

CREDO

5. Sin

Tonight is the fifth installment of a series titled CREDO series. We're going to be working our way through **Genesis 3**. The day recorded for us in **Genesis 3** is one of the most significant days in all of human history. If we don't understand THAT day the rest of human history makes no sense unless we understand **that day**. In medicine you need a right diagnosis to make the way for the right remedy. To not understand **Genesis 3** leads to every wrong diagnosis and the resulting ineffective remedies to the moral and spiritual condition of man that have been tried through the ages.

The day that **forever altered** the course of human history has context! If we really want to understand what sin is we need to scroll back to the preceding events in Genesis

In **Genesis 1–2** (and other related parts of the Bible) we have learned a great deal about God through the doctrines of Trinity — Revelation — Creation — and Imago Dei. **We have learned that** God is our Creator. He is separate from His creation and that Mankind and all of creation are dependant upon Him. When He originally made humanity and everything else it was **“very good.”** It was **“very good”** because God is perfectly holy and perfectly good. God made creation for man. With infinite attention He prepared the planet — including the Garden of Eden — for human occupancy. In that we see the humility of God and the servant-heart of God. We saw that God made us male and female in his image and likeness — and in that we witnessed the loving and kind nature of God. God speaks to mankind. In that we saw that God is personal and initiated a relationship of love and communication with us. Then God blessed creation and our first parents. In that we saw the gracious, generous nature of God.

THIS IS SO CRUCIAL — In all of that we see the infinite perfection of God. It is **only** against the backdrop of that truth (how gracious – loving and kind God is) that we can understand that **EVERY SIN** — all the way back to the first sin — is an act of treachery against THIS infinitely perfect; infinitely kind; infinitely humble; infinitely generous and loving God. Any act of sin is an act of rebellion against this God!

We can never understand the sinfulness of sin if we view it merely as being all about man — as some action disapproved of by man because it adversely affects man. As we study the doctrine of sin — it is incredibly important that we see sin from this perspective; see sin from the vantage point of God. We want to sympathize with God over and above sinners, including ourselves. Framed another way — in light of [Genesis 1-2](#) — what would you do if you were God and were treated as He's been treated?

It is this thing that the Bible calls sin that has left the world in the state we find it today. If you **zoom out** and view life on planet earth on the global level (just check out your news feed) — You can't help but be overcome with a sense of being perplexed, discouraged —and even despair because of the effects of sin. If we **zoom in** and observe our immediate world — we discover that in our own lives, or the lives of people we know — people we love, we see can see broken marriages, broken families, suffering and injustice, sickness and death.

It is NOT coincidental that Christian and non-Christian alike simply cannot accept that the world is the way that the world should be. The Christian because they understand from the Bible the way God intended the world to be. The not yet Christian looks at the world and says: Surely, this can't be the way it's supposed to be — surely it has to get better than this. Something has gone terribly wrong.

A movie came out in 2009 called **“My Sister's Keeper.”** It was a movie about 2 sisters. The older sister has cancer and the other is healthy. The younger sister's life was marked by a series of incredibly painful surgeries by which she was able to help her big sister's battle against cancer. But as the movie develops you discover that the younger sister was deliberately conceived to be a marrow donor for her older sister. When the younger sister discovers that she sues for emancipation from her parents — and while the older daughter is dying the family and extended family begins to crumble. The various family members try to process from their personal philosophical and religious views not only the problem of death — but the troubling ethics of the mom and dad. It is one of the most painfully raw depictions of man's inability to understand the problem of suffering and

death — and all the ways that man tries to explain it or cope with it apart from the truth of how such suffering and such behavior got here in the first place. The movie ends with an amazing amount of honesty! There is NO lesson learned — There is NO closure — There is NO answer. It is incredibly rare to see a movie be that honest when dealing with the subject of suffering and death from the view point of lost man.

Something has gone terribly wrong — and it's not that there haven't been sincere efforts to fix things. Wars have been fought to kill the bad guys. But the problem is that no one can agree on who the bad guys are! The U.N. was founded to ensure world peace — but there has never been a day of global peace since it was founded. Governments exist — at least in theory — to try and improve the lives of their citizens. There have been incomprehensible sums of money thrown at those problems: social services, governmental agencies, NGOs and charities. All of it aimed at alleviating the hardships that are believed to be the root causes of war and crime. But no amount of money seems to help.

As a man who has been in full time pastoral ministry for about 37 years and one of the primary things that I have had to deal with is sin, beginning with ME! It doesn't take long after waking up to be reminded of the fact that I'm a sinner (sometimes only a few steps out of bed). And then I launch into what I do as a pastor. One guy described it like this: *Pastor have a front row seat in the arena of sin* — with all of its carnage and collateral damage. We deal with people who are in sin. Some of them repent — some never repent. We deal with the victims of sin. We deal with the consequences of sin. Over those 37 years I've heard way more people than I ever wanted to hear, saying

"I've been abused" — "I was raped" — "I was molested" — "My dad beat me" — "My spouse said that they were faithful and they weren't and now I have contracted a disease from them." Someone said they loved me, they slept with me and dumped me"

And that's not even counting my own sin — the times when dealing with sin that I sin — and I contribute to the problem I'm supposed to be helping.

