

## Introduction:

There are certain words we don't hear much any more or if we do, we might not understand its origin and meaning, i.e. "shade tree mechanic" or "thanks for tuning in to our program." The one I want to address is the word "sin." The only way to really understand sin is to understand its relation to God. If we do not accept the existence of God then we won't accept the concept of sin. If our understanding of God is wrong then so will be our understanding of sin. Some argue the idea of sin is harmful to mankind, limiting his abilities.

### I) Misconceptions of sin

#### A) **Determined by the norms of society.**

1. Stay within the norms of society and you will not sin.
2. Examples would be a couple living together in earlier times considered sin but not now since society accepts such behavior. This would go for lying, stealing, etc.

#### B) **Sin is not real, the product of man's mind, specifically religious people**

1. Deny the existence of God and the Bible and sin disappears.
2. The humanist says the thought of God is an illusion and the concept of sin is harmful.

#### C) **Defining sin as having a negative attitude or letting yourself down.**

1. Solution is to have a positive mental attitude- about drinking, premarital sex, pornography, etc.
2. As long as you are comfortable with it then it is not sinful.

#### D) **Denying the very existence of sin.**

### II) Letting the Bible Define Sin

**A) A failing to hit the mark, or a wandering away from the law of God.**

1. This word is used 172 times in the N.T.
2. In the New Testament the term refers to the condition of the heart which causes man to violate the character and standard of God.
  - a. We might call this stinkin' thinkin'.
  - b. The progression of sin starts with the heart, the way a person thinks.
  - c. Jews and Gentiles had all missed the mark.

***Romans 3:9* What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.**

3. Sin can only be understood in relation to God's law.

***Romans 7:11* For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. **12** Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. **13** Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.**

- a. Adultery is not wrong because society says so but because God's law says so.
  - b. The same goes for murder, stealing, lying, etc.
4. The Bible also points out that Jesus did not sin, His heart was right with God and so was His conduct (obedience).

***Hebrews 4:15* For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

5. Sin is missing the mark in attitude, thought, intention, and

conduct.

**B) An unwillingness to hear or hearing amiss. Used 3 times in the N.T.**

1. A disobedience in refusing to listen and hear God.

***Romans 5:18*** *Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19* *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*

- a. Adam and Eve heard God's word in the Garden but they did not pay attention to it.
- b. We might ask somebody "are you listening to me."

2. A refusal to hear what God says.

***2 Corinthians 10:4*** *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

- a. The idea of stopping one's ears, or become dull of hearing.
- b. ***Hebrews 2:1*** *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2* *For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,*

3. A lot of people do not really listen to what God says.

**C) State of being noncompliant**

1. An intentional action of rebellion.

***Romans 2:8*** but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath,

2. The condition where a person makes up their mind to not believe.
3. Some Jews and Gentiles heard the Gospel but refused to believe.

**D) To neglect, or pass by, to omit**

1. Usually translated as the word "pass"

***Luke 11:42*** "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

2. It is to omit what should have been done.

***James 4:17*** Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

- a. One cannot escape the obligation of doing what he knows he should be doing .
- b. We cannot pick and choose our passages.

**E) Going aside, overstepping, transgressing, or breaching the law.**

1. Judas fell by transgression, ***Acts 1.25***
2. Even fell into transgression, ***1 Timothy 2.14.***
3. To fail to keep the standard of God.

***Galatians 3:19*** What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

4. God's word is given so we can see the sinfulness of going aside

or transgression.

**F) A lack of reverence toward God.**

1. A disregard for God, defiance, disrespect, and ungodliness.

***Titus 2:12*** teaching us that, ***denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,***

2. Thinking of God as common and ordinary.

**G) To be unruly – a refusal to put one’s self in subject to God’s law.**

***1 Timothy 1:9 NKJV 9*** knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

1. I don’t care what the Bible says.

**H) A condition of being without Law.**

1. One who acts without approval or authority of the Law.

***Matthew 7:21***"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ***22*** "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ***23*** "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

**I) A deed violating justice and law, unrighteousness**

***1 John 5:17*** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

1. This may be included in the phrase ‘and such like’.
2. Not every sin is specifically called out in the Bible, abortion for instance is murder.

J) Anything done which one doubts is the right thing to do.

***Romans 14:23*** *But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.*

1. One's behavior should be consistent with what one believes to be right.
2. However, this by its self does not make one right as one might be sincerely wrong.

**Conclusion:**

The cause of sin is not going by God's will but our will. When one does not trust, respect, and commit oneself to God, he sins.