



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Christian Doctrine, Part 5: God Curses (The Doctrine of Sin)
Genesis 3:1-24, Romans 5:12-21 - September 13, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - *Mute* buttons on soundboards and an indwelling sin nature.

Sin in 2026: either minimized (secular godlessness) or weaponized (fervent legalism)

Without the Doctrine of Sin:

1. We lose *reality* (the world *is* broken)
2. We lose *Christianity* (salvation requires something to be saved from)

A. The Origin of Sin (Genesis 3:1-13)

- A crafty creature - more crafty than the humans, and more crafty than you and I
- A classic question: Did God really say?
- Satan *subtracts* from God's Word given to Adam, Eve *adds* to God's Word given to Adam, and yet Adam does not correct either of them with the truth.
- They desire not simply the knowledge of good and evil - but the god-like authority to personally determine good and evil.

AUTONOMY - autos (self) + noms (law) -

- More than any particular action of omission or commission, **Sin is Autonomy**, the desire to switch places with God - to put him on trial and ourselves in the judgment seat.
- "Sin breeds self-made men who love to worship their creator." - Michael Bird

B. The Effects of Sin (Genesis 3:14-21)

- Spiritual wellbeing, personal relationships, and the environment are devastated by the fall.
- Long list of effects: guilt, shame, regret, estrangement or broken relationships, enslavement, addiction, hardness of heart, bitterness, stubbornness, lack of accountability, denial of wrongdoing, anxiety, sickness
- Yet, the greatest part of the curse is **DEATH**. Sin produces death.
 - Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 1:15

C. The Power of Sin (Ephesians 2:1-3)

- *Total Depravity (not Utter Depravity)* - the teaching from the reformation that sin has infected all parts of the person.
 - Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 51:5; Mark 7:23; 2 Cor. 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-3
- **All persons have a will, but that will is bound by sin**, unable to choose godliness without the gracious intervention of God himself. A corpse cannot cooperate in his own resurrection.
- The act of bringing back to life is done by God - Eph. 2:4-9, Romans 8:1-11
- The hint of a coming gospel was given all the way back in Genesis 3:15, 21 when God promises a serpent-crusher, and then sheds the blood of a sacrifice to cover their shame.

D. The Answer to Sin (Romans 5:12-21)

- The New Testament holds Adam responsible instead of Satan or Eve. He alone received the command from God, yet did nothing.
- **Romans 5** presents Jesus as a second (and better!) Adam, who recapitulates every wrong action and result of the fall.
- Adam - sin - judgment - condemnation - death
- Jesus - righteousness - grace - justification - life
- To be in Adam, one only needs to be *born*.
- To be in Christ, one needs to be *born again*.
- **God made him who knew no sin to be sin for our sake, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.** - 2 Corinthians 5:21



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Last week, we learned about the dignity of being created in God's image. How does the doctrine of sin and its wretchedness impact our dignity as humans?
2. Why does this world want to minimize or weaponize sin? What is the result of ignoring sin?
3. What is Satan's "noble lie" to Eve? How does he still tell us that lie today?
4. What is "autonomy" as it relates to this doctrine? How does that help us define the nature of sin in humanity?
5. What does it mean that the greatest effect of sin is death? In what ways is this death a literal event? In what ways is this death an "inability" to seek righteousness?
6. What does it mean that the human will is bound by sin - not quite as free as many like to believe?
7. How do New Testament passages like Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 present Jesus as a recapitulated Adam?