

SERIES: THE OTHER SIX DAYS
SERMON: THE DANGERS OF SIN
5-29-22

OPENER:

Galatians 6:7-9 (NLT) Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. ⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

ILLUSTRATION:

My garden. I am getting what I planted. I've been praying over it.

THE SCRIPTURES TELL US OVER AND OVER THAT SIN LEADS TO DEATH AND DESTRUCTION BECAUSE THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES THAT COME WHEN WE GO AGAINST HOW GOD DESIGNED US TO LIVE.

James 1:13-15 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

SIN IS DANGEROUS.

IF WE PLANT SEEDS OF SIN IN OUR LIVES WE WILL REAP A HARVEST OF DEATH AND DECAY.

We will reap consequences in all areas of our life:

Physically – Sin causes an internal conflict with God, leading to health issues and takes a physical toll on our bodies. Depending on the sin you battle with, it can affect your blood pressure, sleep patterns, destroy your body, bring disease.

Emotionally – We sin because we are hoping it will fulfill us emotionally. Unfortunately, that is not the case. We experience guilt, shame, depression. Sin lowers our self confidence and can bring suicidal thoughts.

Spiritually – The most common consequence we understand is spiritual death. We understand that sin separates our relationship with God, which affects us spiritually.

ILLUSTRATION:

Sin is like a grenade. It's dangerous! Once you pull the pin your whole life can explode. But in this sin battle Christ has taken our sin and sacrificed his life to save us.

I. WHAT IS SIN?

We all have our lists. If I ask you what sin is your list comes up in your mind. All are different. But let's look at some of the lists in the Bible.

From the Ten Commandments we have:

false worship,
idolatry,
misusing God's name,
violating the Sabbath,
dishonoring parents,
murder,
adultery,
stealing,
lying
and coveting.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus took some of these same sins to a new level.

**SIN CAN BE MORE THAN THE DEED OR THE ACT.
SIN CAN INVOLVE THE THOUGHT PROCESS.**

>Regarding murder, Jesus said....

Matthew 5:22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

>Regarding adultery, Jesus said.....

Matthew 5:27 "You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.'²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

The list in Galatians

Galatians 5:19-21 (CSV) Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Just these brief lists give us plenty of things to work on for a lifetime.

Not only does the Bible tell us the things not to do, but in

James 4:17, we are informed “It is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

SIN IS.....

- To answer “No “to God
- To delay to obey a request from God
- Any disobedience to the Word of God
- Any dishonor of God by complaining, misusing His name, or to dishonor God’s authority
- Any selfishness or evil motive stored in your heart
- To have a possession, or another person that you put before God, to seek after or worship any foreign God,
- to practice witchcraft or spells or demonic incantations
- To harm, wish evil, make a judgment, to be angry with, to hold unforgiveness, to hate, have resentment against, to gossip or to be jealous of another person is sin.
- To lust after another man or woman other than your husband or wife
- To have fits of anger, to be jealous, to abuse any substance
- To cause division and disunity in the body of Christ or in families

What can we say to all of this?

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷ But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

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

GOD FORGIVES SIN, BUT SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES.

ADAM ATE THE FRUIT AND LOST PARADISE.

ISRAEL COMPLAINED AGAINST GOD AND LOST THE PROMISED LAND.

MOSES DISOBEYED AND WASN’T ABLE TO WALK INTO GOD’S BLESSING.

YOU CAN’T SIN WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.

THAT’S NOT THE WAY GOD HAS STRUCTURED HIS WORLD.

ILLUSTRATION:

A SIN card with an invisible string to payment

You see the sin and you are tempted by thinking. It’s no big deal. I’ll get things right tomorrow. I’ll only do it once. You can’t see the consequence that is attached to the sin.

With every sin you do there will come a time that you have to pay for it with something that you have; something that is valuable to you.