There is no running or hiding from sin and the way it has left everything broken in the world — and sometimes it's just overwhelming. As a parent, any time the phone rings after falling asleep at night I'm almost horizontal getting out of bed because it's not a good thing to get a call at that hour of the morning. While pastoring in Grass Valley a young adult in our fellowship was driving his dad's new Corvette on a road up in Grass Valley and he hit the gravel on the shoulder. He flew off the road and struck a giant tree mid-air killing himself and the passenger. His dad and mom were out of town. The law enforcement agency on the scene called me and I had to make the phone call to his parents. As the phone was ringing, I was asking myself: **"What am I going to say?"** I thought — *What would I want to hear from my pastor if it was my son?* I had no answer — because there would be no words that anyone could say to me that would spare me from the shock and such grief of such a loss.

I am a husband — I am a father — I am a pastor — and **I am a sinner**. I'm so thankful for Jesus. (The song: Give Me Jesus) I'm so thankful for the Gospel.

Let's begin with the question

WHERE DID SIN ORIGINATE?

Genesis 3 is one of the most important chapters in the entire Bible because it explains **the source of** — and **the solution for** — sin and death.

I have to tell you — I have walked with Jesus now for almost 46 years and I am capable of reading through **Genesis 3** without being crushed by it. We should be! After reading the Bible for 46 years I know that I don't fully comprehend the depth of **Genesis 3**. I don't believe that there is one person who would hear this message and truly be able to say they understand **Genesis 3**.

Here is the story of Genesis 3.

The scene is the beautiful and perfect garden made by God for our first parents to live in together — without any sin — with out any of the effects of sin. There God walks with them and speaks to them. He gives to them

complete freedom to enjoy everything He made — **except** *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*, which was forbidden.

¹Now the serpent

The entrance of the Serpent marks the beginning of chaos in creation. According to **Revelation 12:9** and **20:2** the Serpent is Satan. (The Bible is the best commentary on the Bible.)

Most people think of **Genesis 3** as recording **THE original sin**. **Genesis 3** is not the record of **THE** original sin. It is the record of the **original human sin**. There was a sin that preceded the original human sin — and that was the sin of Satan. Satan is a created being — an angelic being created by God. He didn't want to worship or love God. He became proud in his heart. Isaiah and Ezekiel tell us that he was cast out of heaven. In **Luke 10:18** Jesus said that He "*saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*". A third of the angels followed him in his rebellion and were cast out of heaven with him — we now know them as demons. THAT is the original sin. **Genesis 3** is the record of the **original human sin**.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

We live in the information age. We are with a certainty the most informed and educated generation to have ever lived. Some of us think we're pretty smart. **KNOW THIS — The serpent is very crafty!** He is smarter than you are. He is been around for a lot longer than you. He has **deceived** and **destroyed** people who are far more intelligent than you — far more influential than you — far more powerful — far more gifted than you.

He comes to the woman.

¹....He said to the woman, Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"

Now — *Is that what God really said?* Remember the story of **Genesis 1-2**. God made the earth. He said it was good. God made the man — He said it

was not good for him to be alone. God made the woman brought her to the man. Everything was “**very good**” — everything was perfect. God spoke to them and said —

“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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.” (Gen. 2:16-17)

REMEMBER — This was a moral command that required a moral response that would carry moral consequences. Initially and immediately Spiritual death — separation from God. Physical death eventually. **Did God say**, “You cannot eat of **any** tree in the garden?” **Not at all.** God is good. God is generous. He said, “*You can partake of **any** tree with **one exception.***”

DON'T MISS THIS — **The first human sin begins with Satan challenging and changing the Word of God.** In our 2nd Credo study we looked at the doctrine of revelation: “*all of Scripture is God breathed.*” We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture. **ADDING to or TAKING AWAY FROM the Word of God is in its essence Satanic.**

Challenging the Word — Today, that challenge is framed with — *Do you really think God has spoken? Do you really think the Bible is God’s Word? Did God ever say anything and then actually have it recorded in this thing you call the Bible?*

Changing the Word — All he does here is change **one word** of God’s word. It was such a little word — “any.” So little that some ask — *What’s the big deal?*

HERE’S THE BIG DEAL — You either take God at His Word or you add to or subtract from his word — **and the result is devastation.** When we say that something has gone terribly wrong on planet earth — it traces back to **THAT** very thing — challenging and changing the Word of God!

² And the woman said to the serpent

She responds!

