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# Sin–Sinners–Sins–Saints

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## Introduction:

God's Word compels us to get understanding. Paul exhorted young Timothy, *Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth* (II Timothy 2:15). According to Paul, it is the responsibility of pastors and teachers who oversee the church to do what he admonished Timothy to do. *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God,...* (Acts 20:28). God's people must be fed the truth of the Word with serious clarification.

F.B. Meyer said, "There is clearly a profound distinction between what we think and what we say about sin, and the truth concerning it." Consider for example the words of John in the first chapter of his first epistle, verses 8 and 9. "If we say we have no SIN.... If we confess our SINS." Why did John use the singular word, "SIN," and the plural word, "SINS?" Do we not need to clarify the distinction here?

My purpose in this article is to clarify with order what the Bible teaches about sin. In my opinion, the doctrine of sin has not been clearly taught through the years and has caused the spiritual life of many believers to be impoverish. I base my opinion on what I have read and what I have heard. An understanding of this subject will bring peace and joy to many Christians. I am aware that my approach is simple, but the truth is not simplistic, for I believe it to be a profound clarification or a right dividing of God's Word on the doctrine of Hamartiology. *Consider with me the meaning of the words of my subject:*

## A. What Is Sin?

❖ **The Origin of Sin** – The origin of sin can be explained by the action of what I call the *Dynamic Duo* of rebellion – **Lucifer** and **Adam**. In eternity past, Lucifer led a great insurrection against God's kingdom of righteousness and authority. (Ezekiel 28:11-19 & Isaiah 14:12-15). This was the origin of sin in the universe. God cast Lucifer out of Heaven to the earth and he continued his evil work in Eden where he tempted and deceived Eve. Adam was not deceived, but in an act of his will he decided to live independently of God and rebelled against God's authority. And that was the origin of sin in the world.

❖ **Sin is Rebellion against the authority of God.** This is called the **fall of Adam, and thus the fall of man**. In Adam, the federal head of the human race, *All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned everyone to his own way*. Now take a careful look at the rest of this verse – *And the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of US ALL* (Isaiah 53:6). Paul states, *For all have sinned (rebelled) and come short of the glory of God* (Romans 6:23).

❖ **Isaiah 55:7-8** gives us a picture of man in rebellion and God's call to repentance. *Let the wicked forsake his way (renounce) and let him return unto the Lord*. This is repentance clear and simple. Whereas man became **insubordinate** he must become **subordinate** by renouncing his evil way and return to the Lord. **And this is done by faith in Jesus, for man cannot repent without faith in Christ—and he cannot trust Christ without repentance.** One cannot trust Christ while holding on to his own will of rebellion. The Lord said, *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways*.

**Renounce and Return**—that’s the way to be saved. To renounce your way is repentance and to return is in submission to God is faith, and the object of faith is Jesus the Savior who died to satisfy the justice of God and to shed His blood to make atonement for sin. So repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin, so to speak. They take place simultaneously in the sinner’s heart.

❖ **Original Words for Sin: These words give us an understanding of what SIN is.**

*Hamartia* – To miss the mark or to go astray.

*Anomia* – To transgress the law of God.

*Parabasis* – To go beyond bounds, to seek one’s own way.

❖ **Sin Is:**

**A Position – Separated from God, A Presence in the heart of man, A Practice in the life of the sinner.  
Sin is a governing power causing deviate behavior against God.**

❖ **As a Christian, you may ask, “What about my sin; where did it come from?”**

Every person born into this world has the fallen nature we inherited from Adam. This nature compels us to sin; it is an inclination or a disposition to sin. It causes us to contend for our own way. Although we are saved through our faith in Christ, the corrupt nature of Adam we were born with remains within and we will have it to contend with until we leave this life and go to Heaven. Paul called it, *“sin that dwells in me”* (Romans 7:20). Called the old life or the outer man, the self-life, the flesh, it is a bias toward evil or a disposition to disobedience. The greatest enemy in our Christian lives, it is the greatest problem in the church.

F.B. Meyer wrote: “Christians are endeavoring to conquer the evil bias by the energy of their own resolutions, apart from the spiritual forces that are within their reach. Satan cannot cast out Satan; the soul cannot cast out its own tyrants; water cannot rise above its own level.”

