

Introduction

In the first section we discussed the fact that God created man for a special purpose i.e. to get to know Him personally and to be his disciples. God is eternal and for this reason He wants us to live eternally in relationship with Him. This is the purpose of our lives.

John 10:10

“[10]The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

John 17:3

“[3]This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

God created man perfect, in His own image

Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Man was created in the image of God with a free will, ie he has a choice to do what is right in the sight of God. We know from the bible that man was disobedient to God - he did what he thought was right, rather than following God. The Bible calls this sin .

Sin destroys the relationship that God wants us to have with Him - because of our sinful nature, we do not know Him as we should..

Isaiah 59:2

“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

In this study we will look at our sinful nature a little closer..

The Sin Problem

Everybody born into this world has a sinful nature. Even the most beautiful, innocent looking baby will inevitably sin. It is not the first sinful action which makes a child a

sinner, but rather the child commits that sin because he is expressing the sinful nature with which he is born

Psalms 51:5

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity”

Man sins because he is focused on himself instead of God. Self is the centre of every human being's desires and intentions. When we act in a natural way we will end up sinning and displease God . God is holy and hates all sin . Sin forces a gap between God and man . Sin stops us having a relationship with a holy God . Sin therefore , robs man of the glory which God intended for him . This is the destructive nature of sin.

Romans3:23

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . ”

Consequences of Sin

The consequences of sin are enormous . We can see this very clearly in the reality of daily life . We only need to watch the news on TV and read the newspaper!
Let us look at the effect of sin on our relationship with God and in our daily lives ;

It Grieves God

Genesis 6:5-6

““[5]Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

[6]The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.””

It Brings Guilt

Psalms 51:1-3

““[1]Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

[2]Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.

[3]For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.””

It Destroys our Peace with God

Isaiah 57:21

[21]"There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

It Brings Separation from God

Isaiah 59:1-2

"[1]Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear.

[2]But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

It Brings Judgement and can lead to Everlasting Punishment

Matthew 25:41

[41]"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels'"n..."

Biblical Terms for Sin

The Bible uses more than one word in Hebrew and Greek to describe sin . These words can be divided into four main areas:

Chattath :

to miss the mark or go wrong

Psalms 51:4

"[4]Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge."

Proverbs 8:35-36

[35]"For he who finds me finds life And obtains favour from the Lord."

Avon:

to bend or pervert , i.e. deliberately do what is wrong even though you know what is right .
Avon goes further than chattath because the wrong- doer is someone who, from an evil heart,violates a commandment.

Job 33:27

[27]"He will sing to men and say, 'I have sinned and perverted what is right, And it is not proper for me.'"

Shagah :

To go astray or err , to be mistaken , to sin unintentionally

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However-

Matthew 1:21

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Romans "6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus."

Anomia (NT) : lawlessness or rebellion

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1 John 3:4

"[4]Everyone who practises sin also practises lawlessness and sin is lawlessness."

We have a choice

Each of us are responsible for his own sin.

2 Corinthians 5:10

"[10]For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

We all sin and make a choice to please ourselves, rather than to love God first and foremost

God is yearning for us to turn away from sin and live for Him. God knew man would choose to sin . God knew the consequences of this choice, yet He gave man the right and freedom to choose . We too, have a choice to either remain in our sin and remain separate from God, or we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and turn away from our sin .

God is holy, so He cannot have a relationship with someone who has sinned . He has made the way for our sins to be wiped out. Jesus gave His life in our place . This means that we do not have to carry the guilt of our sins and suffer the consequences . Also it means that we are removed from the power of sin..

Colossians 1:13

"[13]For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."

When we take God's path , God can come and meet us and have a relationship with us. This is the purpose for which He created us . We experience an emptiness in our hearts when we do not have this relationship with the one and only true God .

God wants us to know Him . He wants us to become His children and to be part of His Kingdom

Luke 12 : 32-34

He has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives . He wants us to discover that plan and be prepared to carry it out through our love for Him .