What Eve should have done is simply walk away. She could have and should have said — *I do not want to participate in the conversation that **dishonors God***. All she needed to do was to literally turn her back on Satan — turn her face toward God — and walk away.

How many men and women are sucked into conversations — conflict — gossip — divisiveness — and error that dishonors God **BECAUSE** they lacked the motive (love for God and His honor) and/or the courage to simply not respond?

But she engages in the conversation. She hears him out. She ended up being **deceived** and **confused** because she engaged the serpent. Twice in the New Testament we are told that she was **deceived** by his crafty arguments ([2 Corinthians 11:3](#); [1 Timothy 2:14](#)). She was never confused when she was talking to God. She became confused when she allowed conflicting voices to come into our life.

PERSONAL APPLICATION — Are you involved in conversations right now that you should not be involved in? Are you letting voices inform you that are in direct conflict with the revealed Word of God?

She responded.

²The women said to the serpent we may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden ³but God said you should not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden neither shall you touch it least you die

Now Eve is adding to God's Word. That is NOT what God said. God didn't say they couldn't **touch** it.

Even today there are men and women who ADD to God's Word. They try to make God's Word say something it doesn't say by adding to God's Word from their emotions, from their experiences, from cultural preferences and practices, from political ideologies. They lay aside the doctrine of Sola Scriptura. They add to the Word of God concepts from the physical

sciences, behavioral sciences and social sciences that failed to agree with Scripture. They take God's Word and **add** something to it — and when they do that — **alter it all together.**

⁴ But the serpent said to the woman you will not surely die.

First challenge — Did God even say anything?

Second Challenge — If God did speak, He didn't mean what He said. God said — *in the day you eat of it you shall surely die.* Satan says — *God didn't really mean that.* How many **billions** of graves do you think there are on planet earth? Every single one of them testify to the fact that God is true and Satan is a liar.

Today that challenge is also framed like this — *If God did speak — surely He didn't mean you to take the Bible literally.* God's Word says that Jesus is the only way to be saved.

***Acts 4:12 (ESV)** ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Jesus said that HE is THE way, THE truth and THE life and that NO ONE comes to God but by Him. Satan says — *He really doesn't mean that. You can get to heaven by being a good Buddhist or a good Muslim or a good Mormon.*

⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be open and you would be like God knowing good and evil.

Here is what he is saying —

*If God really loved you, why is He keeping this good thing from you? He **obviously** doesn't really love you, Because He's not giving to you all that you deserve. There's so much more that you can know and do — but He's keeping ALL of that from you!*

I think it's safe to say that all of us at one time have thought or said: *God, if you really love me why are you not giving me this?*

DON'T MISS THIS — If you believe the lie that God is withholding on you — then you will sin in order to obtain that which you believe God is withholding from you. It might be some relationship — some possession — some experience — some accomplishment. The temptation is to walk away **from** God in order to **exchange** someone else — or something else for God — believing that some other thing or some other person is more valuable to you than God — believing that some other thing or some other person can deliver to you something that God can't deliver! Have you ever framed your choices and decisions like that? That is the definition of idolatry. D.A. Carson calls this *the de-godding of God*.

6 so when the woman saw that the tree was

good for food

a delight to the eyes

that it was to be desired to make one wise

These are the very things that still drive this fallen world. At the end of the 1st century AD the apostle John spoke of them in his first epistle —

1 John 2:16 *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life*

Sin is going to come in through these three avenues

The lust of the flesh — it will taste good — feel good.

The lust of the eyes — it is attractive — looks good.

And **the boastful pride of life** — it will advance you — you can stand in the place of God. (This is no small thing. Because we presumed to stand in the place of God — God had to come and stand in our place — the

place of judgment!) You can make your own rules — do your own thing.
(self informed, self defined, self-directed)

⁶She took its fruit, she also gave some to her husband

WHERE was Adam? He was **with** Eve

... and he ate.

Most people think that Eve went astray because the man was away. That's not how it went down.

Where is Adam when all of this transpired? **What** is Adam doing when Satan is lying about God tempting the woman, what is the man doing? **Nothing! ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!** Adam **said** nothing — Adam **did** nothing.

This is strong stuff concerning men in marriage. Some men **abuse** their responsibilities in marriage. They are harsh and unreasonable and even abusive. There are others who **avoid** the need to grow into the responsibilities of manhood (Peter Pan Syndrome – never want to grow up) while others flat out **abdicate** and **abandon** their responsibility. Anyone who has been in ministry long enough will tell you that they have seen too many times a man get saved, plug into a local church, begin to grow in his relationship with Jesus and begin to serve Jesus; the Lord blesses him with a wife and they have children. Then hard times come and he abandons ship — abdicates. He lets someone else raise his kids; love his wife, pay their bills and serve at church. I can't tell you how much counseling involves blended families.

