

Outline

A. What We Should Know about Sin

Please refer to: Cedar Training Center Course SR1-100 *Fundamental Theology* Lesson 8 - *Knowing Sin*.

1. The definition of “sin”

(1) “The basic meaning of sin is ‘to miss the mark’ ... ‘to miss the mark’ is equivalent to ‘hitting some other marks by mistake’” (from *Basic Theology* by Dr. Charles C. Ryrie).

(2) Other definitions of sin in different passages of the Bible

“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness...” (1 John 3:4)/“All unrighteousness is sin...” (1 John 5:17)/“...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

2. All have sinned and have a sinful nature (sinful behaviors vs. sinful nature)

- *“...as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...” (Romans 5:12)*
- *“There is none righteous, no, not one; ... There is none who does good, no, not one” (Romans 3:10-12)./“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)*

3. Recognize the terror of sin

(1) Sinning against the holy, righteous and unmockable God

- *“...the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23)./ “...the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36)*
- *“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:26-27).*

(2) Let down Father God, hurt His heart and became unworthy of Christ's sacrificial love

“Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy... Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing...?”(Hebrews 10:28-29).

(3) Fall into the snare of the enemy and the power of darkness

- *“... were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked ... according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...” (Ephesians 2: 1-4)./“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning” (1 John 3:8)./“He has delivered us from the power of darkness ...” (Colossians 1:13)*
- *“(…to whom I now send you) to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me”(Acts 26:18).*

(4) Inflict serious harm to the family and the church

The harm that sinning does to the Lord, to our relatives, and to the Church is indescribable, and it is no less than the harm caused by swords and violence. Sinning is like contracting the disease leprosy, not only the person who has contracted the disease feels filthy and miserable but also the disease can defile and spread to others. In addition, it is a highly recurrent disease (see Leviticus 13-14).

(5) Self-selling and suffering the consequences of sinning: People who sin not only lose peace, joy and God's blessings, but also fall into all kinds of negative emotions - anxiety, fear, shame, lies ...

- *“...your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2)./“When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long...” (Psalm 32:3-4).*

B. What We Should Know about the Flesh

1. The definition of “the flesh”

In the Chinese Bible, the same original Greek word "sarx " can at least be translated as "rou ti" which means "the body," "xue qi" which means "of the blood," "qingyu" which means "lust (emotional desire)," and "rou shen" which also means "the body." It refers to: "All manifestations of the old life, including mind, emotion, will, speech, behavior, desire, and attitude etc."

2. The essence of "the flesh"

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you." (Romans 8:5-9)

(1) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh; to be carnally minded is death

(2) Those who are in the flesh don't please God and are enmity against God

(3) Those who are in the flesh are not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be

(4) The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh (Galatians 5:19)

(5) The flesh always has dominion over and persecutes the spiritual and physical lives of the children of God (Galatians 4:29)

C. Be Eager to Break Free from the Life under the Dominion of Sin, Wickedness and the Flesh

1. Truly recognize and hate the terrible power of sin and the flesh

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8)/ "...the carnal mind is enmity against God" (Romans 8:7).

2. Thoroughly confess, repent and break free from its dominion at any time

"...nor give place to the devil...do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God" (Ephesians 4: 27, 30)/(1 John 1:9)

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption...” (Galatians 6:7-8)

3. Rely on the cross of the Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit (see: ND2-006 *Knowing the Holy Spirit* and ND2-007 *Experiencing the Holy Spirit*).

- *“... our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin” (Galatians 6:6-7).*
- *“...those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:24-25).*
- *“Therefore, ... we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:12-13).*

Meditation, Practice, Discussion

Content Review: Based on the theme verse and content of this lesson, what are some questions you may have?

1. Fill-in-the-blank questions:

a. The basic definition of “sin” is:

_____ and _____

b. The basic definition of “the flesh” is:

2. Please list the reasons why sinning causes great hurt to God, God’s house (the church), others and the sinners themselves?

3. Why is the carnal mind enmity? How does the carnal mind have dominion over and persecute the children of God?

Further Reflection: The impact of this lesson on me, the revelation of the Holy Spirit, and additional thoughts

1. From this lesson, I have acquired the following points of new knowledge or deeper understanding of “sin”:

2. From this lesson, I have acquired the following points of new knowledge or deeper understanding of “the flesh”:

The Path to Implementation:

This lesson emphasizes knowing and hating “sin” and “the flesh,” as well as repenting and turning to God. Future lessons will cover how to have victory (be conquerors or overcomers) through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Please honestly describe if you are eager to break free from the life under the dominion of sin, wickedness and the flesh. Why?

2. What are some of the most obvious aspects of your life that are under the dominion of sin or the flesh? Please pray to God prayers of repentance regarding these aspects of your life.
