



**Walking in Holiness**  
**Lesson 2: What is Sin?**

**1. What is sin?**

Many Bible dictionaries define sin as to “miss the mark”.

However, if you study, you will find that definition came later. The word’s meaning changed over time.

When we say sin means “to miss the mark”, we can develop that attitude of – “Well I missed it. I’m not perfect. Everyone falls short.”

It can become an excuse.

But a better definition of sin is \_\_\_\_\_

Sin is a violation of light.

**1 John 1:5**

There is no darkness with God. Only light.

**1 John 1:6**

What is this talking about? – Sin.

If we, as Christians, say that we are in fellowship with God, but we are living in sin. We are not telling the truth.

**1 John 1:7**

It is possible to walk in the light – \_\_\_\_\_

The blood cleanses us. This happens for us when we sin.

The blood of Jesus has ongoing cleansing power.

What is it called when you are not walking in the light? – \_\_\_\_\_

Sin is that which displeases God. It is a violation of the light that you have.

You see it. You know it. But you do not do it.

The “light” is what you know and understand personally.

The light is not a universal term for everyone. It is for you personally. The light is what you know to be true.

### **James 4:17**

Why is this sin to him and not necessarily to everyone? Answer: He knew to do it and he didn't do it. So, to him it is sin.

### **1 John 1:7, 8**

If you walk in the light. You are having fellowship with God and the blood is cleansing us when we do sin.

## **2. Repentance**

What if we do not walk in the light? What if we choose to walk in darkness? What if we know what to do, but do not do it? What if we violate light?

### **1 John 1:9**

What's the first step if we violate light? – \_\_\_\_\_

This is repentance.

The main thing about repentance to remember is to be honest.

If you are not honest with God (and with yourself) you will never get rid of the condemnation. If you are not honest, you are not truly repenting.

If you do not truly repent, there is no forgiveness.

Definition of CONFESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Repentance means that you acknowledge your sin.

You are not lying about it. You are not covering up. You are calling your sin – sin.

When you do that, you give God something to work with.

If you do not do that, even God cannot help you.

### **1 John 1:9**

The first word in this verse is “if” which means this verse is conditional.

If we do something – confess our sins. That means we acknowledge our sin. We admit to it.

What happens when we do that?

### **1 John 1:9**

Other definitions of SIN:

- To break
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - To fail to show the proper respect for
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When God shows you something, He brings light. When you decide to break it, disregard it, or fail to show proper respect – it is sin.

What if you keep doing it over and over? – It gets darker and darker for you.

The more you reject the light – the things you know you should be doing – the darker life gets.

### **3. Sin can also be defined as breaking God’s law.**

#### **1 John 3:4 – Contemporary English Version**

*Everyone who sins breaks God's law, because sin is the same as breaking God's law.*

When you lie, you are breaking God’s law – that is sin.

If you steal, you sinned. You broke the law.

The law in the Old Testament was a revelation of right and wrong.

In the New Covenant we are called to walk in love, live by faith, and be led by the Spirit.

If we are walking in love, living by faith, and being led by the Spirit – \_\_\_\_\_

You cannot lie in faith. You cannot steal in love. You cannot commit adultery if you are being led by the Spirit.

**Hebrews 3:12, 13**

What does it mean to “be hardened”?

These are people who do not care. Their conscience does not seem to bother them.

How do people become like that? – \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Sin is deceitful.**

This is an important point to remember – Deceit and sin are not too far apart.

That is how the devil gets believers to sin. He deceives them.

What can protect us from this? – \_\_\_\_\_

**John 8:32**

People who never go to church and never read their Bibles are open for the devil to deceive them.

But the more truth you know, the more difficult it is for the devil to get you into sin. He cannot deceive you. (Jesus in the wilderness)

The devil never comes in the front door. He is deceitful.

**5. Temptation****Hebrews 4:14, 15**

Jesus was tempted in all areas – just like us. Every area.

People do not like to hear this. The reason people don’t like to think about this is because they have equated temptation with sin. They think temptation is sinning.

Temptation is not sin. Following through or yielding to that temptation is sin.

But the devil will try to make you feel horrible because you had wrong thoughts or wrong feelings.

Your spirit has been renewed. \_\_\_\_\_

Your body will want to do lots of the same things after you get saved as it wanted to do before you got saved.

Even the most holy saint of God will have thoughts go through their mind that are not right.

However, does that mean you sinned because you were tempted? – No.

The devil puts the thought in your head and then makes you feel guilty that you had the thought.

You should not feel guilty because you were tempted.

