



20 Beliefs Every Christian Should Know

Lesson 8 – Sin

Key Verse: Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Overview

There is one common thread throughout all humanity—sin. Sin permeates every aspect of our existence. It impacts individuals and societies. It is deep within us and is continually on display. However, since the Enlightenment, civilizations have increasingly denied the reality of sin. There are four main reasons for this: 1) people view humanity as naturally good; 2) people are viewed as the products of their upbringing and, therefore, not morally responsible; 3) moral relativism does not define right and wrong as absolutes; and 4) people’s self-esteem is hurt by the word “sin.” In theology, the study of sin is called hamartiology. *Hamartia* in Greek means “to sin; to err.” In this lesson we will discover what God says about the sinful heart of man.

What is sin?

1. 1 John 3:4. How does John define sin? _____
2. Isaiah 1:2. How is sin defined in this verse? _____
3. Judges 2:20. How does God define sin in this verse? _____
4. Romans 1:18. How does this verse define sin? _____
5. Romans 11:31. What does this verse call sin? _____
6. Romans 2:23. How does this verse define sinners? _____
7. Jude 18. What does this verse say sinners follow? _____

“Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.”

—Wayne Grudem, *Christians Beliefs*, pg. 62.

Where did sin come from?

1. Hebrews 6:18. What is impossible for God to do? _____

2. James 1:13. What does this verse tell us about God? _____
3. Ezekiel 28:13–15. What do these verses reveal about Satan? _____

4. Isaiah 14:11–12. What was the reason for Satan’s rebellion? _____

5. Genesis 3:6. What did Eve do in the Garden of Eden? _____
6. Genesis 3:9. Who is primarily responsible for the sin of humanity? _____
7. Romans 5:12. Who is to blame for death in the world? _____

Total Depravity

1. Jeremiah 17:9. What does this verse say about the heart of mankind? _____
2. Titus 1:15. What does this verse reveal about the mind and conscience of man? _____
3. Ephesians 4:17. What does Paul say about the unbeliever’s mind? _____
4. Ephesians 4:18. Why does Paul say the unbeliever’s mind is darkened? _____
5. Romans 8:7–8. What does this verse reveal about unbelievers pleasing God? _____
6. John 15:5. What can we do apart from Christ? _____
7. Psalm 14:3. According to this verse, who does good? _____
8. Romans 3:23. Who has sinned against God? _____

“We are so entirely controlled by the power of sin, that the whole mind, the whole heart, and all our actions are under its influence.”

—John Calvin, *Commentaries on the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans*, pg. 261.

Are some sins worse than others?

1. James 2:10. What does man have to do to become guilty of breaking the whole law? _____

2. Ezekiel 8:6. What did God say the house of Israel would commit? _____

3. John 19:11. What did Jesus say about the Jews who delivered Him to Pilate? _____

4. Matthew 11:20–24. What did Jesus say about the cities that did not repent? _____

5. James 3:1. What does this verse say about those who teach the Bible? _____

Sin and the Christian

1. Romans 8:1. What does this verse say about Christians? _____
2. Romans 8:39. What separates a Christian from God’s love? _____
3. Ephesians 4:30. What do Christians do when they sin? _____
4. Hebrews 12:6. What does God do to sinning Christians? _____
5. 1 Corinthians 5:13. What does this verse say the church is to do with someone who is unrepentant? _____

6. 2 Corinthians 5:10. What does this verse say about Christians after they die? _____

7. Psalm 66:18. What happens to those who regard sin in their heart? _____

“While instances of personal sin cannot break the believer’s *union* with Christ, they do have a negative impact on the believer’s *communion* with Christ.”

—“Sin and the Christian”, *Biblical Doctrines*, eds. John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, pg. 472.

Application

1. How does the doctrine of total depravity help you witness to unbelievers?
2. Why has God instated church discipline in His church?
3. What are specific sins you need to repent of?
4. How are you comforted by Romans 8:39?