

# COMPASS

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

November 23, 2008  
Foundational Doctrines - Lesson 7

## Sin—The Problem is Within Romans 5:12-21; Romans 3:9-10

### Introduction

This week's study focuses on Sin in a series of foundational doctrines including the following: The Bible, God, Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, Man, Sin, Salvation, Angels, Satan and Demons, The Church, and Things to Come. This COMPASS coincides with the message series in the Sunday morning services titled *Foundations of Authentic Christianity*.

Any treatment of Christian doctrine would be incomplete if the biblical statement concerning sin were omitted. Modern philosophy denies the existence of sin, but any such denial is part of a false philosophy. All refusals to admit the existence of sin can neither be controverted nor challenged. The Bible declares sin's existence and the human heart displays it. Sin is not a myth, it is not a figment of the mind; sin is a fact.

### Study Resource

Read *Know What You Believe*, chapter 5 in connection with this Lesson.

### Memory Verse

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 3:23

### All Sins?

1 Peter 3:18:

*For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;*

Have you been asked if you can provide support for the statement that all sins were atoned for on the cross by Jesus, or if forgiveness is only applied to the sins of believers? Peter makes it clear here that the sins of all mankind were taken into consideration by Jesus' death. Jesus bore the sins once for all - not the ones who would be called, but all. The next phrase strengthens the point - for the unjust. That describes me for sure. In my own strength, there is no way to justify me before a Holy, even loving, God. We are told that even our very best - our righteousness - is like filthy, stained rags.

We were reconciled to God while we were still hostile toward God. Jesus made the way for us to be reconciled to God. He offers His resurrection life to us to take death away. All the praise and honor go to Him for our salvation.

# Step 1

## LOOK CLOSELY - observe what you are reading

### Romans 5:12-21; Romans 3:9-10

#### Romans 5:12-21

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--<sup>13</sup>for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. <sup>16</sup>The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. <sup>17</sup>For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of right-

eousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. <sup>19</sup>For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup>The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup>so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Romans 3:9-10

<sup>9</sup>What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; <sup>10</sup>as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

1. What is the origin of Sin? Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:6
2. The word that is used most frequently for sin is hamartia, missing the mark. It is the most comprehensive term for explaining sin. What does God say about sin in these verses?  
  
1 John 1:7, 9  
  
1 John 2:2  
  
1 John 3:4, 9  
  
1 John 4:10
3. What is the solution to sin?  
  
Romans 3:24-25  
  
Romans 4:5  
  
Romans 5:8-10  
  
Romans 5:18
4. What does God say about sin in the Christian Life?  
Romans 6:12-13

# Step **2** THINK CAREFULLY— interpret what you have read

## SIN

Lawlessness (1 John 3:4) or transgression of God's will, either by omitting to do what God's law requires or by doing what it forbids. The transgression can occur in thought (1 John 3:15), word (Matt 5:22), or deed (Rom 1:32).

Mankind was created without sin, morally upright and inclined to do good (Eccl 7:29). But sin entered into human experience when Adam and Eve violated the direct command of God by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:6). Because Adam was the head and representative of the whole human race, his sin affected all future generations (Rom 5:12-21). Associated with this guilt is a corrupted nature passed from Adam to all his descendants. Out of this perverted nature arise all the sins that people commit (Matt 15:19); no person is free from involvement in sin (Rom 3:23).

God is holy and cannot sin (James 1:13). Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came to earth in human form, is also sinless. His perfection arises from His divine nature, as well as His human nature (1 Peter 2:22). Although the story of the Bible focuses on the sin of mankind and God's provision for our redemption, the angels are also described as capable of sinning. Some have fallen away from God's service (Jude 6). But animals are not morally responsible creatures; so they cannot sin.

Mankind originally fell into sin at the temptation of Satan. As the tempter, he continues to lure people into sin (1 Peter 5:8); nevertheless, people remain fully responsible for what they do. God is not the author of sin, but His plan for world redemption does include His dealing with the reality of sin (2 Sam 24:1; 1 Chron 21:1). This truth is dramatically witnessed in the death of Jesus Christ. The crucifixion happened according to God's will; but at the same time, it was the worst crime of human history (Acts 2:23).

Sin is not represented in the Bible as the absence of good, or as an illusion that stems from our human limitations. Sin is portrayed as a real and positive evil. Sin is more than unwise, inexpedient, calamitous behavior that produces sorrow and distress. It is rebellion against God's law—the standard of righteousness (Ps 119:160).

Since God demands righteousness, sin must be defined in terms of mankind's relation to God. Sin is thus the faithless rebellion of the creature against the just authority of his Creator. For this reason, breaking God's law at any point involves transgression at every point (James 2:10).

The moral depravity of mankind is total in that "the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (Rom 8:7). Apart from Christ, all are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph 2:1). But this does not mean that people behave as wickedly as they might, for God restrains the outworkings of the sinful heart. At times He even helps sinners to do things that conform to the law (Gen 20:6). The corruption of sin is not developed or expressed to the same degree in every person. Neither is it expressed in the same way in any person at all times.

Sin involves the denial of the living God from whom human beings draw their life and existence (Acts 17:28); the consequence of this revolt is death and the torment of hell. Death is the ultimate penalty imposed by God for sin (Rom 6:23).

