

The Biblical Concept of Sin

Introduction

A. In the Fall the divine warning ". . . thou shalt surely die" became a frightening experience and reality. Man became an alienated creature of death. (Gen. 2:17)

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

B. Sin and death brought an entirely new dimension into the human race. Man is now separated from God – an enemy of God, a stranger, a rebel and without hope. (Ephesians 2:12; Colossians 1:21)

I. The Biblical Definition of Sin.

A. Negatively, sin is a shortcoming, James 4:17.

Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

B. Positively, sin is a transgression, I John 3:4.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law.

Observation: Every member of the race has failed to do what is right and is therefore unrighteous (Rom. 3:10) and every person has done that which is wrong and is therefore guilty (Rom. 3:23). This personal and practical evidence of sinfulness is a reminder that man is fallen and possesses a sinful nature (Romans 5:12).

II. A Biblical Sample of What is Meant by Sin.

A. Adultery / Fornication is Described as Sin, Genesis 39:9.

When Joseph was in Egypt the wife of his master Potiphar attempted to seduce him. His reply is not only exemplary but states the Biblical description of all forms of sexual activity performed outside of marriage. (Matt. 5:28; I John 2:16)

... How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?

B. Idolatry in all forms is Described as Sin, Exodus 32:31.

When Moses was on Mount Sinai the Jewish people made a golden calf to symbolize their worship of Jehovah. Whatever may be said about their motive their action is condemned by God. When we give any object, person, goal, relationship, etc., first place in our priority – we give it the place of deity – and this is idolatry. (Galatians 5:20; Colossians 3:5)

And Moses returned unto the Lord and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin and have made them gods of gold.

C. Rebellion Against God is Described as Sin, I Samuel 15:23.

King Saul had been given explicit orders by God. He chose not to obey them. The seriousness of disobedience is deeply seen in the words used to describe such an act and the various sins with which it is compared.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the Word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king.

D. Unbelief and Doubt are Described as Sin, Romans 14:23.

Perhaps the greatest area of sinfulness would have to do with the sins of omission. The first commandment is to love God (Matt. 22:37-39) and to fail to do so is to violate the first and most important command. Faith and trust are closely related to love. God is worthy of love, trust and obedience.

And he that doubteth is damned (under judgment) if he eat, because he eateth not of faith, for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

E. All Desires and Actions to Put Ourselves First are Described as sin, James 1:14-16.

When one gives way to temptation and puts the suggestion into action it is an endeavor to satisfy ourselves first. This exclusion of God and other people from our actions or thoughts is a serious sin.

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then, when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death. Do not err, ye beloved brethren.

III. The Biblical Provision Regarding Sin.

A. The Bible Presents us with a Warning, I John 1:8,10.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say that we have not sinned we make Him a liar and His Word is not in us.

B. The Bible Commands us to Repent, Luke 13:3.

I tell you, Nay, but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

C. The Bible Presents us with the Lord Jesus Christ, our Sin Bearer, II Cor. 5:21.

For He (God) hath made Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) to be sin for us, Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Who (the Lord Jesus Christ) His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree (Crucifixion) that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by Whose stripes ye were healed. I Peter 2:24.

D. The Bible Exhorts us to Believe on Jesus Christ and Confess our sins, Acts 16:31; I John 1:9; (Romans 10:9,10)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Conclusion: The Promise: . . . Having forgiven you all trespasses, Col. 2:13.

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