
FOUNDATION STONE 1B

WHAT IS SIN, DEAD WORKS & INIQUITY

HOW DOES THE WORD OF GOD DESCRIBE SIN?

The bible teaches us that sin is the willful breaking of Gods laws. There are many types of sin, but we will be studying dead works and iniquity. There are various Greek words and verses that describe sin in the following manners. **Trespassing** (to impose our self-will against God's authority). **Error** (simply departing from the right path). And off course, **transgression** (overstepping the line between good and evil as fixed by God). Sin is **lawlessness** whether spiritual or moral rebellion against the word of God. "Not conforming to the will of God!"

I John 3:4, 8, 9

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. (8) The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

HOW DOES THE WORD OF GOD DESCRIBE INIQUITY?

Iniquity= "the law of sin" this inherited sin causes us to be "by nature children of wrath". Contrary to what many may think, we are not sinners because we do bad things or otherwise we would be saved by the good we do.

Romans 7:23

But I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Psalms 51:5

Behold I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Ephesians 4:17-27

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they have become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as the truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and yet not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

WHAT ARE DEAD WORKS?

Dead works are the results of the old sin nature (iniquity) that we inherited. They are the things we do as well as our attitudes. These may be everything from gross sin to establishing our own righteousness such as (selfishness).

ISAIAH 53:6

All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way: but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

MATTHEW 15:19

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, Theft's, bearing false witness, and slandering.

JAMES 1:14

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Most sins are obvious and easy to detect when we see them in operation. However it is difficult to detect the inward hostility that each one of us has towards the laws of God. This hostility births itself when the Holy Spirit begins to convict us of our sins and tries to bring us to Gods reconciliation. This inward hostility has caused many of us to resist the call of God on our lives for repentance. This resistance still is present in our lives to some degree even after our conversion and the working of the Holy Spirit in us.

Genesis 6:5

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 8:20-21-Here we see the grace of God & the spirit upon man
Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, " I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

Romans 7:18

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

I Corinthians 2:14

But a natural man does not except the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

HOW DID SIN ENTER THE WORLD?

According to the word in **Isaiah 14:12-23** and **Ezekiel 28:12-19**, sin entered the world through Satan's fall from the presence of God and by man who yielded to the works of Satan by his own free will according to the following scripture:

ROMANS 5:12

therefore just as through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

I TIMOTHY 2:13-14

For it was Adam who was first created, and then eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived (he fell of his own free will), but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression.

I PETER 5:8

Be sober of spirit, be on the alert, your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

CAN MAN BE FREE FROM SINS CURSE?

The answer is yes! Let's look at the following scriptures.

ROMANS 7:23-24

I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of death?

ROMANS 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

JOHN 1:29

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Read the following verses. **II Corinthians 5:14-21 & Isaiah 53:4-11.**

WE CAN FIND FORGIVENESS FOR OURSELVES BY ACCEPTING JESUS CHRIST AS OUR SAVIOR.

ROMANS 6:23

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If we don't repent, we are walking in a living death until we do repent. This means that God cannot bring His full blessings upon us as He so desires to do. **Read Romans chapter 5** to see the results of justification.

I JOHN 1:9

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **Romans 10:9-10** tells us that if we confess with our mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved.*

This means that we are not to be ashamed of the new life we have in Christ Jesus. We must be a witness for Him.

CAN A CHRISTIAN SIN?

Yes! However, we must remember what sin is. Many times we may make a mistake or just have a fault within us. Let's try to define the difference between sin and what might be a mistake or fault.

A MISTAKE

Is something that we should not have done, but because of immaturity we did it anyway. We erred in our judgment.

A FAULT

Is something within us that must be dealt with because it is not acceptable to God. Sometimes these faults are easily overcome, while at other times they are more difficult. We know that God is merciful to those who are weak. However we must not take advantage of God's patience or freedom.

Galatians 5:1

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (fault).

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom (faults) into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

WHAT HAPPENS TO US WHEN WE SIN?

We lose fellowship with God

We need to understand that when we sin our fellowship with God is broken. The wages of sin is death and we immediately set the results of sin in motion. The flow of God's life is cut off from us and we need to repent now in order to restore that life

We become less of a person

Every time we sin, we grieve the Holy Spirit and begin to move away from God and become less of the person He intended us to be. We lose self-respect and the respect of others.

We begin to feel guilty

We have an alarm system built into us called the Holy Spirit and every time we sin, He is activated to convict us of wrongdoing **John 15:16-17 & 26**. This conviction demands our attention now. To erase the guilt, we must ask for God's forgiveness. **1 John 1:9** tells us that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