THAT is the absence of *shalom* — THAT is not the way things are supposed to be! But that exists because men do exactly what Adam did.

Sin is not merely doing a bad thing — sin of **Comission**. There are also sins of **Omission**

THIS IS HUGE STUFF — Adam's sin of COMISSION follows the sin of OMISSION. We could have gone up to Adam and asked —

Do you do drugs? No.

Do you drink? No.

Do you look at porn? No.

Are you stealing? No.

By man's standards Adam might have concluded — *I'm a good guy —right?* **NO!** Because he wasn't not doing what he was supposed to do. Adam knew what God said — and he should have rebuked Satan. He wasn't loving the one that he called *bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh*. He didn't step up and step into the spiritual battle Eve was involved in. He failed to take responsibility.

MEN — We are sons of Adam. It's in me to say nothing and do nothing. It's in me to sit back and let sin happen — and then to participate in sin.

7 the eyes of both were open and they knew that they were naked. And they sowed fig leaves together and made themselves loin clothes.

REMEMBER — When God made us, He made us for four areas of relationship —

Relationship with Him

Relationship with one another

Relationship with creation

Relationship within our own hearts and minds.

HERE WE SEE WHAT SIN DOES — Sin WRECKED all of those relationships.

BECAUSE OF SIN — There is distance between the man and the woman. Previously they were naked without shame. Now they cover themselves. There is distance. *I don't trust you, you don't trust me. We are no longer one — we are two. You live your life I will live mine. You cover your sin I will cover mine.*

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Now their **relationship with God** is affected by their sin.

Here is the insanity of sin — They are hiding from the one who MADE them — made and prepared the planet for them — loved them! Sin not only makes us irrational — it makes us foolish! When you sin — you become foolish enough to think that you can hide from God — as if God can't see behind a tree. But that's what they did — *They hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden*

⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him,

MEN — Don't miss this! He called to **the man. Why?** Because the man is responsible. Men, God holds you responsible for the well being of your family.

He calls out to the man and said to him **where are you?** How do you hear the tone of God's voice here? When Valerie and I were still baby Christians our pastor said something that has stuck with me ever since. He said: *When you read these words don't hear them as the voice of an arresting officer — read those words and hear the voice of a heart-broken father.*

The question is not a matter of physical location; "where are you?" because I can't see you behind the trees. It's a matter of position/proximity of heart — *Where are you in relationship with Me?*

where are you? Great question. All of us should start every day by looking in the mirror and asking the question — **where am I with the Lord?**

¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

DON'T MISS THIS — He did not say *we*. They are no longer one — they are two. **THAT** is what sin does to a marriage. It's no longer *we*. It's *I* and *he* — or *I* and *she*. They are not allies anymore — the two are now enemies.

Whenever we're doing marital counseling and we hear the word **we** a lot, that's a good thing because whatever the problem is they see themselves in it together.

¹¹ He said — God said — **who told you, you were naked.**

God gets right to the point. When we are dealing with sin we need to follow God's lead. We don't hear God asking — *how do you feel about that?* — *What caused that?* Here is God's question — simple and direct! And this how we need to deal with sin

¹¹ **Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"**

God makes it clear that He didn't give them a suggestion as to what Adam and Eve were NOT eat. It was a moral command demanding moral action with a moral consequence. **Bottom line** — *did you do what I told you not to do?*

¹² **The man said, "The woman**

NOTICE: The man doesn't start with — *Yes, I sinned God.* He immediately shifts the blame over to the woman — and in that ultimately blames God.

Look!

¹² **"The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."**

*She is the source of all my trouble — She gave me fruit of the tree. **And by the way** — isn't it YOU who made the woman for me?! You're the one that's made my life really complicated life — I am a total victim here*

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman what is this that you have done.

Notice the woman is equally responsible. She is equally an image bearer of God.

13The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

She said the devil made me do it.

INTERESTING — She doesn't blame her husband. This is very interesting because to this day a lot of women never blame their husband. They blame his boss, his dad, his family of origins, his upbringing, his pastor, his friends. So many women have a hard time really being honest about their husband.

LADIES — You were made to be a helper. You are not to disrespect him by publically airing his faults in front of your friends. You don't need to disrespect him — But you **will** disrespect God if you fail to speak honestly about your husband's sin in the right place with the right people.

We've seen what sin IS. We've seen what sin DOES.

Now we see what GOD DOES about sin.

14 The Lord God said to the serpent — (here is judgment) —because you have done this cursed are you above all the livestock, above the beast of the field, on your belly you shall go and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed (or offspring) and her offspring.