- > Your peace
- > Your marriage
- > Your kids
- > Your job
- > Your ministry
- > Your walk with God

**SIN IS NOT FREE.
SIN WILL ALWAYS TAKE SOMETHING FROM YOU.**

**BEFORE YOU CHOOSE TO PICK UP THAT SIN YOU NEED TO CONSIDER WHAT
MIGHT BE AT THE END OF IT.
WHAT WILL YOU HAVE TO GIVE TO DO IT?**

FIVE DANGERS OF SIN:

1. SIN TRAPS YOU

Galatians 6:1 (NLT) Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

**TO THINK THAT YOU CAN CONTROL SIN IS TO BE DECEIVED.
SIN WILL TRAP YOU AND MAKE YOU ITS SLAVE.
SIN IS A TRAP!**

ILLUSTRATION:

Fly paper. Once you touch it, it is very hard to get rid of it. Almost impossible by yourself. Even if someone helps you they have to be extremely careful and wise so they don't get stuck too!

SIN STICKS!

**YOU'VE HEARD IS SAID THAT SIN TAKES YOU FARTHER THAN YOU WANT TO
GO. AND KEEPS YOU LONGER THAN
YOU WANT TO STAY.**

2. SIN DECEIVES YOU

***Hebrews 3:12-13 Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.
13 You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.***

There is a deception that comes with practicing sin.

To be deceived: to cause you to believe something that is not true, to be tricked, or blinded

- > Sin tricks you into thinking you are okay, but you are far from being okay.
- > Sin blinds you to the truth and understanding of God's Word.
- > Sin causes you to blame everyone else for their wrongdoing, but blinds you so that you cannot see your own wrong.

3. SIN HARDENS YOUR HEART

Hebrews 3:12-13 You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

Hardened: to become insensitive, crusty, cold, to become numb, to be resistant, unbending, to put a wall up.....against God.

ILLUSTRATION:

Like talking a heavy tool in your hand. The longer you hold sin in your heart and use it and practice it, it put callouses on your heart.

THE ULTIMATE AIM OF EVERY SIN, NO MATTER HOW SMALL IT SEEMS IS TO
HARDEN YOU AGAINST THE LOVE
AND MERCY OF GOD.

YOUR SIN IS ALWAYS SEVERAL STEPS AHEAD OF YOU - WORKING TOWARD
SEARING YOUR CONSCIENCE, BLINDING YOUR MIND, DROWNING YOUR
PASSION AND
DECEIVING YOUR SOUL.

THE PROCESS OF SIN'S HARDENING EFFECT:

- > In the beginning of sin you become complacent and lazy in your walk with God.
- > As time goes by you don't have a desire to pray, read your Bible, hear the Word of God.
- > Eventually you have no joy in serving God or serving others.
- > And eventually you will stop having that quiet hour before God.
- > And you can get to a place where you no longer feel convicted.

4. SIN SPREADS LIKE A VIRUS

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough?

AS BELIEVERS WE ARE INTERCONNECTED.

**THE SIN OF ONE WILL AFFECT MANY.
SIN IS LIKE YEAST THAT PERMEATES THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH.**

That is why the apostle Paul said the church should never tolerate evil. He said.....

1 Corinthians 12:26 "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

(Explain scripture)

Apparently in the Corinthian church, there was a man who was sleeping his father's wife (not his biological mother but a woman his father had married). The church was actually boasting about how liberal and tolerant they were. So Paul confronted them, saying.....

1 Corinthians 5:2 You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

If an unbeliever who is living an immoral lifestyle comes to our church, we'll welcome that person. We'll say, "We love you." We'll also say, "Jesus Christ wants to change your life."

In the early church they practiced this.....But if a Christian came to the church and was living openly in sin, they would call him or her to repentance. But if that Christian refused to repent, then they would be asked to leave.

ILLUSTRATION:

When you continue to practice sin it is like walking around with a fever. You are contagious. You can put anyone at risk that you come in contact with to be infected with sin. It spreads quickly and very easily. All you have to do is be near someone.

We need to always take our temperature and gauge and evaluate our fervency for the Lord.

**YOUR PERSONAL SIN GREATLY AFFECTS OTHERS.
IN FACT YOUR SIN AFFECTS YOUR SPOUSE, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS
AND THE ENTIRE CHURCH.**

5. SIN SEPARATES YOU FROM GOD

Hebrews 10:26-29 ²⁶ Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. ²⁷ There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. ²⁸ For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant,

which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us.

While sin—even serious sin—does not prove that you are unsaved, continuing in sin without any progress against it, should be a serious warning. If you continue unrepentantly in your sin, you prove you are not saved at all and will leave this life to face God's eternal judgment.

CLOSING:

1 John 1:8-10 ⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.