Where did Jesus go through His strongest temptation? – In the Garden of Gethsemane.

### **Hebrews 12:2-4**

Who is verse four talking about? – Jesus

He was tempted.

Tempted to do what? – What did He pray in the Garden?

### **Luke 22:41, 42**

He was tempted not to go through with the cross.

He never sinned. He resisted to the point that blood came out of His pores.

He set the example for you. You can resist too.

### **Ephesians 4:26**

Anger is not sin. It is what you do when you are angry that could be sin.

There are some things that should make you angry.

### **Hebrews 3:13**

Sin is deceitful. We could say that deception is involved in sin.

Definition of DECEPTION: \_\_\_\_\_

### **1 Timothy 2:13, 14**

We can see in these verses that deception and sin work together.

## **6. How to overcome – Stay away from temptation.**

How could Adam and Eve have avoided sin? – They could have chosen to not go anywhere near the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

This is a key to living free from sin. Do not go anywhere near the things that bring you temptation.

### **Proverbs 7:1-8**

The advice to the young man is to not go anywhere near her house!

If there is something that is a weakness in your life – \_\_\_\_\_

“I am tempted to get drink and get drunk.” – Then stay away from anything that reminds you of it.

If you have friends who you know will be drinking when they get together, you must stay away. You cannot trust your flesh.

If you are trying to stay free you must take it seriously.

You must decide to do 2 Corinthians 7:1.

### **2 Corinthians 7:1**

#### **2 Corinthians 7:1 – New Living Translation**

*Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.*

You are cleansing yourself. \_\_\_\_\_

You are getting free from everything that defiles your body and spirit.

If you are struggling with sexual sin, decide not to be alone together. Do not sit on the bed together to watch a movie.

Decide to stay away. Do not put yourself in a position to be tempted.

Remember that sin is deceitful.

- “I haven’t had a drink in six months. I can handle one now.”
- “If we just lay down on the bed together to watch a movie, nothing will happen.”
- “I can cheat just a little bit on my taxes. God is okay with that. After all I tithe.”
- “I’ll just smoke a little weed to calm my nerves. It won’t become a problem.”

We first defined sin as a violation of the light.

When you sinned in ignorance, before you got saved, God was merciful to you. But you should not mistake God's mercy as a license to violate light.

In some cases, people will say that God spared their life when they were a sinner. Why? – God knew how ignorant you were. People were praying for you. God is merciful.

Now that you are a Christian, you have light. God expects you to walk in it.

If you violate it, there is not the same kind of protection you had when you walked in ignorance.

You must decide to stay away from the people and things that caused you problems in the past. You must make a choice to live separately.

### **2 Corinthians 6:16, 17 – New Living Translation**

**2 Corinthians 6:16** *And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be My people."*

**2 Corinthians 6:17** *Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.*

We are supposed to separate ourselves from things that would defile us. There are places we have no business going. There are things we have no business doing.

We are “married” to the Lord. We are the bride of Christ. We must not be unfaithful to Him.

When we yield to sin and wrong spirits, the Bible calls this spiritual adultery.

### **2 Corinthians 6:18 – 17:1 – New Living Translation**

**2 Corinthians 6:18** *And I will be your Father, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.*

**2 Corinthians 7:1** *Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.*

Here the Bible tells us that we are to cleanse ourselves.

We cannot cleanse ourselves from sin. Only the blood of Jesus can do that. When you gave your life to Jesus, His blood cleansed you from all sin!

His righteousness was given to you.

However, after salvation, there are certain things that can be done only by us!

Many people pray – “Lord, help me not to do that.” But then they go and do it over and over anyway. What they really mean is – “Lord, make me quit.”

God cannot make you quit. God will help you, but you must give Him something to work with.

What can you do to live separate from sin? – \_\_\_\_\_

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Do not go near it. If you must drive five blocks out of the way to avoid it – do it!

- “I can’t stop watching bad things on TV.” Give your TV away.
- “I am addicted to the internet.” Get rid of your internet service.

Most of the time people will not do these things because they are not serious about getting things right.

If you give God something to work with, you can be free.

Holiness has to do with separation. It is living separate from sin.

In reality, Jesus is holiness.

**Hebrews 7:26 – Amplified Bible**

[Here is] the High Priest [perfectly adapted] to our needs, as was fitting--holy, blameless, unstained by sin, separated from sinners, and exalted higher than the heavens.

This describes Jesus! Jesus is holy. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus was separate from sin. We must be the same as Jesus.

We must purpose in our hearts to live separate from the things that displease God.