

# PERSONAL SIN/EFFECTS OF SIN/SPECIFIC SINS

## INTRODUCTION

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- Sin is a reality because we have inherited a sin nature (inherited sin) and Adam's sin was imputed to us (imputed sin)
- Yet it is true that our personal sins bring home the reality of sin

### A COMPARISON OF THE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF SIN

ASPECT	SCRIPTURE	TRANSMISSION	PRINCIPAL CONSEQUENCE	REMEDY
INHERITED SIN	Ephesians 2:3	Generation to generation	Spiritual death	Redemption and the gift of the Holy Spirit
IMPUTED SIN	Romans 5:12	Direct from Adam to me	Physical death	Imputed righteousness
PERSONAL SINS	Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:9	None	Loss of fellowship	Forgiveness

\* Adapted from *Basic Theology* by Charles Ryrie

## PERSONAL SIN

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- Refers to the act of disobedience in word, thought, or deed that unbelievers do
- Refers to any lack of conformity to the character of God
- It is on the basis of their committing sins personally that all people are condemned

**Isaiah 64:6** ~ *For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*

**Romans 1:29-31** ~ *being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*

**Romans 3:13-18** ~ *THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING, THE POISON OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS; WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS; THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN. THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.*

**Galatians 5:19-21** ~ *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- The manifestation of sin that is easiest to understand and recognize is that which occurs when we do something that is unlike what God would do
- These evil acts of both word and deed are thus the basis for our condemnation

## THE EFFECTS OF SIN

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### It is Enslaving

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- Sin controls, dominates, and acts as an evil master and tyrant over the unbeliever

**Romans 6:6** ~ *knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;*

**Romans 6:12** ~ *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,*

**Romans 6:14** ~ *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

**Romans 6:16-18** ~ *Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

**Romans 6:20** ~ *For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.*

**2 Timothy 2:26** ~ *and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

### It Produces Hostility Toward God

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- Unbelievers are not simply passive toward God, they are set in their hearts against Him

**Psalm 14:1** ~ *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.*

**John 3:19** ~ *And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.*

**Romans 1:21-23, 25, 28** ~ *For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures...For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen....And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*

**Romans 3:11** ~ *THERE IS none WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;*

**Romans 8:7** ~ *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so*

### It Produces Alienation from God

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- Totally separated from God

**Isaiah 59:2** ~ *But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.*

**Ephesians 2:11-12** ~ *Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

- God cannot enter into a relationship with those who reject Him and are blemished by sin

**Habakkuk 1:13** ~ *Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?*

## **It Results in Death**

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- Sin results in spiritual, physical, and eternal death for the unbeliever

**Ezekiel 18:4** ~ *The soul who sins will die.*

**Mark 9:44-48** ~ *[where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.] And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than having your two feet, to be cast into hell, [where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.] And if your eye causes you to stumble, cast it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into hell, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.*

**Luke 16:25-26** ~ *But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.’*

**John 3:36** ~ *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him*

**Romans 6:23** ~ *For the wages of sin is death*

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** ~ *And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

**Revelation 21:8** ~ *But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death*

- The primary reason God punishes sin with death is that His righteousness demands it
- God poured out His wrath on Christ on the cross which resulted in Christ’s death IN ORDER to demonstrate His righteousness

**Romans 3:25-26** ~ *whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*

- Thus, God shows Himself to be a righteous judge by punishing sin...which ultimately demonstrate His justice and brings Him glory

## **ARE THERE DEGREES OF SIN?**

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- Yes and no
- There are NOT degrees of sin in regards to our standing before God....any sin no matter how small or great makes us guilty before a holy God
- This was Jesus’ point in the Sermon on the Mount:

**Matthew 5:21-22** ~ *You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell*

**Matthew 5:27-28** ~ *You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

- Jesus equates committing adultery with having lust in your heart and committing murder with having hatred in your heart
- Thus, Jesus point is that sin is still sin even if you only want to do the act, without actually carrying it out
- So, in regard to both eternal consequences and salvation, all sins are the same...every sin will lead to eternal condemnation

**James 2:10-11** ~ *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For He who said, “DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,” also said, “DO NOT COMMIT MURDER.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law*

- However, this does not mean that all sins are equal...it is much worse to actually murder a person than it is to simply hate a person and it is much worse to actually commit adultery than to lust
- So, even though they are both sins in God’s sight, there are degrees to sin in that some sins are worse than others in terms of consequences
- Jesus implied this when He stood before Pilate:

**John 19:11** ~ *Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”*

- Christ indicated that the one who handed Him over to Pilate (either Judas or Caiaphas) was more guilty than Pilate
- Thus, some sins have more harmful consequences than others in that they bring more dishonor to the Lord or more harm to the church and others
- This is not the same as the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church of venial vs. mortal sins

## SPECIFIC SINS

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### The Unpardonable Sin

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**Matthew 12:31** ~ *Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.*

- What is the “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit”? → This very serious sin must be interpreted in light of the overall context
- In the previous verses, it is clear that the Pharisees were ascribing Christ’s ministry to the power of Satan
- As the religious were face to face with the Messiah, they were refusing to believe but rather attributed the Spirit’s ministry through Christ to Satan and demons
- This was the epitome of rejection of Christ, so much so that Christ indicated it sealed their eternal destiny—their sin would never be forgiven, not because it could not be covered by Christ’s redemptive work, but because their hardened heart put them beyond the reach of God’s ordinary means of saving people
- While the spirit of the unpardonable sin might be committed today (see Heb 6:4-6), this sin was a unique sin that was only possible to commit at this time when face to face with the living Christ and His miracles

## The Sin Unto Death

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**1 John 5:16** ~ *If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this*

- A couple possible views:

### 1. This is a reference to unbelief and apostasy which results in spiritual death

- It refers to those who appeared to be believers, yet never really belonged to Christ
- The “sin unto death” refers to the sin of apostasy where someone exposed to the truth, knowingly and willingly walks away, rejecting Christ

**Hebrews 6:4-8** ~ *For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,<sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,<sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.<sup>7</sup> For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;<sup>8</sup> but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.*

**Hebrews 10:26-29** ~ *For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,<sup>27</sup> but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.<sup>29</sup> How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?*

- In view of what John has said about the false teachers (2:18-23; 4:1-3; 5:10), it is clear that he has in view the persistent attitude of those who separate from the true church and pervert or reject the apostolic message

### 2. This is a reference to a sinning believer being put to death physically for their sin

- Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) and the believers in Corinth who died from taking the Lord’s supper in an unworthy manner (1 Cor 11:30) would be examples of this
- Sometimes a Christian may sin so seriously that God judges that sin with swift physical death