SEED — It's singular not plural. **Colossians 3** and **4** tell us that this is the promise of the coming of Jesus. This is called the **Proto-Evangelion**. This is so absolutely amazing and radical! The first gospel proclamation is

undertaken by God Himself. God is into evangelism — God preaches the first Gospel message.

the seed of the woman is an inference of the virgin birth, because elsewhere in scripture children always referred to as the seed of the man. God makes no mention of a father — just the mother. He says that through Eve there will eventually come a man who will do war with Satan. Satan will harm him — but the seed of the woman will come as the great dragon slayer — and He will defeat the dragon. **It's a promise of the coming of Jesus!** From Genesis 3 forward we see this promise come into greater focus and detail. The promise moves forward in Genesis when God singles out a man named Abraham through whom the promise of Genesis 3:15 will advance

*Genesis 12:2–3 (ESV) ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
³.....and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

¹⁶To the woman he said I will surely multiply your pain in child bearing and in pain you shall bring forth children.

Being a mother is a wonderful thing. But this explains why to this day women struggle with the pain of infertility and miscarriage. It also explains the origin of labor PAIN — and why it is that, to some degree, every mother experiences varying kinds of emotional pain throughout the rest of her life in the raising of the children.

As God is a parent — our Father — and has relationship with us — so now the mother experiences the pain of being in a parental role. She begins to understand that she brings grief and pain to God as His rebellious child.

16And your desire shall be for your husband and he shall rule over you.

The Hebrew term here translated “desire” (*teshuqah*) is rarely found in the OT. But it appears again in **Genesis 4:7** in a statement that closely parallels **Genesis 3:16**. There in **Genesis 4:7** the Lord says to Cain, just before Cain's

murder of his brother, that sin's **“desire is for you”** (i.e., sin desires to master Cain)

Genesis 4:7 (NLT) ⁷You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

HERE’S THE POINT — The **ongoing** result of Adam and Eve's original sin of rebellion against God will have disastrous consequences for their relationship: Eve will have the sinful **“desire”** to oppose Adam and to assert leadership over him — reversing God's plan for the complementarian nature of marriage. In the New Testament the Lord says that the woman is supposed to “submit” to her husband. That doesn’t go over very well with most women. That’s because of what God says here — *The woman will not want to trust a man — will not want to follow her husband’s lead.*

Adam will also abandon his God-given, pre-fall role of leading, guarding, and caring for his wife — replacing this with his own sinful, distorted desire to “rule” over Eve.

DON’T MISS THIS — One of the most tragic results of Adam and Eve's rebellion against God is the ongoing — emotionally and spiritually destructive — conflict between husband and wife in marriage.

¹⁷To Adam he said because you have listened to the voice of your wife

It’s not a sin to listen to your wife. **Proverbs** tell us that a prudent wife is from the Lord. **Genesis 2** says the wife is to be a helper. But when God says one thing — and your wife contradicts it — you are not supposed to listen to her — you’re supposed to listen to the Lord. And please understand: There’s no shortage of husbands who distort and misuse Scripture to justify why they won’t listen to the godly advice of their wife.

and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you shall not eat of it, cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

Your work is going to be hard. Remember — we said there was work BEFORE the fall. Now work is going to take on a ton of complexities and hardships BECAUSE of the fall.

18 Thorns and Thistles it shall bring forth for

Now sin — the fall — has affected another category of relationship —the relationship between man and environment.

and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Everything under your dominion is cursed — and you are now under the dominion of death.

REMEMBER — We began with the observation — *Something is very wrong — the world is not as it should be.* Have you ever asked yourself: **Why** is it that walking through life is like walking through thorns and thistles? **Why** is it that as soon as I feel like I have life in order it breaks again?

ANSWER #1 — Genesis 3:17-19

ANSWER #2 — Because God loves you.

In the BROKENNESS of the world God says to us — *I want you to feel as I feel it because I love you. I want you to see what **you** are like in my universe — And I want it to humble you and cause you to repent of your unbelief and rebellion.*

20 The man called his wife’s name Eve because she was the mother of all living. 21 and the Lord God made for Adam and his wife garments of skins and clothed them

That's God's grace and provision. It is also a foreshadowing of the cross of Jesus as innocent blood is shed to cover spiritual nakedness. More of that to come in the following Monday nights

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

WHY did God kick them out of the garden? Because they would have eaten the tree of life and would have lived forever separated from God.

SO THERE WE HAVE THE WORST DAY IN HUMAN HISTORY

That's the day that has affected **every** day since. If you don't understand that day, every other day makes no sense at all.

We've been scratching at the surface of this — now will tackle it more fully in our next question

What is sin?

In **Genesis 1:31** when God made everything he said it was **Very good.**

Many of you have heard the Hebrew word — **Shalom**. I want to recommend a book by a man named Cornelius Plantinga titled: "Sin: Not the Way It's Supposed to Be." IN his book Plantinga makes the point that *shalom* means wholeness — everything is as it should be — love — reconciliation — no wars — no famine — no disease — no death — no tears — no suffering — no locks on doors — no police officers — no jails — no soldiers — just Shalom. **Everything that is not Shalom is sin and or the effects of sin. Sin is war on Shalom.**

Sin shows up as

Death — suffering — injustice — prejudice — greed — lust — misery
— fear — illness — pain — sorrow — grief — despair — tragedy.

