

It's Easy To Sin

Text : **Genesis 3: 1-7**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Sin is one of the easiest things in the world to do.

1. Everybody does it.
 - a. A genius will sin, but even stupid people do it.
 - b. The young and naïve do it, but the older more sophisticated people also do it.
 - c. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, but was overtaken by sin.
2. No one has to be taught how to commit sin.
 - a. It is within our very nature to want to do what we want to do.
 (*Young man said, "I spent 6 years in the military and everyone told me what to do, but now no one is going to tell me what to do."*)
 - b. None of us like to be told to do things we don't want to do, that's our nature.
 - c. None of us like to be corrected or told to stop doing what we are enjoying.

B. Satan uses our independent nature to manipulate us into sinning.

1. He has used the same format from the very beginning and it is still successful.
2. Remember our text. (**Genesis 3**)
 - a. It's not really bad for you, God is just trying to keep you subjugated.
 - b. Just look at how nice it looks; it's very desirable.
 - c. It's really great food and eating it will make you a better person.

3. Compare that to :

I John 2: 15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17** The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (Trade permanent for temporary)

4. Here the Lord's Apostle warns us not to let Satan create desires within us :

- a. To do what we want even when God has told us not to do so.
- b. For the things that tantalize our eyes.
- c. To build up our earthly egos at the cost of our eternal life in God Heavenly garden.

* *This is the exact same procedure Satan used to tempt Adam & Eve. (Uses on you.)*

C. In previous lessons we have seen that :

1. Sin is a problem of the heart, not just doing bad things.
2. Sin separates people from God. (*God will not allow Himself to be defiled.*)
3. No matter how many sins a person commits, God is willing to forgive him.
4. Living eternally cast off away from God is worse than man can conceive.

With this lesson it is our goal to clarify exactly what constitutes sin.

People tend to excuse their own sins as mere “shortcomings” unless they do something really bad, but to view the shortcomings of others as sin.

All cultures define some things as sin while excusing other things which God defines as sin.

ILL - *In New Guinea some natives hold deceit up as the highest of virtues.
The native Americans respected a man who could steal horses.*

Only God has the authority to set the standard whereby we will be judged, so let us look at His word to clarify His standard.

I. The most often repeated definition of sin is simply any violation of God's will.

- A. **I John 3:4** - Everyone who practices sin, also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

5: 17 - all unrighteousness is sin.

1. It is true that no one can violate the law of God and be guiltless.
2. What is the law of God ?

B. The law of God includes everything God has ever revealed about his will.

1. Some simplistically reduce God's law to the 10 commandments. (**Exod. 20**)
2. The Ten Commandments do reveal God's will, but they aren't all of it.
 - a. **Rom. 7: 7** - What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.” (*Law does not create God's will, it codifies it.*)
 - b. What Jesus called “the most important” commands are not found in **Exodus 20** ?
Matt. 22: 36-39 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

C. The will of God includes all that Jesus taught.

John 12: 48- He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

D. Ignorance of God's will is no excuse. (*My conscience is clear, I didn't know ..*)

1. God has published His will from the beginning of creation until now.
2. In areas where God's word is not now known, children are bearing the consequences of their forefather's sins, e.g., Muslim lands, Africa, China, etc.
3. Ignorance of the law is never a valid excuse, even among men. (*We must learn it.*)

II. Desiring to break God's law is a sin.**A. Every sin starts in one's heart.**

1. Satan knows, the first step in any sale is to create desire or "need" for the product.
2. **James 1:13-14** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. **14** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.
3. Satan convinced Eve that the forbidden fruit was so good she strongly desired it.

B. When one desires a sinful thing or act ... he has committed sin in his heart.

1. **I John 3: 15** - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and we know that know murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
2. **Matt. 5: 27-28** You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; **28** but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

C. God judges hearts, not just actions.

1. **I Sam. 16:7b-** ... God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
2. **I Cor. 4:5-** Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.
3. **God's desire is that man's heart be devoted to Him ... not just afraid of Him.**

III. Neglecting to do what one knows to be right is sin.**A. A heart devoted to God will seek out His will and do it out of love, not fear, etc.**

1. It's easy to do what's right when one is under direct supervision, but the devoted servant serves even when the Master is not around.
2. This is the meaning of the story of the unjust steward ... **Matt. 24: 45f**

B. God will never be satisfied with mere worship or the performing of rituals.

1. God wants His people to first give their hearts to Him. (*The Jews did the acts, but*)
Matt. 15: 8- This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.
2. When one's heart is devoted to God that person will seek out God's will and do it.
Matt. 7: 21-23 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. **22** Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' **23** And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'
(Remember : *Lawlessness is sin.* **I John 3: 4**)

