

“THE CHAOS OF UNCHECKED SIN” / II Samuel 13-15 / Life in Chaos 14

Sin steals, kills, and destroys.

When sin is unchecked, it can steal, kill, and destroy from a generation or more.

In **John 10:10 (ESV)** Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”

Satan is the father of sin. The father of rebellion against holy God – the father of everything that is against God and defames his holy name. And all these things – all this rebellion is called sin. And it literally steals, kills, and destroys lives, marriages, families, dreams, careers, relationships, friendships, hopes, bodies, and most permanent and devastating of all – it steals from, destroys, and kills the soul. The part of you that no matter how hard you try – you, and all your efforts – can never ... ever ... get back.

In the same breath, Jesus said, “The thief ...,” he said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Jesus is the **author of LIFE**. He doesn’t just add to your life, or give you a good life, a better life, or even your best life now – He is the author of life. And not just life Jesus says, but an abundant, overwhelming, overflowing – can’t stop it, don’t want to stop it LIFE. Life that gives, ... life that grows. **He alone generates life**. That you are alive, breathing – only Jesus. That your breaths can have meaning and know ultimate joy in the presence of God now and forever – only Jesus.

Sin is not a myth dreamed up by preachers or religious types to scare you into being good or needing the church. And sin is not just making a mistake or a small miss in the grand scheme of your life or how it affects you and others and God.

* **Look at the global unrest and chaos** – the wars, the death, the violence, the senseless waste of life to drugs, the mass shootings, the fear, and more. Look at the global unrest and chaos and try again to convince yourself again there is no sin or that it is just a small miss that doesn’t really affect anyone.

* **Look more closely to home - right here in our community**. Look at the amount of marriages, families, relationships, friendships, careers, children, and bodies being destroyed and tell yourself there is no sin or that sin is really just small mistakes that only affect you. You can’t do it.

Sin steals, kills, and destroys. But Jesus ... But Jesus – offers LIFE abundantly!

Sin steals, kills, and destroys. But there is one thing even more devastating than sin – unchecked sin.

When sin is unchecked, it can steal, kill, and destroy from a generation or more.

What do I mean by “unchecked” sin?

Unchecked sin - is when sin in a biblical community goes on without being confronted by grace that calls us to repentance. *That biblical community can be a family or a local church. Specifically today, we are going to see:*

01. The result of sin unchecked in a biblical community (David and his sons [II Sam 13-18] and us)
02. The grace that God, our Perfect Father offers to all sin (Our prayer is that this moves us to respond.)
03. Our response to grace

01. The result of sin unchecked in a biblical community (II Samuel 13-18)

Intrigue, murder, illicit sex, vengeance, secret alliances / This sounds like the intro to a made for Net-Flix series about King Henry VIII’s royal court. Reality – this is David’s court. And if you read these 6 chs. and I encourage you to do so – they read like a Quentin Tarantino script – rapid fire action and brutal murders abound.

David was a man after God’s own heart the scripture says. He was capture by God’s amazing love and was a sincere and true worshiper BUT ... he was also a sinful man who at times let sin reign unchecked in his court.

II Samuel Chapter 13

1 Now Absalom, David’s son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David’s son, loved her. 2 And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her.

- Absalom, Tamar, and Amnon are all David’s children but Absalom and Tamar have a different mother than Amnon. *David has many sons by many wives who all vie for his attention, fight for position in his life, court.*

- Amnon wanted Tamar like a dog wants meat. *Not like God intended men and women to like and desire one another. Thanks to a no-good friend named Jonadab who was also David's nephew – Amnon plots to get her alone and seduce her. When she refuses his advances – he rapes her. Even after she begs him. Pause – this is awful.* But what happens next is worse. *What is worse than rape?*
- David's response – *he is angry (vs 21), but he does nothing, and so sin goes unchecked. Who is the only one who could bring the king's son to justice for raping the king's daughter? And, he does nothing!*
- Absalom's response
23 After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons. *2 year plot seeking justice for his sister in an unjust way – leads to Amnon's death.*
- David's response – 36 And the king also and all his servants wept very bitterly. *David is grieved over his loss, but he has no repentance for not holding Amnon accountable, and no tears for Tamar. And on top of all this – his oldest and probably most favorite son is now a fugitive who runs far away.*

II Samuel Chapter 14

1 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart went out to Absalom. 2 And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman ...

