

**Theology 1**  
**The Results & Magnitude of Sin**  
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*Sin is a very serious matter with **very serious consequences**. Sin affects our relationship with God and others. Sin even has some far-reaching effects on ourselves. We need to ask ourselves two questions: How common is sin? How radical is it?*

**The Results of Sin**

- Results Affecting the Relationship with God
  - Divine disfavor – God hates sin (Prov. 6:16-17, Zech. 8:17)
  - Guilt – much more than an emotion; we are guilty and in need of punishment
  - Punishment – as sinners, we are in need of retribution (see Gen. 9:6). The purpose of punishment is not always remedial (correction) or deterrent (fear).
  - Death – physical (Rom. 6:23), spiritual (dead in trespasses and sin), and eternal death (“the second death” – Rev. 20:14)
- Effects on the Sinner
  - Enslavement (to sin)
  - Flight from reality (denial of death or consequences of sin)
  - Denial of sin (Gen. 3:11-12)
  - Self-deceit (“I’m OK and you’re OK”)
  - Insensitivity (become hardened to the conviction of the Holy Spirit)
  - Self-centeredness (Judges 17:6)
  - Restlessness (eg. – testimony of Martin Luther)
- Effects on our Relationships with Others
  - Competition – the desire to exalt myself above others
  - Inability to empathize – not desiring to see things from someone else’s perspective
  - Rejection of authority – “no one will stop me from satisfying my desires”
  - **Inability to love as Christ loves**
- **The Magnitude of Sin**
  - The Extent of Sin
    - Both testaments are very clear that sin is **universal**. All humans are sinners, the only exception being the God-man Christ (Heb. 4:15).
    - Key Bible passages – 1 Kings 8:46, Psalm 143:2, Isa. 53:6, Rom. 3:23
    - **100% death rate** – further proof that we are all sinners (Rom. 6:23)
  - The Intensiveness of Sin
    - The Bible teaches that we are **totally depraved**, even to the deepest recesses of our hearts (Jer. 17:9).
    - We are born with a human nature inclined to sin (Psalm 51:5)
    - Original sin touches us all – see pp. 208ff. Only **Christ** can set us free!