

Genesis 3:6-10 Hamartiology — The Study of Sin

A topical study rooted in Genesis 3, examining the nature, scope, and remedy of sin.

Topic- Sin, Fear, Anxiety

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Fear & Shame

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"Sin" = chata' (χῆρ) & hamartia (ἁμαρτία)

-to miss the mark, fall short, fail

-Hamartiology = the study of sin

"Iniquity" = avon (יָוֵן)

-crookedness, perversion, bentness

-emphasizes inner corruption / twisted nature

"Transgression" = pasha' (פָּשָׁע) & parabasis (παράβασις)

-Hebrew: rebellion, revolt, willful breach

-Greek: stepping across a boundary; violation of a known command

"Trespass" = 'āšām (אָשָׂא) & paraptōma (παράπτωμα)

-Hebrew: guilt, offense, sin, guiltiness

-Greek: false step, slip, falling aside

-often emphasizes failure or lapse

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Sin is DOING or NOT DOING anything that God has commanded.

Sin is any failure—of nature, thought, desire, or action—to conform to the holy character of God and revealed will of God, rooted in the fallen nature of man.

“Sin is anything less than loving God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength.” (MLJ)

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Westminster Shorter Catechism — Question 14

Q. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

Westminster Shorter Catechism — Question 1

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

-Anything less than that is sin.

Matthew 5:20 — For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:48 — "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Matthew 19:25–26 — When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved?

-But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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ORIGINAL SIN — inherited from Adam

-Romans 5:12 — Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

-Romans 7:23 — But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

ACTUAL SIN — personal acts

-James 1:14–15 — But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin...

-1 John 3:4 — Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

-Romans 3:23 — for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Original sin = root

Actual sin = fruit

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SINS OF COMMISSION — doing what God forbids

-1 John 3:4 — Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

-James 1:15 — Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

SINS OF OMISSION — failing to do what God commands

-James 4:17 — Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

-1 Thessalonians 5:17 — pray without ceasing,

-Matthew 5:44 — “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

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SIN AND BONDAGE

John 8:34 — Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

Romans 6:16 — Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Romans 7:15 — For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

Romans 7:19 — For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

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DEGREES OF SIN

John 19:11 — Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

Luke 12:47–48 — And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

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DIFFERENT STANDARDS FOR SIN

-James 4:17 — Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

-James 3:1 — My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

-Romans 14:23 — ...for whatever is not from faith is sin.

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DEFICIENCY SINS: failures of love, trust, and rest in God

- Fear
- Anxiety
- Depression / Despair
- Self-reliance
- Apathy (spiritual & temporal)
- Laziness & slothfulness
- Discontentment
- Complaining & murmuring (spirit)
- Covetousness & envy & pride
- Impatience
- Ingratitude
- Joylessness
- Shame

Fear: a response of the heart that anticipates harm or loss and, when sinful, it stems from a failure to trust God

- Not: fear of the Lord (reverence, awe, submission); natural caution; startle response
- 2 Timothy 1:7 — For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
- Isaiah 41:10 — Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God...

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Anxiety: inward division and unrest that pulls trust away from God and fixates on circumstances

-“Anxiety / worry” = merimnaō (μεριμνάω)
to be anxious, to worry, to be troubled with cares (root idea: to be divided, pulled apart in different directions)

- Not: responsible concern or planning
- 2 Corinthians 11:28 — ...what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

-Philippians 4:6 — Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

-Matthew 6:25 — Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life...

-Isaiah 26:3 — You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

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Depression / Despair: a loss of hope that turns the soul inward and away from trust in God

- Not: grief; sorrow; lament
- Jesus is "A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief"

"I am the subject of depressions of spirit so fearful that I hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to."

-Charles Spurgeon

"I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages."

-"The Lord gets His best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction."

-Psalm 42:5 — Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God...

-2 Corinthians 4:8–9 — We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

"But I have a medical condition"

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Self-reliance: trusting in self instead of depending on God

-Not: diligence; responsibility; stewardship

-Proverbs 3:5 — Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

-Jeremiah 17:5 — Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength..."

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Apathy (spiritual & temporal): not caring where God has commanded care

-Not: having no preference; restraint

-Romans 12:11 — not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

-Revelation 3:15–16 — "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot... So then, because you are lukewarm... I will vomit you out of My mouth."

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Laziness / Slothfulness: refusing to act where God has called diligence and responsibility

-Not: rest; recovery; physical limits

-Colossians 3:23 — And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

-Proverbs 18:9 — He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

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Discontentment: resisting God's present provision while desiring something else

-Not: desire for growth; ambition; improvement

-1 Timothy 6:6 — Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

-Hebrews 13:5 — Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have...

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Complaining / Murmuring (spirit): expressing dissatisfaction without faith or desire for resolution

-Not: solution-seeking; raising concerns; lament

-Philippians 2:14 — Do all things without complaining and disputing,

-1 Corinthians 10:10 — nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

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Covetousness & Envy & Pride: disordered desires and attitudes that elevate self and resent God's distribution

-Not: desire; admiration; confidence; identity in Christ

-Exodus 20:17 — "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife... nor anything that is your neighbor's."

-James 3:16 — For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

-Proverbs 16:18 — Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

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Impatience: refusal to wait on God's timing and process

-Not: zeal; eagerness; prompt obedience

-Hebrews 6:12 — ...those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

-James 1:4 — But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

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Ingratitude: failure to recognize and give thanks for God's goodness

-Not: longing for change; recognizing brokenness

-1 Thessalonians 5:18 — in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

-Romans 1:21 — because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful...

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Joylessness: absence of joy in God

-Not: grief; sorrow; lament

-Philippians 4:4 — Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

-Psalm 16:11 — ...In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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Shame: the awareness of personal deficiency or guilt that produces a sense of rejection, exposure, and the impulse to hide—especially in relation to God

-Not: conviction; godly sorrow; humility

-Romans 10:11 — For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

-Isaiah 54:4 — "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame..."

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SIN, THE CROSS, AND THE OFFENSE OF SHAME

Isaiah 53:5–6 — But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

2 Corinthians 5:21 — For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 3:18 — For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...

Hebrews 10:12 — But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

Hebrews 12:1-2 — Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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SIN AND SANCTIFICATION

Philippians 1:6 — being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

2 Corinthians 3:18 — But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Galatians 3:3 — Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

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SIN AND GLORIFICATION

1 John 3:2 — Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Revelation 21:4 — And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

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SIN AND CONFESSION

When Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God.

-When God asked them where they were, He was seeking confession.

Psalms 32:3–5 — When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

1 John 1:9 — If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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DELIVERANCE AND FREEDOM

-John 8:32 — And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

-Psalm 119:11 — Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Romans 12:2 — And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

-Ephesians 5:26 — that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

