

## The Problem Everybody Has but Nobody Talks About

“The Emperor’s New Clothes” story illustrates the fact that there are obvious things people are unwilling to acknowledge. Some will never admit a mistake. Others will not acknowledge being overweight or having an anger or addiction problem. Others deny a medical condition until it is too late to treat it.

There is another elephant in the room—or naked emperor. Everyone has a condition, but nobody wants to talk about it. That condition is sin. We have all messed up. All is not right between us and our Maker, because we offended Him with bad behavior. Like sheep, we have gone astray (Isaiah 53:6). Sin is a barrier between us and heaven (Isaiah 59:1–2).

We find these attitudes regarding everybody’s problem.

Problem? What Problem? Some deny that there is such a thing as sin. Many philosophers, humanists, and psychologists allege that sin is the concoction of myth-making religious fanatics to keep people from having fun, or by preachers to keep themselves in business. Man does not get to define reality; the ultimate source of truth is God: “I, the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right” (Isaiah 45:19; cf. Psalm 19:7–10; John 14:6). God said sin is a reality. Whatever a skunk is called, it smells the same.

Sin is a three-letter Anglo-Saxon word capable of covering the whole gamut of human failure. In the Old Testament, to sin meant “to stumble and fall” or “breaking one’s word, disloyalty, treason—a breach of the covenant with God.” Sin was saying, “I want to do this, although I know God forbids it.” In the New Testament, sin is less legal but no less lethal. It means “to miss the mark; fail to achieve a goal.”

Some say sin is diminishing, and that given time to evolve, man will get away from “the tiger’s claw, the tooth and the fang, and the doubled fist.” History shows humanity is not stumbling upward. Society’s condition is worse than it was a century ago, and the equivalent of a millennia back. Houses have locks, businesses have alarms; towns have police; cities have judicial courts and overcrowded prisons. The FBI’s crime clock says an aggravated assault occurs every 39 seconds and a car is stolen every 40.9 seconds; someone commits a robbery every 1.7 minutes, a rape every 3.9 minutes, and a murder every 30.5 minutes.

“Sin is” (1 John 3:4; cf. 5:17; Romans 14:23; James 4:17). If there is no evil, then why did Christ die? (John 3:16; Romans 4:25; Hebrews 9:28). The Bible has at least twenty-one lists of sins (e.g. Romans 1:18–32; Galatians 5:19–21; 2 Timothy 3:1–5).

Others believe sins are only big things—like murder, rape, and robbery—and thus they are not guilty. Most admit mistakes but see them as inconsequential: “I’m not perfect, but I’m a pretty good person. I’m as good as most—and better than a lot. I’m okay.” They pat themselves on the back and move on to other thoughts. Isaiah had done none of these, but he said, “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I

# Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Pat Kirkland is recovering from a broken sternum after their wreck.
- ◆ Harold Reynolds had an angiogram and two stents put in a week ago Friday. A biopsy of the mass in his chest is next.
- ◆ Joan Nash fell Wednesday.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Barbara White, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Rene Blackburn.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins, Fred Strain.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes, Wilbern Uchtman. Jim Hambelton at Thayer. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home.

## Blessings

- ◆ Last Sunday morning started out cold and dreary, but it became glorious when Sailor Anderson confessed that Jesus is the son of God and was baptized.

Thank you to the Pleasant family for the bonfire get together last night.

IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS,  
HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST AND  
WILL FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND  
PURIFY US FROM  
ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

*John 1:9*

“dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips” (Isaiah 6:5). Peter said, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (Luke 5:8).

No man is good enough to stand before God, be his own advocate, and walk into glory on his merits. The best man inevitably falls short of the Lord’s expectations and glory (Romans 3:23). Jesus spoke of a Pharisee who prayed: “God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess” (Luke 18:10–12). He felt he was good enough. Sin was not an issue for him. God saw it differently. Jesus said he went home unforgiven (18:14). By contrast, the publican hero in this parable said, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” (Luke 18:13).

*(continued on back page)*

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
11-5	Bill Cockrum	11-4	Jim & Debra Lane
11-7	Wanda Beard	11-5	Dwight & Joy Banks
11-8	Ashley Hossman	11-16	Tinker & Karen Langston
11-13	Kay Young	11-30	Harold & Mary Ann Reynolds
11-15	Kelly Lemburg	<b>Birthdays</b>	
11-21	Merle Scott	11-24	Clifford Lansdown
11-22	Larry Butler	11-25	Henry Flaugher
11-24	Lincoln Gosdin (2)		

Date	Event	Details
Wed. Nov. 15 7 p.m.	Community Thanksgiving Service	Halbert speaking at Lilly Ridge Church
Fri. Nov. 7, 7 p.m.	Smith Chapel Singing	Snacks to follow
Sat. Nov. 18	Ladies' Prayer Brunch	Frontier Baptist at Pontiac 10 a.m.

*(continued from inside)*

A self-righteous person who remains so has no hope of salvation (Matthew 5:3-4). Feelings are not a reliable test of truth. A person may be convinced he is in good health, while a deadly cancer grows undetected inside him. One may feel good about a business transaction but later find he was swindled. Feelings may mislead spiritually—but Scripture does not (James 1:25). Paul felt he was serving God when he was the “chief of sinners” (Acts 26:9; 1 Timothy 1:15).

### November Worship Assignments

Welcome & Prayer		Communion	Shepherd's Prayer
11-5	Paul Wade	Titus Smith	Don Luna
11-12	Larry Butler	Spencer Wade	John Abraham
11-19	R. J. Moyers	D. E. Pleasant	Mark Lane
11-26	Ryan Stevens	Vance Hambelton	David Stevens
<b>Song Leader: John Abraham</b>			
<b>Greeters: Dana &amp; Marsha Crisp</b>			

## The Family News

November 5, 2023

### Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

### A Place to Call Home

*We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.*

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service Topic: **Warnings Against Worldliness**

#### Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

#### Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Prayer

#548, *Lily of the Valley*; #885, *How Beautiful Heaven Must Be*

*How Deep the Father's Love*; Communion Service

#957, *This World Is Not My Home*

Scripture Reading by Ima, I John 2:15-27

Sermon and Invitation

#948, *I Am Resolved*

#414, *Anywhere with Jesus*; Shepherd's Prayer

Offering baskets are at the back.

*We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.*

#### Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835  
Don Luna 417-712-1945  
David Stevens 417-679-4700  
John Abraham 870-421-5632

#### Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604  
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090  
James Langston 870-315-4355  
Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

**Ministers:** Every Member—Each One of Us