

Sin

Defined as

“Self-Rule”

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Why a wrong definition of “Sin” is so dangerous.

Short and Expanded Bible def. of “Sin”

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How Jesus parables explain how to live a practical daily life as a

- “Steward” of the loving King
- “Slave” of the loving King
- “Servant” of the loving King

Chapter 1

There is great danger in not understanding the definition and nature of sin. A wrong definition of sin can lead to a complete misunderstanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many people make the mistake of defining sin as a “*Wrong Action*” or an “*Unkind Action*”.

The danger of this error is that it subtly changes the Gospel of Jesus.

The error of defining sin as a “*Wrong Action*” or an “*Unkind Action*” leads to multiple dangerous ASSUMPTIONS.

The wrong definition of sin as a “*Wrong Action*” or an “*Unkind Action*” leads to the ASSUMPTIONS that:

- 1. If I take a morally positive or a morally neutral action while in control of my life, this wrong definition ASSUMES these morally positive or morally neutral action are NOT sin.**

Every action that has a base in a person controlling their own life is sin. A good or kind action based on the assumption of control or authority over your own life is sin.

This assumption that the definition of sin is a “*Wrong Action*” or an “*Unkind Action*” is an extremely dangerous and incorrect assumption, which leads to further incorrect assumptions.

- 2. That I am ABLE to be a “Good” person.**
- 3. That my “Good” actions can some how outweigh my bad actions.**
- 4. That you can retain control of your life and still get to heaven.**

This horrible doctrine allows deceived people to believe that they can receive Jesus as Savior with OUT receiving him as LORD!

The first 39 books of the Bible (The Old Testament) were written primarily so that we can understand sin. All of the sacrifices loudly declare the essence of sin and the cost of sin. This emphasis on the truth and horror of sin allows us to understand the price our Savior had to pay to save us from our sin.

The greatest explanation of the covenant of salvation is Romans 1-8. The first seven chapters of Romans are primarily concerned with us understanding sin so that we can understand salvation.

In its most simple definition sin is “SELF-RULE”. The very nature of sin is to believe that you are in charge of your life. It is a denial of your Creator as the Lord of your life. Any act or thought with the basis of this belief (*that you are in charge of your life*) is sin. Good actions done under a heart that believes that they are in control of their life is sin.

Sin is actually deeper than just SELF-RULE. It is an understanding that:

1. My heart (*apart from God's grace*) is evil, deceives me and denies responsibility for my own evil.
2. I (*apart from God's grace*) can not be pure or even improve myself morally. I (*apart from God's grace*) am bent toward evil and will try to do almost anything that I think I can get away with.
3. I (*apart from God's grace*) am gripped in a slavery to selfishness. Even when I do good things my motives are all about ME. I want ME to look good. I want ME to feel good about ME.

For the purpose of this short study, we will study Sin in its most basic and simple definition of “SELF-RULE”.

Chapter 2

If sin is a “Wrong Action” --- HOW could a child be sinful from conception and birth. However, if all humanity is cursed with separation from God and a self-will that assumes SELF-RULE then each child is soaked in sin from conception and birth.

Psalm 51

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

*2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was **sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.***

Isaiah 53 is the greatest Messianic passage about Christ on the cross in the entire Old Testament. Please notice that the DEFINITION of the iniquity that Christ bore on the cross is that we each turned to our OWN WAY.

Isaiah 53:6

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has **turned to his OWN WAY;** and the LORD has laid on him the **iniquity** of us all.*

The act of becoming a Christian is repeatedly defined in scripture as giving up CONTROL or SELF-RULE of your life.

II Cor. 5:15

*And he died for all, that those who live should **NO LONGER live for THEMSELVES but FOR HIM** who died for them and was raised again.*

I Cor. 6:19-20

You are **NOT YOUR OWN**; you were **BOUGHT** at a **PRICE**. Therefore honor God with your body.

Luke 14

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does **not hate** his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, **even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.** 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, **any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.**

34 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 16:

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If **anyone** would come after me, **he must deny himself** and take up his

cross and follow me. 25For whoever **wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.** 26What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8

34Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If **anyone** would come after me, he **must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** 35**For whoever wants to save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.** 36What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

Luke 9

23Then he said to them all: "If **anyone** would come after me, he **must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** 24**For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.** 25What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? 26If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices,** holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Matthew 13:46

When he found one of great value, he went away and **sold everything** he had and bought it.

Mark 10

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is^[e] to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

28 Peter said to him, "We have **left everything to follow you!**"

29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Luke 5:11

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything** and followed him.

Luke 5:28

and Levi got up, **left everything** and followed him.

Acts 13:22

After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man **after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'**

The word "SIN" is used in the New Testament 110 times. The chapter that uses the word "SIN" more than any other chapter is Romans 6. (19 times). By the way, the second and third chapters that use the word "SIN" are Roman 7 (17 times) and Romans 5 (9 times).

Thus, this section of scripture is the clearest and largest study of sin in the entire Bible.

In Romans 6 "SIN" is compared or contrasted to its OPPOSITE eight times. In each of these cases the OPPOSITE of "SIN" is to:

1. Be a "SLAVE" to God
2. To "OFFER" yourselves to God
3. Alive to God

By defining the opposite of sin as living for God, Romans 6 defines sin as living in control of your own life.

