

The Trouble With Sin

By
Sean Sullivan

Introduction:

This article is intended to provoke an awareness of sin as a destructive force. We must know that until we remove sin from our individual lives, we will not know joy. With that being said, the purpose of our gathering together as a spiritual family for worship and study is "joy"; both temporally and eternally—the greater of the two, in due time. So, one would rightly assume that at the first awareness of anything that could ruin that joy, there would be quick and decisive actions taken. That is what needs to be done.

Sin is not a game; from a true-perspective it is not fun or even attractive. When we peel away the thin layers of its shiny veneer; to expose the dark realities it holds, we will know it for what it truly is. Let's open our Bibles together in order to examine "the reality of sin".

Sin Robs Joy:

Sin is the root cause of all distresses. We know that God's word is intended to create a happy life for us. In fact, by following the word, we are to discover joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These are the visible fruits of following the word and these things are proof of walking according to the word as delivered by the Spirit.

Consider the all the problems in today's world: Broken homes, marriage infidelity, rampant immorality, hearts filled with rebellion, all types of chemical abuses, the elevation of human wisdom, and worse—these are rooted in the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). We can see the

results of these sinful choices in the modern predicaments of anxiety, depression, guilt, frustration, anger, selfishness, and even certain diseases.

A life lead by sin is set for disappointment, because the world and its lusts will come to nothing (1 John 2:15-17). A life of sinning is aimless, without proper direction, because man is incapable to finding his own way (Jeremiah 10:23). A life of sinning is a life without proper foundation, because we have nothing sure or certain without God (Ephesians 2:12). These hopeless frustrations are the end that is awaiting all those who refuse to fear God and choose rather to serve themselves. These things are far from the joy that sin first promises. We need to expose sin for what it is and what it does.

Sin Traps Us

The worst part about sin is that it grabs us, traps us, and makes us a slave. Do you remember the children's story about Hansel and Gretel? The seemingly beautiful house in the woods, covered in candy; but, inside was certain death, at the hands of a cannibal witch. The witch knew how to make a dangerous thing look good. Similarly, the devil works his deception way with sin (1 Peter 5:8 "seeking whom he may devour"). Sin is usually candy coated—sin paints itself as pleasure (Hebrew 11:24-26). The Prodigal son fell prey to this as he looked across to the far-off country with dazzled eyes (Luke 15:11-18). He must have been thinking to himself, life would be so much better there. Always remember that the devil's strongest tools are in us: our pride and our lusts (1 John 2:15-16). With those two he draws many into slavery (John 8:34) and death (Romans 6:23a).

Sin is hopelessness. Sin steals our joy and separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Regardless of how many people clamor for changing the definition of right and wrong, it is God's standard to which we will

answer (John 12:48; Acts 17:30-31). We need to expose sin for what it is and what it does.

Sin leaves us Needing

There are many passages that warn of sin's dilemma and our inability to become free without help. Romans 5:6 describes us as "without strength"—without the ability to help ourselves. Romans 6:16 says that when we sin we become "slaves of sin". Romans 6:23a tells us that in sin we earn "death"—separated from God. Not one of these descriptions sounds as inviting as the temptations that led us toward this end (James 1:13-15).

God meets our great need and with His help; we can have freedom from sin. Through Jesus Christ, we are offered the hope that we cannot afford without Him. In order that we might live, free from the oppression of sin and with the security of a certain hope, Jesus Christ shed His blood and died (Matthew 28:1-6; 1 Peter 1:3-4). Romans 6:23b tells us that "...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord". John 3:16 proclaims, "He that believes in Him should not perish..." Mark 16:16 declares, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved".

We know that we have sinned (Romans 3:23); so, what are we going to do to be freed? Are we going to seek the solution like the Jews in Acts 2 (Acts 2:37-38)? Are going to willingly submit like the Eunuch in Acts 8 (Acts 8:34-38)? The hope of salvation from our sins and eternal life in heaven are hinged on our willingness to obey God's will (Matthew 7:21; James 1:22-25).

Conclusion:

If you are not a Christian today then the opportunity is yours. Now is the time to realize that sin is oppression, hopelessness, and failure. Now is the time to see the hope that is available through Jesus Christ our

Savior. Now is the time to make the changes in your life in order to have the burden of your sins taken away. Sin will never live up to it promised glory.

It is time to see past sin's glossy veneer to know it offers nothing worth having. The hope of freedom is for all who are willing to obey, is today the day? Today you can make your life right with God. Today you can be freed from the bondage of sin. Today freedom and real hope can be yours. Obey, right now.