

What Does the Bible Say About Sin?

Sin is the oldest trouble in the world, and the deepest. It is behind every funeral, every broken home, every guilty conscience, and every soul that will be lost. Yet the world has grown comfortable with it. We give it softer names, we laugh at it, and we treat it as a private matter that harms no one. The Bible will not let us do that. It calls sin what it is, traces where it comes from, warns what it does, and then points to the only way out. Let us hear it plainly.

What Sin Is

Sin is not a mood or a mistake. It is a breaking of God's law. John wrote, "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law*" ([1 John 3:4](#)). God has told us how to live, and to step across that line is sin. Paul put it broadly, "*whatsoever is not of faith is sin*" ([Romans 14:23](#)), and John added, "*All unrighteousness is sin*" ([1 John 5:17](#)).

Sin is not only the wrong we do. It is also the right we leave undone. James wrote, "*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin*" ([James 4:17](#)). A man may break no obvious commandment and still sin by failing to do what he knows he ought. Sin, then, is anything out of line with the will of God, whether we did what was forbidden or left undone what was commanded.

All Have Sinned

No honest person is left out of this. Paul wrote, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*" ([Romans 3:23](#)), and earlier, "*There is none righteous, no, not one*" ([Romans 3:10](#)). Isaiah said it with a picture we understand, "*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way*" ([Isaiah 53:6](#)).

If anyone thinks he is the exception, John answers him. "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us*" ([1 John 1:8](#)). The first step toward being saved from sin is admitting we have it. A man who will not own his sin cannot be cleansed of it.

Where Sin Began, and How We Become Sinners

Sin came into the world through one man. "*As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" ([Romans 5:12](#)). Adam opened the door, and sin and death came in after him. But read the last words of that verse again.

Death passed upon all men, *"for that all have sinned."* We do not die for Adam's sin. We sin, each of us, and so we share the death that sin brings.

This matters, because some teach that we are born already guilty, that a baby comes into the world stained with Adam's sin. The Bible teaches no such thing. God said through Ezekiel, *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son"* ([Ezekiel 18:20](#)). Guilt is not handed down. Each soul answers for its own sin and no one else's. That is why Jesus, when the little ones were brought to Him, said, *"of such is the kingdom of heaven"* ([Matthew 19:14](#)). The young and innocent are not lost. They have not yet sinned.

So how do we become sinners? The same way Adam did, by our own choice. James traces it step by step. *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death"* ([James 1:14-15](#)). Sin begins in our own desire, not in our birth. It is conceived in the heart. Jesus said that *"from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts"* and the rest ([Mark 7:21-23](#)). No one makes us sin. We are drawn away by what we ourselves want, and when we give in, the sin is ours.

What Sin Does

Sin never stays still, and it never pays what it promises. Look at what it actually does.

Sin separates us from God. Isaiah said, *"your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you"* ([Isaiah 59:2](#)). The problem is not that God is too weak to save. It is that our sin has put a wall between us and Him.

Sin enslaves. Jesus said, *"Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin"* ([John 8:34](#)). What begins as a choice becomes a master. Paul said we are the servants of the one we obey, *"whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness"* ([Romans 6:16](#)). There is no neutral ground. We serve sin, or we serve God.

And sin kills. It brings forth death, as James warned ([James 1:15](#)), and Paul stated the account plainly, *"For the wages of sin is death"* ([Romans 6:23](#)). That is what sin earns. Not freedom, not joy, but death, and at the last a separation from God forever.

God Takes Sin Seriously

We are tempted to think our sins are small. God does not see them that way. He is holy, and He cannot make peace with evil. Habakkuk said of Him, *"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity"* ([Habakkuk 1:13](#)). The God who made us will judge us, and sin unforgiven will not pass unnoticed. To make light of sin is to misjudge the One we have sinned

against. Yet the same God who hates sin loves the sinner. That is the wonder of the gospel. He did not leave us in our guilt.

The Way Out

Here is the good news the Bible was driving toward all along. Our sin is real, but it is not the end of the story. *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* ([Romans 5:8](#)). The wages of sin is death, but Paul did not stop there. *"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* ([Romans 6:23](#)).

In Christ there is cleansing. John wrote that *"the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* ([1 John 1:7](#)), and that *"if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins"* ([1 John 1:9](#)). God's invitation still stands. *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow"* ([Isaiah 1:18](#)).

So do not make peace with your sin, and do not despair of it either. Own it, turn from it, and obey the One who died to take it away. *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out"* ([Acts 3:19](#)). The same sin that separates, enslaves, and kills has already been answered at the cross. The only question left is whether you will let Him wash it away.

Every Scripture reference in this study links to the King James Version. Open it and read for yourself.