

THE DOCTRINE OF SIN

I. INTRODUCTION: THE FACT OF SIN

- The world: *our greatest problems are structural*
- Christianity: *our greatest problem is moral*

II. SIN IN THE BIBLICAL STORY

- Genesis 3: crucial for understanding whole Bible
- The meaning of the word sin:
 - Missing the mark
 - Wickedness, perversion, iniquity
 - Transgression, rebellion, crime
- Isaiah 59:2: *“Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”*
- The solution to sin: Jesus Christ (John 1:29, Matt 1:21)

III. THE FALL: THE ESSENCE OF SIN (GENESIS 3)

Adam & Eve’s sin...

- 1) Sought to redefine the basis for **knowledge**: it gave a different answer to the question, “What is true?”
- 2) Sought to redefine the basis for **moral standards**: it gave a different answer to the question, “What is right?”
- 3) Sought to redefine the basis for **identity**: it gave a different answer to the question, “Who am I?”

IV. DEFINING SIN

WHAT IS SIN?

- Answer: Sin is transgression of the revealed will of God which teaches that we are to act in perfect holiness from a heart of faith to the glory of God. Scripture: 1 John 3:4; Romans 5:13; 14:23; 1 Peter 1:16; Matthew 5:48; 1 Corinthians 10:31.
- Simplified: Sin is any attitude or desire or action that explicitly breaks a commandment of Scripture, or comes from a heart of unbelief or is not done for the glory of God.

- A. Sin Effects all of Life
- B. Sin is Irrational
- C. Degrees of Sin?

V. A THEOLOGY OF SIN: SEVEN STATEMENTS

1. Inherited Guilt: We are counted guilty because of Adam's sin.
(Romans 5:12-21)
2. Inherited Corruption: We have a sinful nature because of Adam's sin.
(Psalm 51:5, 58:3)
3. Total Depravity: In our natural state we lack all spiritual good before God. (Gen. 6:5-6, Ps. 14:2-3; Isa. 64:6; Eph. 2:1-3)
4. Total Inability: In our actions we are totally unable to do spiritual good before God. (Jer. 13:23, Rom. 8:7-8, 1 Cor. 2:14, 2 Cor. 4:4)
5. All are sinful before God. (Ps. 143:2; 1 Kings 8:46; Rom. 3:23)
6. A single sin makes us legally guilty before God. (Rom. 5:15, Jas. 2:10-11)
7. We deserve God's eternal wrath because of our sin. (Eph 2:3, John 3:36)

VII. TAKEAWAYS

- * Sin is a personal offense against God- you are committing sin against God and against man- it's not outside of you
 - * Man was created for Righteousness not sin
 - * Remember in your evangelism you don't have the ability to win the skeptic
 - * Know that your foe in life is sin: fueled by Satan
 - * Your view of sin effects your view of life, salvation, ministry and God
 - * Take care that you don't psychologize what is moral and theological
 - * Your best Friend throughout your life should be repentance, your greatest enemy is pride
 - * Kill sin and know that it is not natural
- Dare to ask the question: What sin should I be targeting?

Questions
