **PART THIRTEEN: A model for counseling**

#### **A. Using the scriptures to counsel (Isaiah 55:7-9)**

1. Isaiah 55:8 – God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ which are set forth in the scripture are not the same as man's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ which are either not mentioned in scripture or stated to be wrong by scripture.
2. Isaiah 55:9 - God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ which are set forth in the scripture are higher than man's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ which are either not mentioned in scripture or stated to be wrong by scripture.
3. Isaiah 55:7 - What is man called upon to do in light of this?  
To forsake his \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_
4. Romans 3:23 – How many people do the words, “wicked”, “evil” and “unrighteous” refer to? \_\_\_\_\_
5. 1 John 1:8, 10 - How many believers do the words, “wicked”, “evil” and “unrighteous” refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Our job in counseling is to persuade the person we counsel to turn loose of their thoughts and ways and take on God's thoughts and ways. The following chart is an excellent model for this process. You may add other scriptures to this chart as needed. You may also use this chart to help you use God's word to make choices based on faith and obedience.*

## What God's Word Teaches About Sin

### B. Chart for counseling

<b>MAN'S WAYS AND THOUGHTS</b> Not God's ways and thoughts Lower or less than God's ways and thoughts	<b>SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</b> Isaiah 55:8  Isaiah 55:9	<b>GOD'S WAYS AND THOUGHTS</b> Different from man's ways and thoughts Higher or greater than man's ways and thoughts
Lean to your own understanding	Proverbs 3:5	Trust in the LORD
Trust in our heart or feelings and be deceived	Jeremiah 17:9 Cp. John 17:17	Trust God's word and have the truth
Walk by sight	2 Corinthians 5:7	Walk by faith
Faith based on my own value system	Romans 10:17	Faith based on God's word
Do not obey God's word and lose God's blessing	Luke 11:28	Obey God's word and receive God's blessing
My will, getting what I want in my life	Matthew 26:39	God's will, God getting what He wants in my life
I would rather suffer for doing what is wrong so I can have my way.	1 Peter 3:17	It is better to suffer for doing what is good so God can have His way.