- Joab (*leader of David's army and closest confidant*) saw David's love for his son Absalom and began to enact a plan to reconcile the two and bring Absalom home to Jerusalem.

- Joab's plan works to bring Absalom home - but there is no real reconciliation.

21 Then the king said to Joab, "Behold now, I grant this; go, bring back the young man Absalom." 24 And the king said, "Let him dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence." (2 yrs)

32 "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still." Now therefore let me go into the presence of the king, and if there is guilt in me, let him put me to death.' " 33 Then Joab went to the king and told him, and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom. *The separation reinforces in Absalom's heart that his father is ashamed of him. In Absalom's mind he should be proud for setting right the wrong done to his sister – David's daughter Tamar. But instead – he is the outcast. This will just grow bitterness and anger in Absalom.*

II Samuel Chapter 15 & 16

4 Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." 5 And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. 6 Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. 7 And at the end of four years ...

- Absalom began to conspire to take it all from his father David. *It was a 4-year plot that involved taking his father's kingdom without ever having to raise a sword – and it worked.*

13 And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." 14 Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom."

- David flees Jerusalem – Absalom claims the crown in Jerusalem

II Samuel Chapter 17 & 18

- Chapter 17 - David is saved from death by inside men he left in the palace who pretended to be loyal to Absalom.

- Chapter 18 - Absalom sends a great force after David and in the battle that should have ended the coup and secured his throne – Absalom's men are routed by those loyal to David. *And in the process – Absalom is slain. Even though David had pleaded to his commanders to save Absalom – Joab kills the rebellious and bitter son.*

- Absalom dies and David grieves another loss

II Samuel 18:32-33 (ESV) 32 "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man." 33 And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

In summary – David’s daughter Tamar has her purity stolen from her, her life and soul is destroyed, and she lives alone the rest of her life. Amnon his son – who raped Tamar – is dead and Absalom goes down in history as a rebel who died leading a revolt against his father and king.

In all of this – sin goes unchecked because it is never confronted by the **grace of God**. There is no repentance, no reconciliation or restoration – just loss, destruction, and death. And not just for David – but for generations. David loses – two sons and the life of his daughter is destroyed. And children in the next generation – David’s grandchildren – live without dads, brothers, uncles ...

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David was an imperfect father who loved his children – but he loved them imperfectly – and in this case loved them without grace.

- He wanted them to **have everything** – and **have nothing withheld** – not perfect love.
- He wanted them to **live in a just world** – but **never face justice for their sin** – not perfect love.
- He would not **confront their sin in grace** – and cause them to need a Savior.

This can be us as parents in the biblical community of family. *The family is one of the first places God gives us to check sin – that is confront sin with grace. But often, we like David – love without grace.*

The hardest thing for Fran and I to do as parents is to let our kids be confronted by the consequences of their sin. I want to protect them from this but as I do – become their savior – and they don’t need God, Jesus. David was king, god, and savior – to his children. If kings make bad gods, saviors – so do you and I.

This can be us as leaders, friends, members in the biblical community of the church: *the second place God gave us to check sin.*

Most churches are afraid to practice church discipline: an action of grace that Jesus commanded us to do to restore us when we are sin and to protect the body and generations of people from loss, destruction, and death. The Journey – a friend and sister church we are in close relationship with: checked the sin of a pastor recently. Painful beyond belief – but the end result has been life. Another church in the same area of town is on the verge of closing its doors because the leadership of the church would not check sin. The result is: people have been hurt, relationships destroyed, and now a church is about to die.

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Church, this story of David & sons is a warning to us from holy God to see the destructive power of sin. But even more – it is a plea for us to see and believe there is perfect Father who offers life.

