

October 28, 2018
RELEASE - Part 1

“Forgiveness”

Jesus: “...I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.” (John 8:34 NLT)

Disobeying God shows our failure to trust God.

Isaiah 26:8 (NLT): “LORD, we show our trust in you by obeying your laws...”

We call this self-seeking *nature*, that fails to trust God, Sin, and each time we act out this lack of trust, we call this *action* a sin.

The bigger problem isn't the sins - it's the *Sin* - it's our *nature* that inherently misses the mark all too often, seeking what *we* think is *best*.

Judges 21:25 (NLT): “...all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.”

Romans 3:23 (NLT): “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.”

Sin breaks our relationship with God, the Source of life and eternity, and when we cut ourselves off from the Source, our Lifeline, we're ultimately doomed.

While our sins have earthly consequences, ultimately they are all aimed back at God and a lack of trust in Him.

Romans 8:7 (NLT): “For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.”

When we choose to *break* God's laws, these sins are called sins of commission, but when we *fail to do* God's will, these sins are called sins of omission.

Sin stands in stark contrast to God's being and nature.

Isaiah 59:2 (NLT): “It's your sins that have cut you off from God...”

Our Sin not only *breaks* our relationship with God, but it causes us to stay separated from Him, because He cannot condone Sin or be in its presence.

Romans 6:23 (NLT): “For the wages of sin is death...”

Any solution to our separation from God has to take into account not only the trust issue but also God's very own holy nature.

We are addicted to Sin, and the cure can only begin as we recognize that we are powerless to fix it ourselves.

Apostle Paul: "I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate." (**Romans 7:15** NLT)

Jesus: "...I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.'" (**John 8:34** NLT)

The problem - how could God, out of His great love for human beings, forgive sinners *without* compromising his holiness, and how could he express His holiness in judging sinners *without* frustrating His love?

atonement - "at-one-ment," the process or act of bringing together God and us, a holy perfect God with unholy, sinful human beings

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NLT): "4Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all."

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT): "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

The Good News is that, for the sake of restoring our relationship with God, Jesus released us, taking our place on the cross, dying our death for our sins, as our substitute, so we wouldn't have to.

1 Peter 2:24 (NLT): "He personally carried our sins in his own body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed."

Romans 3:20-22 (NLT): "20For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. 21But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. 22We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are."

1 John 1:9 (ESV): "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Confession is "saying the same" thing God is saying about me, acknowledging that what God sees and knows about me and my sin is, in fact, true.

Acts 3:19 (NLT): “Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV): “⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.”

We receive this gift by faith, which means to believe God is who He says is and does what He says He does - that even though I can't prove it, I choose to believe that my sins are no longer held against me.

Jesus: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 ESV)

Ephesians 1:13 (NLT): “...when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.”

Discipleship is so important because becoming like Jesus doesn't just magically happen through the Spirit's presence in us.

1 Timothy 4:8 (NLT): “Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.”

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