C. Therefore, Christians are warned not to neglect to actively DO God's work.

1. Christians exist on earth to do the work of God. (*Seek out ways to please Him.*)
Eph. 2: 10- For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
2. When one does not actively do what he knows God would do, he sins.
James 4: 17- Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. (*A devoted heart doesn't neglect.*)

IV. Violating the law of the land is sin against God.

A. This is plainly stated, not a matter of interpretation, not an opinion :

1. **Romans 13: 1-2** Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.
2. **I Pet. 2: 13-14** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, **14** or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
3. These were written at a time when the government was unjust and oppressive.

B. The only exception given is when the government directly conflicts God's word.

1. **Acts 5: 29-** But Peter and the apostles answered,
"We must obey God rather than men."

2. They were being told to stop evangelizing.
This was directly opposite to God's command to all Christians. (*Matt. 28, Mk 16*)
3. There will be some commands that we cannot obey in our time, but few.
 - a. Outlaw worship or Must accept ungodly practices (*homo or female leaders*)
 - b. Must abort children with defects, Must perform or even accept homo marriages

V. Violating one's own personal law is sin.

- A. Every person creates within himself a set of laws for his personal conduct.
 1. Some things all men instinctively know is wrong. *Murder, rape, etc.*
 2. Our society, our teachers, and our parents teach us certain values.
- B. This personal moral code is referred to as one's conscience.
 1. **Like a computer**, one's conscience is only as good as its programming.
 2. Sometimes the programming is faulty in both directions.
 - a. When one's conscience permits something that's wrong, it DOESN'T become right.
 - b. However, if it forbids something that's not sinful, it becomes sinful for him.
- C. Dealing with a controversy about food, the Lord's Apostle wrote :
 1. **Rom. 14: 14-** I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.
 2. **Rom. 14: 23-** But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
- D. **Clear principle :** If one believes something to be sin it becomes sin for him.
 1. However, no person has the right to bind his conscience on anyone else.
One verse establishes a doctrine, but "No verse means no doctrine."
 2. On can never say, "I'm so relieved; I did that for years thinking it was sin, but now I realize I wasn't sinning at all." (*He was sinning.*)
 3. God looks at our hearts.
 - a. The heart that does anything it believes to be wrong is rebelling against God.
 - b. God seeks hearts that are broken and contrite over their sins. **Psa. 51: 17**

VI. Basically, sin is anything that falls short of the glory of God.

Rom. 3: 23- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

A. The definition of “*Hamartano*”, the word translated “sin.”

1. To fall short of the mark.
2. Term used in archery.
3. Thus, to fail to live up to the expectations, the will, the laws of God is sin.

B. The definition of “*hustereo*”, the word translated “fall short” in vs. 23.

1. To fail to reach the goal, come up short in a race, i.e., not to finish.
2. This verse is a Hebrew parallelism. (*restates the same thing in different words*)

C. The standard to which the Christian must measure up is the holiness of God.

1. **I Pet. 1:15** - Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior
16 - because it is written, (**Gen. 17: 1**) “You shall be Holy for I am holy.”
2. Jesus quotes the same scripture :
Matt. 5: 48- You are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is Perfect.
3. Thus, the standard of God is that no one should ever sin.

CONCLUSION :**A. Fundamentally, it has proven impossible for any person to live without sinning.**

1. It is so very easy for us to sin we cannot avoid it. (*only Jesus*)
 - a. All of us violate the laws of God every day.
 - b. We desire to break more laws than we actually do.
 - c. No one does all the things he knows he should do.
 - d. Few of us have even learned the common laws of our land and all transgress.
 - e. None of us can even keep our own personal law.
 - f. Thus, we all fall short of the glory of God.
2. Our sin separates us from God and we have no way to reconcile ourselves to Him.

B. All it take is one sin to severe one’s relationship with God ... to die ... be cast out.

1. No one except Jesus has ever lived up to that standard.
2. Since we are expected to be perfect, there’s nothing left over to compensate for sin.

C. Thus, everyone needs Jesus; He is the only way one can be reconciled to God.

1. **Matt. 19:26**- ...“**With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**”
2. God is not only able, He is willing and eager to save you. (*Theme of the bible*)

INVITATION : Obey the gospel and receive God’s grace

Lesson Text :**Genesis 3: 1-7**

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' " **4** The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! **5** "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** 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. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.