

Sin Causes Separation

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 08/28/2016



I. Critical Connections

II. Disconnected By Sin

Psalm 38:9-14

v. 9-10

Known & Restless

v. 11-12

Avoided & Afflicted

v. 13-14

Silence & Surrender

III. Avoiding Isolation

Personal Reflection

Set aside fifteen minutes this week to pray & respond to the following:

Sin is more than just wrongdoing, it is rebellion against God's authority & rejection of His plan. To surrender to the sin nature is to invite the consequences of judgment & punishment that will impact both the individual & those around them.

Sinfulness damages relationships. It undermines the unity & harmony shared by members of a community. It causes separation by fostering resentment, prompting jealousy & fanning the flames of hatred. This separation ultimately leads to isolation— weakened, hurting individuals who were once strong together but are left broken & feeling alone.

As awful as sin's impact on human relationships can be, it is even worse in its effect on one's relationship with God. The most terrible separation caused by sin is the division it brings between a person & their Creator.

It is not God's desire or plan for you to be alone & afraid. God knows the needs, worries & fears that you keep buried inside. He knows the struggles that afflict you & the weight the sin nature imposes upon you. The Lord wants to be your comfort & strength, to empower you by His Spirit to stand against temptation & pass the tests of character & conduct that occur daily.

Prayerfully consider the status of your relationships—with God, your spouse, family, friends, classmates & coworkers. Ask God to reveal how sin could be contributing to a division or a breakdown in fellowship with those around you. Praise God for His willingness to forgive your sin & to heal the separation it causes. Thank God for the grace & mercy that is available to all through the Lord Jesus Christ.