

# Sin – A Matter Of Life And Death

**Few people, even some professing Christians, really understand the doctrine of sin as defined in God's Word, the Christian Bible.**

This state of spiritual blindness is very dangerous.

**Surely anything that demanded the life of One Person of the Triune God must be a matter of life and death to us individually.**

**Acts 4:10-12** [New King James] *“let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

We are saved from eternal death **only** by the death of Jesus Christ being a substitute death for our own deserved death, [**Romans 6:23; Romans 3:23**].

**The basic doctrine –**

**1 John 3:4** [King James] *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”*

**The law is God's way of life and how He desires every human being will conform with. Sin is transgression of that law.**

**Matthew 22:34-40** [New King James] *“But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

**All of the commandments and statutes can be expressed in one word, love.**

**Romans 13:10** [New King James] *“Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.”*

Paul simplifies the statement of Jesus Christ by saying that love never does anything that would harm another human being.

The Greek word translated “love” is “*agapé*” meaning a spontaneous love irrespective of the “rights” or response of the recipient, [**Romans 5:8**] a sacrificial love, [**John 3:16-17**] that puts aside personal desires, [**Philippians 2:5-8**] to love the object of that love.

The statement made by the apostle John, under influence of the Holy Spirit, in **1 John 3:4** dispels many myths about sin and when we include what the apostle John continues to say, we have to omit that sin is more than the transgression of the letter of the law [however broadly defined] but also the transgression of the “*spirit and intent*” of the law.

**1 John 5:17** [New King James] *“All unrighteousness is sin, .....”*

Anything that is **not** “right” with the Triune God is sin.

**Matthew 5:21-28** [New King James] *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

**Jesus Christ gives us some examples of what is meant by the “spirit and intent” of the law.**

**Sin includes not only wrong actions we commit, but also evil attitudes of mind and thoughts of the heart.**

Since sin is the transgression of the law of God, it is obvious that there is no sin without law.

**Romans 7:7** [New King James] *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet.’”*

**God’s law is in force today, it is not something that was linked only to the Old Covenant.**

This may shock many people today who misquote **Matthew 5:17** to say that Jesus Christ did away with the Ten Commandments, **not** reading the next statement that he made, [**Matthew 5:18-20**].

**The main reason behind such rejection of the Ten Commandments is the Sabbath Day commandment, [Exodus 20:8-11].**

[Please download and study the articles ‘What Day Is God’s Sabbath Day?’ ‘Mini Study On Matthew 5:17,’ ‘The Sabbath To Sunday Change’ all listed under the main heading ‘Covenants’.]

**Romans 7:12** [New King James] *“Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”*

This statement is true because the law of God exists not merely to provide a meaningless list of do’s and don’ts but to reveal and define to all human beings what thoughts, actions and attitudes are harmful if engaged in.

Certainly we can see how far and how deeply sin can permeate our lives, we can then see how all humans have sinned, [**Romans 3:23**].

**Other vital things we need to know about sin –**

Temptation that is **not** followed by wrong thoughts or actions or attitudes is by itself **not** sin.

Jesus Christ was severely tempted by Satan, [**Matthew 4:1**] and in every way that a human being could be tempted, [**Hebrews 4:15**] yet without sinning.

**Satan was the first sinner and is hence its author, [Ezekiel 28:13-15].**

**Humans sin when we are drawn away by the lusts of our own nature, [James 1:14-15] or tempted by the unseen but powerful influence of Satan and his demons, [Genesis 3:1-6; Ephesians 6:12].**

Sin entered into the human race through Adam, the first man, who followed the dangerous suggestion of Eve, [Genesis 3:1-6] but we are all guilty of our own sins.

**Romans 5:12** [New King James] *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned,”*

**Hence the blame for sin belongs in two distinct places, on Satan as its instigator and all humans who are willing participants.**

**No study of the topic of sin is near complete without explaining the most important characteristic of sin, its penalty.**

**Romans 6:23** [New King James] *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

The ultimate penalty is death, eternal death, note the wages are the same for all sin, great or small, all that sin generates is the death penalty, if unrepented, in the *“lake of fire.”*

Such a direct and plain statement in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, may astound those who cling to the false belief in the immortal soul and who think that the penalty would be to burn forever in hell fire.

**Revelation 20:10** [NIV] *“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”*

**The only beings who will be tormented in the lake of fire will be spirit beings Satan and his demons. Every physical human being who is thrown into the lake of fire will become ash, the dust from which they were originally created, [Psalms 104:29; Ecclesiastes 3:19-20; Ecclesiastes 9:5-6].**

There are also additional wages of sin, the sufferings that sin brings to other human beings in this life, such as broken marriages and families, wars and every other suffering, all of which cut the sinner off from the living Eternal Creator God, [Isaiah 59:1-2].

With all we have read in God’s Word about sin, one question remains in our minds: **Why does God allow sin?**

**The answer is that sin is a natural possibility arising out of the freedom of choice that the Creator God has given to all human beings.**

The character that the Creator God wants to build in us, to become beings who are in His likeness, the major characteristic being love, [Galatians 5:22-25] cannot be forced on us, no-one can ever force you to love them, we can only choose to respond to that love.

**1 John 4:12, 16, 19** [New King James] *“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” ... “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” ... “We love Him because He first loved us.”*

**The greatest proof of the love that the Triune God has for all humanity is that one Person of the Godhead, Jesus Christ, humbled Himself and became a physical human being that could shed His blood and die instead of the death that our sins have earned, [John 3:16-17].**

Accepting this sacrifice that the Creator God made, being baptised by total immersion, symbolic of our old way of life dying, as we repent and take a new path in life following the lead of the Holy Spirit, is the only way we can avoid eternal death, as our names will be placed in the *“Book of Life,”* [Revelation 20:15].

**Sin may seem to be “*fun*” for a while, but its penalty is anything but fun, for it is eternal death.**

**1 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”*

But we have to take the first steps, confessing our sins to the Creator God, repenting of them and taking a new path in life that is free from sin with the help of an active Holy Spirit working within us.

[Please download and study all the articles on this website listed under main headings ‘*Repentance*’ and ‘*Holy Spirit*’.]