In addition, the word Death or Die is used in Romans 6 – **nineteen** times. The message is that we DIE to CONTROL of our lives in and live for God in order to be free from "SIN"—"SELF-RULE

Romans 6

*1What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We were therefore **buried with him through baptism into death** in order that, just as Christ was*

raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.**

5If we have been **united with him like this in his death**, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that **we should no longer be slaves to sin**— 7because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11In the same way, **count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** 12Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather **offer yourselves to God**, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14For **sin shall not be your master**, because you are not under law, but under grace.

15What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16Don't you know that when you **offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?** 17But thanks be to God that, though you **used to be slaves to sin**, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

19I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. **Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.**

20When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22But **now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.** 23For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Romans 8; having seen, in Romans 1-7, that “SIN” = “SELF-RULE” we are now told how to LIVE the Christian life. The key word that is used is “CONTROL”. We give “CONTROL” of our lives to God’s Spirit and are “LED” by that Spirit

Romans 8

5Those who live according to the sinful nature have their **minds set** on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their **minds set** on what the **Spirit desires**. 6The mind of sinful man is death, but the **mind controlled by the Spirit** is life and peace; 7the sinful mind is hostile to God. It **does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.** 8Those **controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.**

9**You, however,** are **controlled** not by the sinful nature but **by the Spirit,** if the Spirit of God lives in

you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 10But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. 12Therefore, brothers, ***we have an obligation***—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 14because those who are ***led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.***

Here are more passages which make this point clearly that “SIN” is SELF-RULE and the opposite of “SIN” is to give total control of your life to God.

1 John 2:16

For ***everything in the world***—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes ***not from the Father*** but from the world.

Please notice this next passage. It defines sin as lawlessness. Lawlessness is refusing to submit authority and control of your life to a higher authority.

1 John 3:4

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, ***sin is lawlessness.***

Ephesians 1:22

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be **head over everything** for the church,

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in **everything he might have the supremacy.**

Hebrews 2:8

and put **everything under his feet.**" In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

Heb. 4:

11Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

12For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it **judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** 13Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. **Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

John 8:34

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, **everyone who sins is a slave to sin.**

John 16:9

*in regard to **sin**, because men do **not believe in me**;*

Note: Please notice that “BELIEVING” in Jesus is MORE than acknowledging Jesus existence. Believing includes receiving Jesus as King, Lord, Boss and Slave Master. Thus SIN is to NOT acknowledge Jesus as the one in control of your life.

Romans 14:23

*But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **everything that does not come from faith is sin.***

Chapter 3

How Jesus parables explain how to live a practical life of Christianity.

If I am not allowed to make decisions, how can I know if it is OK with God if I:

1. Go to the mall?
2. Eat this bowl of ice cream?
3. Change jobs? etc.

So many of Jesus parables dealt with a KING giving responsibility to his Stewards, Servants or Slaves to produce results for their King!

1. **Master and Servant** (Luke 17:7-10)
2. **The Servant Entrusted with Authority or The Faithful and Unfaithful Servants** (Matt. 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-46)
3. **The Waiting Servants** (Luke 12:35-38; Mark 13:33-37)
4. **The Laborers in the Vineyard or The Generous Employer** (Matt.20:1-16)
5. **The Money in Trust** or **The Talents** (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27)
6. **The Lamp** (Matt 5:14-16; Mark 4:21; Luke 8:16, 11:31) and **The City Set on a Hill** (Matt. 5:14b)
7. **The Body's Lamp** (Matthew 6:22 f.; Luke 11:34-36)
8. **The Discarded Salt** (Matt 5:13; Mark 9:50; Luke 14:34 f.)
9. **The Patch and the Wineskins** (Matt. 9:16 f.; Mark 2:21 f.; Luke 5:36-39)
10. **The Householder's Treasure** (Matthew 13:52)
11. **The Dishonest Steward** (Luke 16:1-12)
12. **The Defendant** (Luke 12:58 f.; Matthew 5:25 f.)
13. **The Unforgiving Official or The Unmerciful Servant** (Matthew 18:23-35)
14. **The Rich Fool** (Luke 12:16-21)
15. **The Wicked Vinedressers** (Matthew 21:33-41; Mark 12:1-9; Luke 20:9-16)
16. **The Two Builders** (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49)
17. **The Two Debtors** (Luke 7:41-43)
18. **The Hidden Treasure** (Matthew 13:44)
19. **The Pearl of Great Price** (Matthew 13:45 f.)

Jesus is our KING! He has given us a commission to bring people to Him! Our goal is to do His will every moment of our lives. Through His Word, Prayers and Godly Wise Counsel, we can often discern His will in many situations.

YET, there will be many hundreds of thousands of decisions where we will not know for certain if a specific action is God's will or not. Is it God's will to eat this bowl of ice cream or not?????

God's word tells us that we all have a commission from our King to bring people to Him!

II Cor. 5:10-11

For we must **all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Since, then, we know what it is to **fear the Lord**, we **try to persuade men**.

II Cor. 5:19-20

And he has **committed to us the message of reconciliation**. We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though **God were making his appeal through us**. We implore you on **Christ's behalf**: Be reconciled to God.

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Thus, finding the will of our King is actually fairly easy. Our first test of God's will is always God's Word. However, when something is not clearly spoken to in God's word; the main question is: "Does this direction in my life help to bring people closer to Christ?"

All of our life is measured by this commission. What a privilege to have such a huge, wonderful and important purpose to our lives.

