

Sin: Sin is _____ toward God; It is refusing to do what He commands and insisting on doing what He forbids.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

We can't understand what sin is if we do not first understand who God is. Many men will readily admit that they "have sinned". This is not the same as understanding that their sin is rebellion against the holy, creator of the universe who has the authority to determine the standard of our behaviour.

2. The consequence of sin is _____ from God

God created us to have a relationship with Him. Sin has destroyed that relationship. It has separated us from God and has made *reconciliation* necessary.

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: **2** But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

Separation from God is no small matter. It has actually rendered us enemies of God (Rom 8:7). As a consequence we have the wrath of God "abiding on us" (John 3:36). One day God's sentence on unbelievers will be carried out and they will suffer eternally in Hell.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

We cannot understand our separation from God until we understand the seriousness of our sin. We can't understand the seriousness of our sin until we understand God's standard of holiness. We can't understand why God's standard matters until we realize that he is the authoritative creator of everything.

In our next study we will concentrate on the reconciliation that God has provided through Jesus Christ.



Becoming fluent with a clear and understandable gospel message can be hard work. You will not be able to successfully communicate the gospel clearly if you do not yourself have a good grasp of it.

Remember that at times the best we can do is move someone further down the road of understanding the gospel.

1 Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

God is sovereign in salvation so our main priority is to please Him with a solidly biblical gospel presentation and not to please men with a pragmatic, watered-down gospel.

As the foundation of the entire gospel, we should begin with the person and character of God the Father.

1. God is _____ of everything

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Understanding that God is the creator, sustainer and owner of all of creation establishes His _____ over all things.

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for _____ they are and were created.

As creator, God has put in the hearts of men certain truths that point back to Him. These truths are not enough for saving faith but they are the initial sign posts pointing to a creator.

2. The _____ of God _____

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; **19** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. **20** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

God has shown man his “eternal power” and “Godhead” through creation. This knowledge is enough to incur God’s wrath and to render all men without excuse.

Q. Is the man who has never heard a clear gospel message free from condemnation? Why?

a. The _____ of God is revealed in the _____

Romans 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: **15** Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Our conscience is the “alarm system” designed to warn us against the danger of breaking God’s law. The effectiveness of man’s God-given conscience can be seen in the fact that all men have some innate sense of morality. Even before God’s law was given in Exodus 20, men were conscious of what sin was.

Our conscience can be _____.

1 Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Our conscience can be _____.

1 Corinthians 8:7 Howbeit *there is* not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat *it* as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is

defiled.

Remember that the person we are sharing the gospel with has most likely, at some point, had thoughts of God the creator and guilt over his own sin. Even those who claim to be atheists have experienced this.

b. God is _____.

Creation points to God’s authority over all things. Our conscience points to God’s law. But man needs more to come to a saving faith. He must also realize that God is perfectly holy.

Psalms 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God *is* holy.

God’s holiness coupled with His authority means that man is subject to God’s standard of behaviour.

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

He has the authority to demand that all men meet his standard of holiness – something no man can do.

c. God requires _____

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

This is not a challenge to try to keep the entire law. The Bible reveals that no man can meet God’s perfect standard.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Q. If we can’t keep the law, why did God give it? (Rom 3:19-20)

After establishing who God is, we must establish who MAN is.

1. Every man _____