Jesus comes as the *prince of* — what? *Prince of Shalom*.

The Bible uses a virtual library of **words** and **images** to talk about sin

Idolatry — Rebellion — folly — self-abuse — madness — treason
— death — hatred — spiritual adultery — missing the mark — wandering
from the path — — irrationality — pride — selfishness — blindness
— deafness — a hard heart — a stiff neck — delusion —
unreasonableness — and self-worship.

IT IS GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT who has given to us this functional definition
of sin **because with out that** — When you hear that *Jesus died for sin* — it
won't mean anything to you.

We've already seen that there are sins of omission and commission.

Omission is not doing what you are supposed to. **James 4:17** ¹⁷So whoever
knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Commission is doing what you are **not** supposed to.

Sin includes our thoughts (they count!), our words (they count!) — even
when you type them and hit “send” or “post”! Sin includes our deeds (what
we do), our motives (why we do what we do). Sin includes godlessness
— which is ignoring God. Sin includes idolatry — which is giving yourself to
someone or something other than Jesus — trading Jesus for something or
something else.

Sin is not just things that are criminal. There are sins that are not crimes.
Lust in your heart. Most lies don't turn into crimes. But there are sins that
involve the breaking of laws. Sin is the breaking of Gods laws in the Bible.
(**1 John 3:4 KJV Sin is transgression of the Law**). The breaking of human
laws. It's the breaking of laws laid out by authority — a kid dishonoring his

parents; a student not obeying the rules of his teacher; a member of a church not taking clear Biblical council of your pastors.

It's also violating your own conscience when the spirit of God convicts you.

Romans 14:23 For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Sin includes perversion — which is using a good thing for sin. Technology is a perfect example. You can send a prayer request via email or text message — or you can send gossip. You can send Bible studies over the internet — or you can send pornography.

Sin includes pollution — which is infecting good things with evil. It's turning a good thing into a **god** thing — where you live, money, sex, fame, power, glory, intelligence, achievement, comfort.

Sin includes founding your identity on anything other than Jesus.

QUESTION — Is all sin equal? In one regard, it is.

First — Jesus says in Matthew 5:48 that we are to be perfect, as our heavenly father is perfect. Anything that misses **that** mark is sin. God is absolutely morally perfect. Anything less than His moral perfection is absolutely sin. $2 + 2$ is absolutely 4.00000 ad infinitum. To say that $2 + 2 = 3.999999999999999$ is ABSOLUTELY wrong.

Second — James, the brother of Jesus, says in **James 2:10** that if you violate one point of God's law you violate all of it. Jesus said in **Matthew 5** that lust and adultery are both equally sin. **The wages of ANY sin is death.**

HUGE — Though all sin is equal — **not all sin is equally devastating in its effects.** There are degrees of devastation from sin.

So we have answered TWO questions about sin

1. What is the ORIGINATION of sin?

2. What is the DEFINITION of sin.

Now we're going to look at something that is tremendously important:

How does Adam's sin affect me personally?

Romans 5:12-21

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man

That would be Adam. Who sinned first? Eve. Who is held primarily responsible? Adam. Who is responsible for the fall of humanity and sin? Adam.

¹² And death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned —

Everyone is affected by Adam's sin — we sin by nature and we sin by choice.

¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace

abounded all the more, ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HERE IS WHAT HE IS SAYING.

There are two categories of humanity on planet earth! Those who are under Adam — those who are under Jesus. That's it!

We tend to see things in terms of nations and races — genders and cultures — social-economic backgrounds. **REALITY** — There are ONLY TWO categories: Those who are under Adam and those who are under Jesus.

Those who are under Adam receive Adam's sin

Those who are under Jesus receive his sinlessness.

Those who are under Adam die

Those who are under Jesus live

Those who are under Adam are experiencing condemnation

Those who are under Jesus experience justification.

Those who are under Adam are unrighteous

Those who are under Jesus are made righteous by Jesus.

Those who are under Adam are disobedient

Those who are under Jesus are obedient.

To be under Adam — you need to be born.

To be under Jesus — you need to be born again.

Outside of faith in Christ — Adam's sin is imputed, reckoned, imparted to you

By faith in Christ — Righteousness and salvation are imparted to you through His Sinless life; Substitutionary death; Bodily resurrection; and victory over sin and death

Adam was your father when he sinned — the whole family of the human race was involved. Adam is our representative. When he made that decision, he made it on behalf of all of us. You and I would have made the same decision had we been there.

In **1 Corinthians 15:45** Jesus is called the last Adam. Jesus — like Adam — represented us. He died for our sin, rose for our salvation.