Against this dark background of sin and its reality, the gospel comes as the good news of the deliverance that God has provided through His Son. Jesus bears the penalty of sin in place of His people (Mark 10:45). He also redeems us from lawlessness and makes us long for good works in service to God and others (Titus 2:14).

*(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)*

# Step **2** THINK CAREFULLY— interpret what you have read

## KEY INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS

1. Can a holy God understand my struggle with sin? (Hebrews 4:15-16)
2. What are the three types of sin according to I John 2:16?
3. An example of the lust of the flesh is seen by Eve in Genesis 3:6 "when the woman saw that the tree was \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_."
4. How many of our sins are forgiven when we get saved? (Hebrews 10:10; Romans 8:1)
5. When we sin, what happens to our fellowship with God? (Psalm 66:18)
6. What can sin do to our testimony and witness? (Genesis 19:4; II Peter 2:8; I Corinthians 8:9-12)

# Step **2** THINK CAREFULLY— interpret what you have read

## Comparative passages on Sin and Victory in Christ (NASB)

### Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Romans 6:8-9

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,<sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

### 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;<sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Romans 5:1

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

### 2 Peter 1:4

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

### 1 John 3:4, 6-10

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning, No one who continues to sin has either seen him or knows him. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

### 1 John 5:17:

All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

# Step **3** RESPOND WISELY - apply what you have learned

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

What Things Can I Do to Overcome Sin?

1. Your sin is your own fault, not anyone else's. You must accept the responsibility for your sin. You will never correct anything until you face up to your own personal responsibility. Proverbs 28:13
2. Realize we are not in bondage to sin but have been set \_\_\_\_\_ from sin. We now choose who we will yield to, sin or righteousness. (Romans 6:11-19)
3. Do not allow sinful \_\_\_\_\_ to control your mind. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
4. Do not make \_\_\_\_\_ for the flesh. (Romans 13:14)
5. Guard your paths. \_\_\_\_\_ the path you will be traveling each day and stay away from those places that draw you into sin. (Proverbs 4:23-27)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ your sin. Agree with God that it is sin. (1 Corinthians 11:31-32)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ your sins to God. (1 John 1:9; 1 Timothy 2:5)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word in your heart to battle sin. (Psalm 119:9-11)
9. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that God has made a way of \_\_\_\_\_ from temptation.
10. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-4)

# Step **4** SMALL GROUP AND FAMILY FOCUS

## **SMALL GROUPS**

Choose one or more questions from the Personal Response section, page 6, to discuss as a group.

1. What decisions have you made from the truths you have learned in this lesson?
2. What behaviors or attitudes are present in your life that you need to change as a result of studying this lesson?
3. Summarize the most important thing you've learned from this lesson?

## **FAMILY FOCUS**

1. What is sin? List some sins that happen at school, playing, and at home?
2. When you sin, what should you do to get right with God? (1 John 1:9)
3. What are the best things to do to help you keep from sinning? (Psalms 1:2 and Psalms 119:11)

# CHERRYDALE'S BASIC BELIEFS AND VISION

## Basic Beliefs

- There is one God, existing in three eternal persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - each possessing all the attributes of Deity.
- Jesus Christ, God's Son, lived a sinless life on earth, paid for our sins by dying on the cross as our substitute, and rose bodily from the dead.
- The Holy Spirit draws us to Jesus, convicts us of sin, helps us grow in Christ, and equips us for service.
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God, without error and the supreme standard by which we should live.
- We were created to have fellowship with God, but we destroyed that relationship when we rebelled against Him by going our own way. Faith in Jesus Christ is the sole means of reconciliation with God.
- The local church is a gathering of believers whose mission is to witness faithfully to all people about Christ and to make disciples of all nations.

## Vision

*Imagine being part of a church that loves God so much that they are eager to journey with you in . . .*

- Discovering the joy of knowing God,
- Growing in experiencing lasting life-change and
- Going to make a significant difference in the world.

Because Jesus Christ proved His love on the cross and keeps on loving us with His life, our *vision is . . . to spread a passion to love God and people above all else.* According to Jesus, if this is not our purpose, we might as well close our doors. (*Matthew 22:37-40; 28:18-20*)

*Therefore, we deliberately commit to . . .*



### God intimately (John 17:3)

- *Acknowledging* that we are broken and in need of God's grace
- *Worshiping* the Triune God made known through the gospel
- *Praying* will permeate who we are and all we do



### together in Christ-like character (Acts 2:42)

- *Applying* all aspects of *the gospel* to all aspects of our lives
- *Encouraging* one another in core biblical beliefs, practices and virtues
- *Developing* disciples by shepherding and equipping



### in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

- *Sharing* the gospel through relationships with those around us
- *Cultivating* a kingdom mindset as we serve people in the name of Christ
- *Sending and supporting* laborers to fulfill the Great Commission among all peoples
- *Reproducing* through planting churches locally and globally

*The COMPASS is prepared by a team including Wally Birdseye, Dana Carlson, Bob Glahn, Ed Grudier, Earl Karl, Bob Kelso, Steve Lewis, Brooke Roberts and Daniel Robinson, and is based on the Scripture of the Sunday morning message. It is available one week in advance and is intended as a tool for personal growth in Christ, Sunday Class studies, Small Group discussions and family devotions. The COMPASS is offered in print on Sundays and on the website. A coaching conference call is available for facilitators of Sunday Classes and Small Group Shepherds. If you have any questions about the COMPASS, please contact the church office.*

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