02. The grace that God, our Perfect Father offers to all sin

John 3:16-17 (ESV) 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

• **His first act – was not to condemn – but TO BE CONDEMNED FOR US.**

• **Jesus was condemned for us.** GOD sent his perfect son *Not an Amnon or Absalom.*

- **He took the TRUTH of all our guilt and shame for our sin.** (For Amnon he took ... , for Absalom he took ..., for David he took ...) For you he took _____. The TRUTH is your sin makes you guilty before holy God and that guilt requires your death physically and spiritually. One takes your body from you. The other takes your soul and removes it forever from God and places it under punishment a part from God. This is truth of our guilt. The shame we feel for our sin before God – just confirms this guilt.
- **And why did he do this - because of His great love for you** – so you and I could have and know the greatest treasure of all – God’s presence – He took on our guilt and shame. What great and amazing love!
- **These two things together compose grace.** *Grace is truth and love married together.* Only at the cross do we see the full measure of God’s grace in action.

* **Truth** - that he did take on the full measure of God’s punishment for your sin, my sin.

* **Love** - that sends, holds, and carries Jesus to take on our sin – and gives us life in and with God!

• **Because of God’s grace on the cross – He can extend grace to you now as the Perfect Father.**

How does God offer perfect grace to all your sin?

- 1) He doesn't come condemning you. Rather, he comes in love – loving you - because he wants you to be with him. *(Because he wants you to know the greatest of his presence – he comes in love.)*
- 2) In love – He speaks the truth about your sin, about the nature of your heart's rebellion and the loss, destruction, and death it has brought and will bring. *(He is not just saying do better or live better – He is warning you – this life you are living is only going to bring loss, destruction, and death to many.)*
- 3) In love – He pleads with you to repent and know LIFE! *(The promise, the hope in him is LIFE.)*

03. Our response to grace

- Repent

To see sin and the DEATH it brings and TURN from it.

Geico Commercial: *Sin makes us dumb & blind to the reality of what it gives us: loss, destruction, death. In sin, we are like people in horror movie – we just continue to make bad and devastating choices.*

When grace gets poured out on us – and you taste the truth and love of God – your eyes are opened. TURN!

To see Jesus and the LIFE he authors and RUN to him.

Is there a place in your life right now where sin is running unchecked?

Right now – God, our Perfect Father is confronting your sin with grace. In love he is telling you the truth so you can have life – his life. So He can put in an end to the loss, the destruction, and the death.

** You can stop generational sin that has spread to so many for so long in your family.*

** In this body, this church family – you can be one who brings life through your repentance instead of death.*

What is going unchecked? Where are you living in unrepentance? Repent now?

- Come along side another and bring God's grace to their sin.

- 1) He doesn't come condemning you. Rather, he comes in love – loving you - because he want you to be with him. *(Because he wants you to know the greatest of his presence – he comes in love.)*

Without condemnation, come alongside another in love - loving them.

(Be there, pray, be kind - because you want them to know the greatest of God's life giving presence.)

Romans 2:4 (ESV) God's kindness leads us to repentance.

- 2) In love – He speaks the truth about your sin, about the nature of your heart's rebellion and the loss, destruction, and death it has brought and will bring.

In love – speak the truth about sin. (sin in general, your sin, and then their sin / loss, destruction, death)

- 3) In love – He pleads with you to repent.

In love – plead with them to repent. (kindly, gently, pray a lot, speak of your repentance – and the hope and life that awaits in Jesus.)

We believe and practice church discipline as a church family. Most of the time, 90% of the time that means we are going to one another in grace – and confessing sin and reconciling and restoring relationships where sin has entered in. There are a few situations where one person refuses to repent and we as a church are moved to follow Jesus' words for calling this person to repentance. This is painful, difficult, and full of sorrow for all. I have walked through this with two close friends. Both were incredibly difficult but both were necessary to protect the body and to call my friends to Jesus. The amount of loss, destruction, and death was immense.