



## Dimensions of Sin

### God and Neighbor

- The two most important commandments are to love God and to love your neighbor – Matthew 22:35–40
- The whole law towards our neighbor can be summarized with the word love – Romans 13:8-10
- All sin is against God – Psalm 51:4
- Every sin involves a failure to love God
- We can sin against man when we sin directly against God in matters of worship and holiness – Numbers 20:12
- We rob people of the good character and works of God when we sin

### Omission and Commission

- Failing to do what God commands – sins of omission – James 4:17
- Doing what God has commanded us not to do – sins of commission)
- Sins of commission are illustrated by commands that begin with “You shall not.” Exodus 20:16
- There is no need to over analyze every sin to determine whether it was primarily a sin of omission or a sin of commission

### Thought, Word, and Deed

- Sins involve inward and outward acts – any failure to conform to God’s law in thought, word, or deed – Deuteronomy 10:12-13
- We sin inwardly when we fail to fear the Lord or serve him with all our heart and soul
- We sin outwardly when we fail to walk in his ways and serve him
- Matthew 15:1-9
- Psalm 51:6, 16–17
- Deuteronomy 10:16
- Matthew 5:27-28
- Psalm 24:3-4
- Ephesians 4:29

## Circumstances of Sin

Circumstances can significantly affect the impact of sin on ourselves and others.

### Public and Secret

- Sin can be public or secret – 1 Timothy 5:24
- Joshua 7
- John 3:19-20



- Secret sin will not stay secret – Numbers 32:23; Psalm 94:7–9
- God will bring every secret sin into judgment – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

### Individuals and Societies

- Both individuals and societies can sin
- No one will be judged for the sin of another – Ezekiel 18:4; 2 Corinthians 5:10
- God addresses groups of people for their sin
  - Isaiah 13–23
  - Luke 10:12-15
  - In Daniel and Revelation nations are represented by beasts
  - Revelation 2–3
- God does not assign guilt by association – Revelation 3:4,
- When God condemns a group, each person is responsible to repent – Revelation 2:11

### Oppressors and Victims

- Circumstances of sin include sins of oppressors and victims
  - Exodus 22:21-24
  - James 1:27
  - Matthew 25:35-36; 41-47
- The Bible does not teach liberation theology – God favors the poor and oppressed no matter their spiritual state
  - Isaiah 1:16-17
  - Isaiah 9:17
  - Isaiah 3:5
  - Oppression is not just associated with particular races, ethnicities, economic levels, or any other category

### Degrees of Sin

- Some sins are more serious than other sins
- The Roman Catholic Church distinguishes between degrees of sin by categorizing sin as mortal or venial
- Mortal sins are deadly to the soul
- Venial sins are less serious
- All sin results in death
  - Romans 6:23
  - James 2:10-11
  - Galatians 3:10
- There are greater sins
  - Ezekiel was told he would see “greater abominations.”
  - John 19:11
  - 2 Timothy 2:12-13



- Numbers 15:27-31
- Psalm 19:12-13
- We see degrees of sin in degrees of judgment
  - Luke 12:47-48
  - Matthew 11:24
- There are multiple factors that in degrees of sin. Here are some factors found in Question 151 of the Westminster Larger Catechism.
  - The person of the sinner.
  - The person against whom one sins.
  - The extent of sin's action.
  - The perversity of the sinner's reason.
  - The height of the sinner's defiance.
  - The depth of sin's abnormality.
  - The holiness of the sinner's situation.

## Conclusion

- God withholds his final judgment so we can repent – Romans 2:1-5
- We must repent now and turn from our sin