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**Opening:** Our sin is the result of the fall in the garden of Eden. Today sin has touched every one of our lives. Understanding sin and its terrible consequences allows us to appreciate what Christ has done for us even more.

**Key Verses:**

**Genesis 1:26-27** 26Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**Genesis 3:6-7** 6When 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. 7Then 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.

**1. What is Sin?**

**a. Sin is ultimately rebellion against God and His perfect standard of righteousness.**

**i. 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4** 4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. \*\* to practice sin means it is more than a mistake but a deliberate continuous act of breaking the command. We could say it is a habit of sin.

**b. Sin originated in Satan.**

**i. Ezekiel 28:14-15** 14You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for I had ordained you. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15From the day you were created you were blameless in your ways— until wickedness was found in you.

**ii. John 8:44** You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**2. How is Sin recognized?**

a. **Romans 7:7-12** 7What then shall we say? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed, **I would not have been mindful of sin if not for the law.** For I would not have been aware of coveting if the law had not said, “Do not covet.”  
8But sin, seizing its opportunity through the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from the law, sin is dead.  
9Once I was alive apart from the law; **but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.** 10So I discovered that the very commandment that was meant to bring life actually brought death. 11For sin, seizing its opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through the commandment put me to death.12So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good.

- i. The law of God causes sin to bring death so that everything that breaks God’s commandment will die. The law ensures holiness and righteousness endures by bringing to death the deeds that are evil and the one who does them.
- ii. **The law of God is good, and is not to be cast** aside but is to be understood because it reveals sin to us and points us to Christ and the Holy Spirit.

### 3. Where does Sin abide in the Christian?

a. **Romans 7:14-22** 14We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do. But what I hate, I do. 16And if I do what I do not want to do, I admit that the law is good. 17In that case, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.18I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh; for I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19For I do not do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do. 20And if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, **but it is sin living in me that does it.**21So this is the principle I have discovered: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **22For in my inner being I delight in God’s law.** 23But I see another law at work **in my body,** warring against the law of my mind and holding me captive to the law of sin that dwells within me.

- i. **Sin lives in the flesh and through the flesh. The body is dead to God and does not want to serve God. Only the Spirit can subdue the flesh to cause it to serve the living God.**

4. **Should we keep on sinning after salvation? Romans 7 :23-24** 24What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25Thanks be to God, **through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, with my mind I serve the law of God, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

a. **Jesus has set us free from the curse of the law and the penalty of our sins to bring us death.**

- i. **Romans 6:1-3** 1What then shall we say? **Shall we continue in sin** so that grace may increase? 2 **Certainly not!** How can we who died to sin live in it any longer? 3Or aren't you aware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
- ii. **Romans 6:8-11** 8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. 9For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. 10The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. **11So you too must count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**
- iii. **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:18** 17All unrighteousness is sin, yet there is sin that does not lead to death. 18We know that anyone born of God **does not keep on sinning**; the One who was born of God protects him, and the evil one cannot touch him.

## 5. What is God's response to unrepentant Sin?

- a. Christ has given us freedom from sin, He has forgiven us and granted us eternal life. This is a Christians present reality.
  - i. Now we must "Abide" in Christ and allow him to work in us continuously, yielding to him daily.
  - ii. **Hebrews 10:26-30** 26 If we deliberately keep on sinning **after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,** 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as **an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them,** and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"[d] and again, **"The Lord will judge his people."**[e] 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

## 6. God's word brings balance to our Sin problem.

- a. **1<sup>st</sup> John 1:5-7** 5And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6If we say we have **fellowship with Him** yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, **we**

**have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

- b. **1<sup>st</sup> John 1:8-10** 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

## **7. The Christians response to sin after salvation**

- a. As Christians we are still capable of sinning, however we should be progressing towards freedom of habitual sins that control our life. The process of Sanctification works through our entire life.
- b. While we are in this life our security is in our **proximity to Jesus Christ.** We are commanded to abide in Him.
- c. Sin separates us from God, so when we sin, we distance ourselves from God. This is the problem of sin.
- d. If we continue to sin without repenting we will eventually depart and leave God and will forfeit his offer of grace and salvation. This departure is gradual and is different for each person.
- e. The Bible tells us to “Abide” to stay with Jesus, staying near to Him and allow him to work in our lives. If we stay, **even when we sin He will forgive us our sins and we will seek his forgiveness in humility.**
- f. If we leave Him and forsake Him after receiving the knowledge of salvation we will at some point reject the salvation of God. It is important to understand the heart can become hardened to God and unrepentant.
- g. So the Christian **vehemently rejects sin** and works quickly to resolve sin issues so that we do not build strongholds of sin in our lives that threaten to pull us away from Jesus. **Hate even the appearance of evil.**

## **8. Conclusion: Stay with Jesus and you will abide under His grace, mercy, forgiveness and love.**

- a. **Hebrews 10:19-24** 19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 **let us draw near to God** with a **sincere heart** and with the full assurance **that faith brings,** having our hearts sprinkled to **cleanse us from a guilty conscience** and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23 Let us hold unswervingly** to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,