

Defining sin- **1 John 3:4** *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.* Hence, sin is transgressing the law of God. In the Garden of Eden, God gave a very simple law. **Genesis 2:16** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17** "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." **18** And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."* For there to be sin there must be a law to transgress. God's law can be transgressed by thoughts, feelings, words, or actions.

## I) What is it to commit sin?

### A) The only way to correctly gauge sin is to measure its punishment.

1. God is infinite in all His attributes.
  - a. Mercy -- **Deuteronomy 5:9b** *For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, **10** but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*
  - b. This also goes for God's love, compassion, and punishment.
2. God is just God, the punishment fits the crime.

### B) We live in a world of pain, sorrow, tears and death.

1. The punishment of sin administered to Adam and Eve was being kicked out of the Garden of Eden. **Genesis 3.23.**

2. Also, physical death as they were separated from the tree of life. **Genesis 3.24.**

3. The punishment of separation from God, spiritual death.

***Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—***

4. There are physical consequences to sin. We do not live in a perfect world. Suffering due to our physical bodies (the pain of injury, illness, death), due to the evil actions of others.

5. Therefore, we can understand the punishment of sin by what was lost, by what man has to endure in this world.

**C) Is there any punishment in the future world on account of our sins?**

1. The only answer must come by revelation and not by conjecture.

2. We never want to think of a love one suffering due to their sins or ourselves being eternally separated from God.

**II) The Main Questions**

**A) Is there any punishment after death?**

1. Man tends to think all suffering is over at death and the departed has gone to “a better place.”

***Luke 12:4 "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 "But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"***

2. Notice the phrase “cast into hell” which by definition means a place of punishment.
3. Meaning there is something to come after death. Death does not mean the end of existence.
4. There is something God can do to man after his physical death.

**B) When does the suffering mentioned by our God being.**

***Luke 16:19*** "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

***Luke 16:22*** "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. **23** "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. **24** "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

1. Hades – the realm of the dead does not refer to hell but the grave.
2. Both men were aware of their condition.
3. The wicked who know God cannot expect anything less.
4. The person who does not know God still sins against Him and is accountable for actions.

***2 Thessalonians 1:8*** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. There will be a time when death and hades shall give up their dead.

**Revelation 20:13** *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

**C) Will there be a final judgment?**

1. We know this life is full of judgements.
2. There is a judgement after death.

**Hebrews 9:27** *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,*

3. This judgment will include all of mankind.

**John 5:28** *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

4. All will appear before the Son of Man.

**Matthew 25:31** *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

5. This is the final judgement, no more judgements to come, eternal in nature, no court of appeals.

**B) Is there any punishment for sin after that judgement?**

**Matthew 25:41** *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

**Matthew 25:46** *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

1. Go to a burn unit at the hospital and you will see people in intense pain.
2. This is the kind of pain that cannot be relieved or dulled. This is not the kind of pain one gets used to or learns to tolerate.
3. The Lord knows how to punish.

***2 Peter 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,***

**E) How long will that punishment last?**

1. Will one serve their “time” and then go to heaven?
2. Eternal life and everlasting punishment refer to the same length of time.
3. Sometimes eternal mean age lasting but the other side of the grave will last forever.
4. There will be no relief, no second chances, no love in hell. There will be pain and sorrow.
5. The soul is eternal and so is its punishment.
6. Only when one understands the nature of sin’s punishment can one truly see how bad sin is.
7. When one understands the sacrifice of Jesus and what it means we can understand the greatness of Jesus’ love.
8. We are sorry Jesus had to die for us but we are glad he did.

**Conclusion:**

Let us not deny the reality of sin, it exists. The consequences of sin are terrible. Let us listen to one in a place of torment. ***Luke 16:28 'for I have five***

*brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"*