

GROWTH GROUP STUDY: I AM SINFUL

REFLECT

1. *Begin by having someone share his or her story of becoming a Christian.*
2. *What are some common excuses people that make for their sinful behavior?*

ENCOUNTER

Our biggest problem—everyone’s biggest problem—is sin. The final indictment for all of us is Romans 3:23: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” God is holy and we are sinful.

But we don’t like to be told that. We have to be convinced. So like a lawyer, Paul slowly builds his case proving his case that all people are sinful and fall short of God’s righteous standard. He begins with pagans (1:18-30), then moves to moralistic, religious people (2:1-10), and concludes that Jewish people also fall short of God’s holiness. (2:17-28). Examine Paul’s arguments in the following passages, and make of note anytime Paul describes the character of God or consequences of sin.

3. In Romans 1:22-30, Paul shows how sinking into the sewer of depravity. However, at the heart of all the other sins that is one sin. *According to verse 22, what is it? Why is this at the heart of all other sin?*
4. Someone might respond to Romans 1 by saying, “But that’s what other people are like. I’m religious!” *How does Paul respond to self-righteous, moralistic people in Romans 2:1-7?*
5. *What if someone said, “Yes, but I’m Jewish and have the law.” How would Paul respond to them? Read Romans 2:17-29.*

6. Paul’s closing argument in Romans 3:9-18 is poetic and picturesque description of depravity of all human beings. Paul’s point isn’t that all people are evil to their fullest capability or that we can’t do any good. Paul’s point is that every aspect of our being is corrupted by sin, leaving us unable to change ourselves or earn God’s favor. Read through these verses and reflect on how sin affects our minds, our thoughts, our words, and our relationships.

TRANSFORM

7. *Do you think Paul make a compelling argument all mankind is sinful? Why or why not?*
8. *Why is it important for someone to understand sin before they understand salvation?*
9. *What was your next step from the sermon?*