

# CHAPTER 4

## FUNDAMENTAL #2: LET'S TALK ABOUT SIN



Biblical Lessons for Students, Athletes & More

Individual or Group Experience

### FOCAL VERSE:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
Romans 3:23

### WISE WORDS

"The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible."  
Dwight L. Moody

### Introduction

World-renowned psychiatrist, Karl Menninger, once asked, "*Whatever became of sin?*" Well, it appears that in today's churches, teaching about sin is a thing of the past. It has been replaced with sermons that are inspirational and motivational but not always grounded in biblical doctrine or principles.

- **When was the last time you heard a sermon that addressed sin?**
- **Why do you think some churches shy away from preaching about sin?**

### Page 24

- **What does the original Greek translation of the word "sin" mean? (last paragraph).** *The original translation means to "miss the mark."*
  - *Another Hebrew and Greek concept is "to step across," or "to go beyond a set boundary." In basketball, if you step out of bounds with the ball, you have committed a violation. You've gone outside the boundary that was set, and that violation has consequences, just like our sins do.*

### Page 25

- **According to the definition at the bottom of page 25, what is sin?**
  - *Sin is anything we do, say, or think that is not pleasing to God, including our attitude.*
  - **Is it still considered a sin if one only *thinks* about committing a sin but does not go through with it? At what point can our thoughts become a sin?** (*verses to consider: Matthew 5:27-28, James 1:14-15, Matthew 15:18-19, Matthew 5:21-22*).
  - **What are some "areas of sin" that your generation is challenged with?**

### Pre-Study Discussion

Romans 6:23 says, "*The wages of sin is death...*" In one sense, all sins are equal in that they separate us from God. However, do you think there are varying "degrees of sin?" In other words, are some sins more serious than others, or does God view them all equally?

The short answer is "YES," there are varying degrees of sin, and some sins are greater than others. In fact, in John 19:11, when Jesus addressed Pilate at his trial, he said that, "*...he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.*"

Example: harboring hate for someone in our heart is a serious sin. Yet, to hate someone in such a way that one plans and carries out their death is "greater" in terms of its intention, result, and consequences. Want to dig deeper? Search the link below. [www.thegospelcoalition.org](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org); search "degrees of sin."

"All have missed the mark and didn't get their arrow to hit the perfection of God."

Duke Tabor



## Page 26

After the first paragraph, pause to ponder or discuss:

- It's not uncommon for strong emotions or reactions to flare up in the midst of a heated or intense game. **What sins or "violations" might you, your teammates, parents, or fans demonstrate when tensions rise?** (*Yelling at a teammate, playing dirty, using foul language, arguing with a coach or referee, unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting players, etc.*)

After the last paragraph on page 26 consider the following:

- **When should we confess our sins and why?** *We should confess our sins the moment we become aware of them, because sin separates us from God.*
- **Has confession and repentance become a natural part of your prayer life yet?**
- **Are we all convicted of the same sins? Explain.**

## Page 27

After completing page 27, read the following:

- *An athlete who plays college basketball for a single year and then declares for the NBA draft is said to be "one and done."* (Rules are different for the WNBA).
- **Explain, in your own words, Christ's "one and done."** *It's important for to understand that Jesus came to make atonement for **all** our sins, **one time for all mankind.** There's not one sin he did not pay for! No, not one!*



Leviticus 16:7-8 –  
“And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.”

## Page 28

Personal Training Session

- **Look up 1 John 1:9.** What does God say He will do if we confess our sins? *Note: Confessing our sins should become a natural part of our prayer lives.*
- **Take time to ponder the following questions and discuss your conclusions: Is it possible to confess your sins without repenting? Is it possible to repent without confessing?**

## Page 29

- End with Post Game Prayer or choose someone to close with a personal prayer.

## A Look Ahead

In session 5, we will discuss what it *really* means to be a Christian, how to become a Christian, and what's expected of you if you choose to live your life under the lordship of Jesus Christ

**Don't judge others because they sin differently than you.**