

Sin is a central concept in my faith journey, and I've come to understand its definition as both deeply theological and relational. Let me share my perspective:

1. What Is Sin?

For me, sin is “missing the mark” of what God intends for my life—falling short of His holiness, love, and justice. This concept resonates throughout the Bible:

- **In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *chata*’ means “to miss the mark.”**
- **In the New Testament, the Greek word *hamartia* carries the same meaning: failing to reflect God’s love and holiness.**

2. How Does the Bible Define Sin?

I see sin defined in Scripture in these ways:

- **Breaking God’s Law: 1 John 3:4 reminds me, “Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”**
- **Neglecting to Do Right: James 4:17 challenges me: “If anyone knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”**
- **Lacking Faith: Romans 14:23 speaks to my heart: “Everything that does not come from faith is sin.”**

3. Sin in Relationships

To me, sin disrupts two key relationships:

- 1. With God: The Ten Commandments show how sin breaks our connection with Him through idolatry, dishonoring His name, and neglecting worship.**
- 2. With Others: Jesus taught that hatred is like murder and lust is like adultery (Matthew 5:21–28). Sin damages relationships through selfishness, pride, or neglect.**

4. Who Defines Sin?

I believe God alone determines what is sinful because His character is the ultimate standard of love, justice, and holiness. Through Scripture and the Holy Spirit, He guides me to discern right from wrong (John 16:8–11).

5. My Insight: Sin as a Distortion of Love

I view sin as a distortion of my relationship with God and others. Jesus summarized the law in Matthew 22:37–40: love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Sin is anything that disrupts this love—whether through harmful actions, neglect, or misplaced priorities.

6. Examples of Sin in My Life

- **Personal Acts:** When I lie, act out of pride, or let selfishness guide my choices, I know I'm out of alignment with God.
- **Sins of Omission:** There are times I've failed to help someone in need, and that weighs on my conscience.
- **Structural Sins:** I reflect on injustices in our world and how I may unintentionally contribute to them by ignoring systemic issues.

7. How Do I Address Sin?

Romans 3:23 reminds me, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Yet, 1 John 1:9 gives me hope: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins.” For me, dealing with sin means:

- **Confession:** I bring my shortcomings to God in prayer.
- **Repentance:** I strive to turn away from sin and align my life with His will.
- **Grace:** I lean on His unmerited favor, knowing I can never earn forgiveness but only receive it as a gift.

8. Sin and My Nature

When I act against my God-given nature—made in His image (Genesis 1:27)—I feel

a deep sense of misalignment. I resonate with Paul's words in Romans 7:15–20 about the struggle to do good despite my human weaknesses. God calls me to live authentically, reflecting His love and justice.

9. Sin and Harm to Others

I've learned that causing harm—through words, actions, or neglect—is a key aspect of sin. Jesus' teachings, like the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12), guide me to treat others with care and compassion.

10. Grace as My Foundation

Sola gratia, or “grace alone,” has transformed my understanding of sin and salvation. I don't have to carry the weight of trying to earn God's favor. Ephesians 2:8–9 says it beautifully: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” His grace empowers me to:

- **Seek unity with all believers.**
- **Live freely in gratitude for His love.**
- **Extend grace to others as He has shown it to me.**

Living in Light of Grace

When I reflect on sin, I also reflect on God's incredible mercy. The Holy Spirit convicts me when I fall short, but His grace lifts me up and leads me forward. Each day, I aim to grow in love for God, others, and myself, knowing that I am a work in progress, being shaped by His hands.

**Blessings,
Teddy**