

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW MEMBER LESSON #3 – SIN

Name

Date



INTRODUCTION

Man often defends his wrong doings and sinful acts by saying, “I am only hurting myself.” It may be true that addictions to drugs and alcohol hurt you physically, but it also hurts your family financially, emotionally and spiritually. We even think that stealing handfuls of grapes from the super market or pens and supplies from our work place does not hurt anyone because the store or company won’t miss the items. However, we fail to realize that loss is passed on to retail customers by raising prices to cover the losses and in the work place by reducing bonuses and raises. Sin affects us all and hurts us all.

LESSON

This lesson will discuss the definition, origin and consequences of sin, but most importantly it will discuss how to be free from the penalty of sin.

What is Sin?

Sin is any thought or action that falls short of God’s will. Sin is described in the Bible as transgression of the law of God. **1 John 3:4 KJV states**, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” (**Transgression** is an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct; an offense)

God is perfect, and anything we do that falls short of His perfect standard is sin. For example, if we were firing a weapon for target practice, we pulled the trigger and the bullet veered to the right or left instead of hitting the bull’s eye we missed the mark. We may have missed our target by a fraction of an inch or we may have missed the target completely. The results are the same, we missed the mark. Whether intentional or unintentional, the results are still the same.

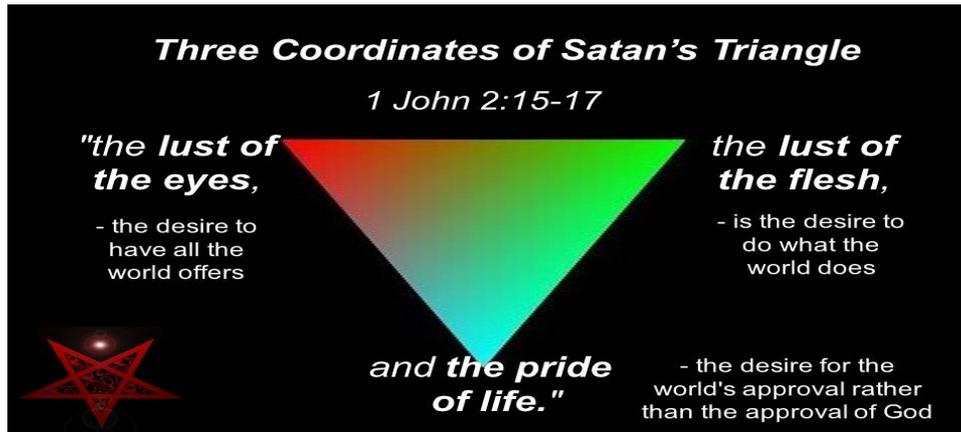
When and Where Did Sin Begin in the Human Family?

Sin began in the human family with the commandment in Genesis 2:16-17 being disobeyed.

Genesis 2:**16** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

Genesis 2: **17** *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

You may ask how is it possible that someone could disobey God living in his physical presence daily. In Genesis 3:1-13 we see three elements or facets of sin that crept into the heart of Eve and into our hearts today. (1) lust of the flesh, (2) the lust of the eye and the (3) the pride of life. (1John 2:16).



“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.” (Gen 3:6) When we listen to the smooth, convincing words of the enemy we are often lead from the path of righteousness onto a path of death and destruction of unrighteousness.

Sin has a way of creeping up on us. Wrong is very alluring and often will appeal to our humanity. It looks good, it feels good, it relaxes me, I just couldn't help myself! Don't give in to the appeal of Sin. The consequences are often unbearable. A wise man once said “Sin will take you further than you want to go and keep you longer than you want to stay”.

What are the Consequences of Sin?

In Genesis 3:14-19, 24 the consequences for sin issued to the Serpent, Adam and Eve were life changing:

The Serpent: Serpent cursed above all beast, crawls on his belly, eats dust, there is enmity between him and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The Woman: Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

The Man: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

The results of committing sin, (missing the mark), in Genesis were severe, however the punishment and consequences for committing sin, (missing the mark), today is just as severe. Keep in mind that we all have sin (Roman 3:23), however, unless we confess the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior we will be commanded to depart from me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you, because you never knew me.

(Luke 13:27, 28 Math7:23, 25:41)

Freedom from the Penalty of Sin

A penalty is punishment imposed upon someone for breaking a law, rule or contract. Prisons are full of people who have broken laws against humanity. Everyone in prison is not guilty; perhaps they just did not have the money to prove otherwise.

Death is the penalty for missing the mark or for disobeying the plan of God. Romans 6:23 says “the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”. Death can be physical, emotional, financial, or spiritual. This may be instant or a slow downward spiral into defeat.

The good news is that Jesus death on the cross paid the penalty for all sin once and for all. His death freed us yesterday, today and tomorrow. The debt has been paid. Once we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and began to live by God’s word, we are FREE. So if the Son (Jesus) sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36)! Free to live according to the word of God. Free to participate fully with God’s plan. Free to move forward in accomplishing great things intended from the beginning.

REVIEW

1. What is Sin?
2. What causes us to sin?
3. What are the consequences of sin?
4. How can these consequences be avoided?
5. What is sin’s debt?
6. Who paid the debt?
7. Was the debt paid in full?
8. What is your responsibility to this great gift?