CRUCIAL: You are either under Adam, or you are under Jesus.

Death — Life

Sin — Forgiveness

Hell — Heaven

There is TWO humanities. Adam's sin affects us all.

That means today — we have a sin nature. You are not born as a good person with a blank slate.

Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Some of your translations will say — **I was sinful from my mother's womb.**

Ephesians 2:3 — we are by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind.

KEY POINT: You are conceived with a nature of sinful rebellion against God. Your natural proclivities — because of your sin nature — are to repeat the sins of Adam and Eve. **That's why Jesus needs to give to us a new nature.**

HUGE — To become a Christian is to receive a new nature — because in our first birth we are conceived with the sin nature.

QUESTION: WHAT IS TOTAL DEPRAVITY?

CRUCIAL: We don't believe in **utter depravity**. When we sin, we are sinners by nature and choice. When we sin, we don't cease to be human, we are not less than human — we are still image bearers of God. The image of God is marred and stained and tainted. All of the magnificent potential that was ours by creation is now bent towards evil and not good — for self-gratification and self-glory rather than for God and His glory. **But even after sin** — in [Genesis 5; 9](#), [1 Corinthians 11](#), [James 3](#) we are told that we bear the image of God. So we are **not utterly depraved**. But we **are totally depraved** — meaning that **all of our person** is affected — stained — marred — broken by sin.

This includes our mind. We do not think as we ought. We do not think the thoughts of God. [Isaiah 55:8](#) *For my thoughts are not your thoughts.* You can't just trust your mind. If you live in your head and you are a thinker, don't always trust your analysis of the situation, you could be wrong.

This includes our emotions — what we feel is not always right. Some of you say — *but this is what I feel*. If you are an intense feeler — you need to learn to have a very healthy distrust of your feelings. They could be wrong — because they are affected by sin.

Total depravity means the sin has totally affected the totality of a person — thoughts — feelings — will — emotions — our body. If we were **utterly depraved** we would have no conscience. But we still bear a conscience. [Romans 2](#) says that because we are image bearers of God, we still have some semblance or echo of right and wrong. The result is that we hate injustice and we want love. There are good things that we long for — even

though we are sinners. Marred — stained — bent and broken — but not utterly depraved leaving us essentially animals.

Do you know that we are so sinful that we sin — and then we sin in how we see the sin.

NEXT QUESTION: WHAT ARE SOME SINFUL VIEWS OF SIN?

There is no shortage of pastors in contemporary church culture who actually say

I won't talk about sin — death — judgment — hell — wrath — blood — that's all so negative.

IF we don't truly understand our condition — then we don't have a right diagnosis — and therefore we can't prescribe the right remedy.

Here are nine sinful views of sin.

1. Thinking that sin is just breaking some rules.

CRUCIAL — The rules that God gives in scripture are representative of God — They come from God's character. Behind God's laws is God. And when you break God's laws you are violating relationship with God. Sin is the violation of God who loves you.

2. I don't need to take my sin very seriously because no matter what I do — Jesus forgives it

3. Those who are paranoid of the possibility of failing to confess a sin and as a result lose their salvation.

Jesus died for all of our sins — past, present and future. And if you fail to confess every sin — You must remember that the Blood of Jesus cleanses a man of ALL sin.

4. Some say — God knows my heart and it's really what's in my heart that counts

He does know your heart. In **Proverbs** we are told that out of the overflow your heart, comes your life — it's the well-spring of life. Jesus says that out of the overflow of your heart, the mouth speaks. Your life is a reflection of your heart! You can't say — *my heart is good, my life is bad, but God knows my heart*. I CAN'T commit adultery or theft — or murder or greed — or lust or pride — or gossip or divisiveness, and then say — *My heart is good!* ALL of those things are connected to your heart.

5. Sometimes I have to sin because I don't want to miss out on fun. If you love Jesus, sin is not fun. Before meeting Jesus I had fun sinning. But when Jesus forgives you of your sin and then comes to live within you — SIN is NO LONGER fun. It's misery — you feel terrible — the Holy Spirit convicts you. You realize that what you used to love you don't love. You feel convicted — You feel terrible. Sin is not fun — that's the lie that Satan told Adam and Eve — *God's withholding something really great — so go get it.*

6. It's not a sin if no one gets hurt.

I hear this from singles that are living together — sleeping together. *Well nobody is getting hurt, we're both consenting adults, no one is going to hurt.* I guarantee it will affect whomever you marry — whenever you marry. I guarantee it will affect those who are in the church. I guarantee it will affect family, friends and coworkers who are observing you — it affects them. It certainly affects your relationship with God because sin separates us from God.

Don't say that nobody is getting hurt — lots of people are getting hurt.

7. It's only a sin if you get caught — secret sin doesn't count.

You know what — God knows! Secret sin counts — and here is the truth — it's not a secret. God knows, and those who are close may not know what the sin is but they see its effects.

