

DOCTRINE OF SIN, PART 2

Parabasis

PARABASIS AS THE SIN OF COMMISSION

Parabasis - “crossing the mark”

Parabasis is the other Greek word used in the New Testament that we will be using to define as the sin of commission. *Parabasis* is defined as overstepping a forbidden line.



It is a going over or crossing the boundary. In sports, this may look like stepping out of bounds during a game. In driving, we can picture this as a car swerving into the other lane. It is the violation or breaching of a code. It is a sin that takes action to commit whether this be in thought, word, or deed. And this form of sin can be intentional or unintentional.

Sin is not just our outward actions, but it involves the inward attitudes we may commit. By nature, we are rebellious and prone to sin. But again, because of the Holy Spirit, we are now given a new nature from Christ. That is why Paul writes in Ephesians 4:

EPHESIANS 4:30 NIV

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

In the original Greek, the word for “grieve” is *lypeo*, meaning “to make sorrowful” or “to cause pain, unhappiness, and distress.” And this Scripture ties together a lot of critical ideas for us. The first is that it reminds us that saved Christians are still capable and fallible of sin:

A. SAVED CHRISTIANS ARE STILL CAPABLE AND FALLIBLE OF SIN

Even with the Holy Spirit, all of us can attest that we all still struggle with sin. When we commit a sin, we feel the grief of His Spirit within us because we are now aware when we fall short. And these are the two natures that are constantly at war within us.

ROMANS 7:14-20 NIV

14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.



As genuine Followers of Christ, we may stumble in sin from time to time, but we no longer find the same pleasure in sin. **It should bother us more than just feeling bad because we did something bad. But grieving the Spirit should bother us so much that it leads us to a change in thought, attitude, and heart.**

B. GOD CARES ABOUT HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES ONCE WE ARE SAVED

Because the Holy Spirit grieves whenever we sin, it shows us that God truly cares for how we live our lives once we are saved. Susana Wesley, the mother of John and Charles Wesley, further gives us this definition of sin when we may try to justify actions that would only affect ourselves:

“Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself.”

– Susana Wesley

The goal is NOT for us to live a sinless life to try and be perfect by what we do or don't do. **But the goal is for us to love God infinitely more so that we no longer desire to sin.** Because in grieving the Holy Spirit, we start to view sin in a more relational perspective to our God rather than just sheer legalism. In legalism, sin is a violation of the rules. But in relationship with God, sin is wounding the heart of our Father.

GALATIANS 5:16-17 ESV

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

As we become more aware of our own sinful nature, it points us directly to just how much we need Jesus. The heart posture of a Follower of Christ is always repentance. And repentance means more than just saying sorry so that we can make the same mistake later on. Repentance is defined as turning away from sin and faith defined as a turning back to Christ.

PSALM 51:10 NIV

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think people may have such a difficult time in overcoming sin habits?
2. In what areas of your life has the Holy Spirit been convicting you to change in and grow?