

Doctrine of Sin

New Testament

1. The word sin has many shades of meaning. Sin is said to be a transgression of the law.
 - *1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. Sin includes "missing the mark."*

The mark for man to aim at is the perfect righteousness of God. When the moral law of God is violated then an individual has missed God's righteousness. He has sinned.
2. There are many ways for a person to miss the mark and each way is forgivable with one exception. The singular sin that will not be forgiven is the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost which is ascribing to Satan the work of God.
 - *Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.*
3. Because people receive God's gracious forgiveness of sin, the same grace is to be extended to others.
 - *Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?*
4. Only one person is uniquely qualified to take away the sin of the world and that person is Jesus Christ.
 - *John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*
5. Some diseases are penal in nature. They are the product of sinful behavior.
 - *John 5:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.*
6. The sinfulness of each person should elicit compassion in others caught with breaking the moral law of God. There is no room for self-righteousness in the heart.
 - *John 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*
 - *John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

7. There is an enslaving power in habitual acts of sinning. Sin becomes the master of the soul. The person that will not stop doing wrong will soon find that he cannot stop doing wrong in a given area.
 - *John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*
8. Only Jesus Christ is free of sin. His soul was impeccable.
 - *John 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?*
9. While some diseases and physical deformities are the result of sin, others are not but only serve to manifest the power and grace of the Lord.
 - *John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*
10. There is a spiritual blindness which Jesus spoke about that is rooted in sin which is also a spiritual dynamic in the final analysis.
 - *John 9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*
11. Part of the realization of sin is the establishment of the moral law in the conscious. Once the will of God is made manifest and understood then individuals are without excuse.
 - *John 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.*
12. The exposure of sin excites pride and elicits hatred.
 - *John 15:24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.*
13. A primary work of the Holy Spirit is to reprove the world of sin. This is done through the preaching of the gospel which explains in part why Christians are hated for the virtuous lives they represent.
 - *John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

14. One reason the Holy Spirit reproves the world is because it has rejected Jesus.
- *John 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;*
15. There are degrees of sin.
- *John 19:11 Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.*
16. Despite being sinned against the heart of the Christian can find the grace and compassion to forgive others even in extreme acts of violence and murder.
- *Acts 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*
17. There is no room for racial superiority among the members of the human race for all are under the dominion of sin.
- *Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;*
18. All hopes of meriting the righteousness of God will prove to have no foundation. The Moral Law of God serves to condemn the heart by the knowledge of what sin is and how each person stands condemned.
- *Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*
 - *Romans 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*
19. If God charges a person with sin then justice alone must be administered. A person can be blessed when God does not impute sin to his account but charges it to Christ in His redemptive act at Calvary.
- *Romans 4:8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*
20. The origin of sin is rooted in the attitude and actions of one man, Adam. His sin nature was then imputed or passed down to his descendants so that each person is born physically alive but spiritually dead. Each person is born a sinner in the sight of God for Adam acted as the Federal Representative of the human race. A person does not sin and thus become a sinner; a person sins because by nature he or she is a sinner.
- *Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

21. Though sin makes individuals worthy of eternal damnation, the grace of God can superabound and overrule sin.

- *Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

22. The plan of God has designed a reign of grace to supercede the reign of sin.

- *Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

23. While God graciously forgives the sins of the soul it is not His intention that His grace be perverted by presumptuousness.

- *Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*
- *Romans 6:15 What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*
- *Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*
- *Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

24. The Lord would have His people view themselves as being dead to the power of sin so as not to be involved in its pollution.

- *Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Sin pollutes the soul by robbing it of essential virtue and nobility of character. Sin pollutes the life by providing an existence that is a lie, such as allowing a person to pretend to be better or more righteous than they are.

25. The Lord does not want His people to serve sin.

- *Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*
- *Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

- *Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

The way not to serve sin is to know spiritual realities and incorporate them into the essence of the soul. The spiritual reality the believer is to know is that the Old Man, the old self was co-crucified with Christ at Calvary. In the divine economy this could be done by a judicial fiat whereby the Father gives intensive and extensive meaning to the death of Christ.

- *Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon [count it as true] ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

26. It is a divine spiritual truth and reality that a person who has died with, and in Christ by faith, is set free from the ruling power of sin.

- *Romans 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

27. The believer's death to sin is a once and for all death, for it is incorporated with the great work of Christ at Calvary.

- *Romans 6:10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

28. God has promised in His Word that sin shall not have dominion over those who are the heirs of salvation. Every Christian struggling with sin in the soul should take hope in this promise.

- *Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

29. The gospel message is that those who have been set free from sin are set free in order to become the servants of righteousness.

- *Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

30. Every person is going to be a servant to either self, the world, the devil or God. The difference between being a servant to self, the world, or the devil and God is the difference between unholiness and holiness and between eternal death and everlasting life. Both sin and God will pay a final wage. The soul will merit its final reward.