8. Well if it's popular then it's okay — everybody is doing it — and they make a cultural argument.

Well that's just how we do it in our culture.

9. Some Christians like to make everything a sin issue — even when it's not.

Christians love to make everything into a sin issue. Sometimes it's a difference of opinion, sometimes it's a difference of conscience. You think this is right, I think this is right.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE SOME SINFUL RESPONSES TO SIN?

1. Some people love to minimize their sin

It's not that big of a deal, you totally are overreacting.

2. I am the exception to the rule. I know that's true for everyone else but I have special circumstances.

I know you are not supposed to live with your boyfriend or girlfriend, but he lost his job, and we are going to get married, and we love each other, so we are going to live together and sleep together.

What I think is curious is everyone thinks they are the exception.

3. Blame shifting.

It's not my fault. It's their fault. We saw this on the heels of the very first sin — Adam — *It's the woman you gave me Lord.* Eve — *No it's the devil*

4. Changing the subject.

There are those people — who when they sin — and you confront them in their sin — they change the conversation to about how they feel about you confronting them about their sin.

You have really hurts my feelings — I feel like you are judging me — I thought we were friends

Don't change the subject. We are talking about **your** sin — not how you feel about me telling you that you are in sin.

5. Partial confession.

They give up just the amount of sin they feel they have to give up in hopes that the questions will stop — stop looking for the rest.

6. Paul talks to the Corinthians about **worldly sorrow** = *I feel bad about the consequences of my sin but not my sin.*

I feel bad that people are hurt

I feel bad that people are upset

I feel bad that people are negatively affected

7. Excuse making — and the excuses are innumerable.

I have a good reason, you don't understand. Let me tell you the whole story.

8. Victimization

I am the victim I can't help it. My dad abused me. I was raped. I was molested. I can't help it.

I grew up poor. I grew up rich. I grew up without enough affection

All of that may be all true — But that doesn't mean that for the rest of your life you act in certain ways because you were sinned against.

You may be a victim — but when you sin, you victimize others, and victims rarely think of that

9. Confession without repentance.

I know it's wrong — thank you for pointing that out — Then they do it again.

CRUCIAL — They are being **honest** but they are **not** being **humble**.

10. One of the worst ways to respond to sin is to minimize a person's sin because they're a good person. THAT is totally denying what the Bible says about sin leaving us broken on every level

CRUCIAL QUESTION: HOW DOES GOD RESPOND TO SIN?

We see it in Genesis 3.

First — he judges sin

He tells the man — here is your sin and consequences

He tells the woman — here is your sin and the consequences.

He tells Satan — here is your sin and the consequences

If you didn't know — you know now — GOD JUDGES SIN! If He didn't, He wouldn't be a good God — wouldn't be just holy or good.

Secondly — God gives grace

He pursues them. They are hiding, but he pursues them, He speaks to them — Loving Kindness! Amazing Grace!

Additionally — God teaches them. *Here is what **you** did Adam — here is what **you** did Eve — I love you, but what you have done is horrible and there are some serious consequences for this.*

Because God is holy — he must deal with our sin. **But because He is loving** — He has chosen to deal with our sin in a way so that we could be forgiven and restored to right relationship with him.

By sending His Son to die in our place for our sins — God shows that we are made for more than sin and that He has called us to something far greater.

QUOTE: Cornelius Plantinga; *Not The Way It's Supposed to Be* — has said that we should learn from God's example:

“We ought to pay evil doers, including ourselves, the ‘intolerable compliment’ of taking them seriously as moral agents, of holding them accountable for their wrongdoing. This is a mark of our respect for their dignity and weight as human beings” (Not The Way It's Supposed to Be, 66).

In **Genesis 3:15** God preached the first gospel message to our first parents and promised the coming of Jesus — who would be harmed by Satan — but would ultimately crush him and bring salvation to sinners.

In love God then cast our first parents out of the Garden so that they would not live forever in a state of sin.

Later in the storyline of the Bible we learn that Jesus did in fact come to save people from their sins,

Matthew 1:20-21 *an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”*

He did this by becoming the one who succeeded where the first Adam failed ([1 Corinthians 15:45](#)). Amazingly, even though God is the one offended by sin — the one ALL of us have sinned against — in an infinite act of love He died in our place for our sins and rose for our salvation. In that very act God remains perfectly perfect

The cross of Jesus tells us that **we are more wicked** than we ever feared yet **more loved** than we ever hoped.

LAST QUESTION — WHAT IS THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO SIN?

The right response to sin is always complete repentance.

Please repent of your sin — It is killing you — it is killing others. It is contributing to the horrific nature of the world. It is separating you from God. Without a living relationship with Jesus your sin will cause you to spend eternity in the conscious eternal torment of hell.

You and I, we are sinners — and Jesus came to save sinners.

REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS!