

Let's Be Clear
The Devastating Consequences of Sin
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Is there such a thing as sin anymore, or has it become declassified because of human superiority and the insatiable urge to worship self? The culture has a disdain for the topic of sin, but what's problematic is when Christians declassify sin to rationalize their choices. God still calls certain behaviors sin.

Judges 17.6; 21:25 *In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.*

TEN TRUTHS ABOUT SIN

1. Sin is universal	6. Sin has consequences
2. Sin is enticing	7. Sin destroys
3. Sin is deceptive	8. Sin can be forgiven
4. Sin blinds	9. Sin can be overcome
5. Sin restricts	10. Sin ends at death

1 John 5.21 *Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.*

A freeing day for Christians is when they desire obedience to the Living God rather than some shallow validation from this world. It's wise for Christians to escape as far as they can from sin.

When we love God, worship God, serve God, pray to God, be still before God, and submit to God, it's not that we DO NOT sin but that we DO NOT WANT TO SIN.

1 John 2.1-6 *My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. 3 And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his*

commandments. 4 If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 5 But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. 6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

With Christ, we don't have to be slaves to those bad choices—we have the power to choose NOT to sin. Will we ever get away from the tension of wanting to live in holiness and battle the desires of our sinful nature? Not until death.

Galatians 5.16-17 *So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.*

SELF-DECEPTION SAYS:

That doesn’t apply to you.	No one will ever know.
You can talk your way out of this.	God wants me happy.
I can sin and ask to be forgiven.	What I do with my life is my business.

Proverbs 14.12 *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.*

Psalms 1.6 *For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.*

Every day represents a path we can take: the self-deceived path or the path of truth.

Psalms 40.12 *For troubles surround me—too many to count! My sins pile up so high I can’t see my way out. They outnumber the hairs on my head. I have lost all courage.*

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say “No” to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say “Yes” to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. Amen.