

Doctrine of Sin

What Sin Does to the Soul

1. Most people have an area of strength in their lives, and an area of weakness.
 - The area of strength becomes the moral compass in a person's life which guides behavior. *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
 - The area of weakness becomes the Achilles Heel of life and can be the basis of ultimate condemnation. *Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*
2. If not guarded, the area of strength can become the source of legalism and will produce self-righteousness whereby others are vigorously condemned, while the sins of self are not considered. This was the practice of the Pharisees whom Jesus confronted.
3. The concern of many Christians is how to control or eliminate the area of weakness in life. There are many practical reasons for wanting to be a better person and to stop sinning.
 - Sin can cause secret shame and sorrow.
 - Sin can rob the heart of joy.
 - Sin can defile the conscience.
 - Sin can lead to the hardening of the heart.
 - Sin can grieve the Holy Spirit.
 - Sin can quench the Holy Spirit.
 - Sin can cause a sense of failure.
 - Sin can cause sleepless nights.
 - Sin can lead to self-loathing.
 - Sin can lead to a sense of helplessness and despair.
 - Sin can lead to a person not wanting to be fundamentally or forever different.
 - Sin can lead to suicide.
 - Sin can rob the soul of peace and comfort.
4. There is strength in sin. The strength of sin is the Law. The Law places the burden upon the heart of a moral "oughtness." That moral "oughtness" is what the heart rebels and rails against.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

5. Why does the Lord allow sin to be manifested in the heart after salvation?
 - Sin remains in the soul to remind the Christian of the need for a Saviour, not only from the penalty of sin, but from the pollution of the same. *1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*
 - Sin remains in the soul so that the Christian may learn to rejoice, when victory comes, in the Lord, and to give glory to God. *1 Corinthians 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*
 - Sin remains in the soul in order to remove pride. *1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*
 - Sin remains in the soul in order to keep the heart dependent upon the Holy Spirit. *Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
6. It does not good to pretend there is no sin in the soul.
 - *1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
7. Lest the heart of the Christian despair, there is forgiveness for sin.
 - *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
8. The struggle to deal with indwelling sin has always occupied the minds of God's people for the heart longs to return to the original Garden of Eden when there was peace and harmony with the Lord on a daily basis.
9. Those who do not struggle with indwelling sin shall be confirmed in evil.
 - *Revelation 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*