- *Romans 6:20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

- *Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

- *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

31. So that everyone will be left without an excuse God has revealed His Moral Law summarized in the Ten Commandments. Is the Law sin because it reveals the righteousness of God? No. The value of the Law is that it reveals what sin is, slays the heart of false hope, stops the mouth from expressions of self justification and self righteousness and drives a person to cry out for mercy while relying on the grace of God. Only then can it be said that salvation is of the Lord.

- *Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*
- *Romans 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.*
- *Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*
- *Romans 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*
- *Romans 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*
- *Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*
- *Romans 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*
- *Romans 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*
- *Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

32. With the flesh sin is served but with the heart the law of God can be honored and established through the spiritual freedom that comes to the heart through the law of the Spirit of Life.

- *Romans 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*
- *Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

33. The Moral Law of God is important, but it is weak. It shows the holiness of God, but does not give any ability to obtain it. Then came Christ who not only kept the Law, but went on to condemn the reign of sin. All who come to Christ shall live for time and eternity.
- *Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*
 - *Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*
34. As salvation is by faith, so is sanctification and all that is associated with the Christian life.
- *Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*
35. Sexual sins are serious sins.
- *1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*
36. Not all sin is personal and restricted to self. Sin is like an octopus. It has long tentacles to reach out and touch others. It is possible for a believer to sin against the brethren.
- *1 Corinthians 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.*
37. If sin can no longer reign in the life of a person, it can lull the soul into spiritual sleep, and thereby gain an advantage over the heart.
- *1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*
38. Sin is painful. It has a sting to it worse than the sting of a scorpion.
- *1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*
39. It is a great mystery but in the Divine economy in some way God made Christ to be sin for us.
- *2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
40. Christ is not the minister of sin, but of holiness and righteousness, truth and justice, love and mercy.

- *Galatians 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*
31. If all are under sin, then all who believe in Christ are eligible to receive the promise of eternal life. Two great questions arise: “*Are you in Christ? Will you receive the promise by faith?*”
- *Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.*
32. While there are many emotional expressions of sin, there are some emotions that parallel sin but are not the same. Anger offers one example. There is a bonified anger.
- *Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*
33. As there are sinners, and there is sin, so there is a special personage spoken of as the Man of Sin. As to his identify study the Doctrine of Anti-Christ.
- *2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*
34. Some sins are of such a grievous nature they are to be openly judged.
- *1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*
35. There is a deceitful facet to sin, which is why believers are to exhort each other to good works. Sin deceives the heart by suggesting it will never be exposed; even if it is, it does not matter.
- *Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*
36. The heart of Christ is compassionate in part because He understands human fragilities being tempted as we are, yet without sin.
- *Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*
 - *1 Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*
 - *1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*
37. The work of Christ was finished at Calvary. Our Catholic friends are wrong to teach that in the mass the Lord is crucified afresh.

- *Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

Note. The term is derived from the late-Latin word *missa* (dismissal), a word used in the concluding formula of Mass in Latin: "*Ite, missa est*" ("*Go; it is the dismissal*").

38. Because Christ has dealt with sin He is free to appear the second time for all who believe.

- *Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

39. The plan of God always anticipated the redemptive work of Christ at Calvary. All of the sacrifices of the Old Testament era never pleased or propitiated the Father.

- *Hebrews 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*
- *Hebrews 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;*

40. For all who desire to work their way to heaven through good deeds, there is no need. The blood of Christ is sufficient. There are no more sacrificial offerings for sin.

- *Hebrews 10:18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*

41. Presumptuous sinning is sinning which is willful and without regard to all that Christ has done at Calvary. It is serious and fatal.

- *Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

42. There is an element of pleasure in sin, if only for a short time.

- *Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

43. The exhortation comes to deal with the “darling sin” of the soul, that besetting sin which ensnares the life and causes sorrow of soul and loss of spiritual vitality.

- *Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

44. While the struggle against sin is sometimes profound, very few have resisted as Jesus did unto a bloody death.

- *Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*

45. There is a spiritual LSD consisting of Lust—Sin—Death.

- *James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

46. There are an infinite number of ways to sin. Here are some to be noted.

- Showing favoritism in the body of Christ. *James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.*
- Knowing to do good and not doing it. *James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*
- Having lustful eyes. *2 Peter 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:*
- Pretending to be more righteous than a person is. *1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

47. Sometimes physical suffering causes sin to cease. Pain and suffering have a sobering and purifying effect on the soul.

- *1 Peter 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;*

48. Cleansing for sin continues after the moment of salvation.

- *1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
- *1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

49. A person who habitually sins and will not repent or cease to do evil is associated with the devil.

- *1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

50. Christian perfectionism is something to be strived for. Some believe it can be obtained in this life based on this passage.

- *1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

51. For those who have obtained any form of spiritual perfectionism, pray for us who are not yet perfected for there is a sin unto death and there is a sin not unto death.

- *1 John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.*
- *1 John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.*