We cannot consecrate nor rededicate the self-life. It was crucified with Christ. It must be consigned to the cross, the only power to overcome it and render it inoperative in our lives. Paul wrote, *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin* (Romans 6:6). **When Jesus died, He made the old nature, the fallen nature of Adam we inherited, subservient to Himself.** When we died with Christ, we received His victory over sin as He took up residence within us in the person of the Holy Spirit. Thus Christ became our new nature—the Christ-life. So let the self-life stay where God put it—on the cross of Christ. Note Romans 6:11. *Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.* To reckon means to accept and rely on the truth stated in the Word of God. Claim by faith the victory of Christ who died to break the power of the sin nature and *reckon it to be true.*

❖ **What God Did About SIN.** (From *The Spiritual Man*)

I wish I had a greater command of the language so that I might more vividly describe the event at Calvary when Jesus died, and so that we might not view it as such a common place event that has lost its significance. But I will do the best I can, for we must keep a grasp on the realities of the cross. Adam, in his rebellion and the God of righteousness could not co-exist. Therefore *“He drove the man out”* (Gen. 3:24), and man became separated from God and condemned. But from before the foundations of the

world, God had a plan for reconciliation and salvation. God gave His Son, and Jesus gave his life willingly. He said in John 10, *“No man can take it from me....I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it up.* He did not resist death, but as the Lamb of God *“He opened not His mouth”* as Isaiah reported (Isaiah 53). In *“tasting death for every man”* Jesus suffered indescribable pain. Don’t think that because He was God in the flesh He could not suffer physical and mental pain. When Jesus hang on the cross the conflict of the ages was on. Did I say conflict? That’s putting it mildly—**a full scale war began between two kingdoms, the kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of righteousness.**

In this war, there were no bombs, no tanks, no guns, no airplanes, no battleships, no ballistic missiles. It was a war of the **minds**, of the **spirits**, of the **wills**. Satan bruised Jesus’ heal, but Jesus bruised Satan’s head—stripped him of his rights, cancelled his claim of death for the human race, sealed his doom and destiny to the lake of fire.

Just think of how Jesus suffered. He gave His head to the thorns, His hands and feet to the nails, His side to the spear, His beard to be plucked out by the hand of His enemies. He suffered unimaginable stress in bearing in His body the SIN and SINS of humanity. And, He was not given pain pills nor anxiety medication.

There has never been a war like the one between the forces of evil and the forces of righteousness. Jesus, God’s Son came from Heaven to take the offense against Lucifer, the most powerful angel God created. Satan tried to vex the Lord Jesus, to tear Him apart, wear Him down and weaken Him, **to subvert His will, so that He could not exert His authority.** But praise, and honor, and glory be to the Name of the victor—Jesus Christ the Lord of Heaven and earth. He suffered the penalty for sin and satisfied the justice of God toward sin, and made atonement for sin. He died, was buried, and God raised Him from the dead—and He now occupies the seat intercession at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.

## B. Who Are Sinners?

I have stated previously that God views mankind as being in Adam, the federal head of the human race. That included every person born into the human race. Paul stated, *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). Although Christians commit sins, they are no longer sinners in God’s mind. Paul called himself *the chief of sinners*, but he became a saint at his conversion. **Sinners are people who continue in rejection of the grace of God and have not believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now let’s get God’s viewpoint about who the sinners are. He knows people as two classifications:

❖ **Those whom He has forgiven and those He has not forgiven.** This classification holds true according to the Scriptures. The **forgiven** are all those who have **repented of SIN** and received Christ as their Savior and Lord.

**Now of what sin were they forgiven of? THE SIN OF REBELLION. This word is singular. It is the sin of Adam that we are all guilty of.** Paul stated, *For in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”* (I Corinthians 15:22). We were all born into Adam and in him we rebelled against God. Please note again the distinction I am endeavoring to make between SIN and SINS.

When we repented, we were forgiven of SIN – rebellion. But as Christians we **commit SINS**, and God has made provision for forgiveness in the atoning death of Jesus at Calvary. John wrote, *If we con-*

*fess our SINS God is faithful and just for forgive us our SINS and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9). He is just to forgive because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins in His death at Calvary.

Now the unbelievers are still sinners, for they have not believed on Christ and received Him as their Lord and Savior. They are still in REBELLION. This is the reason the sinner must repent in order to be saved. Please don't be shocked at the following statement of truth. While Christians can be forgiven of SINS, the unsaved cannot be forgiven. WHY? Think about it. Why would God forgive the SINS of the Christ rejecters while they continue in rebellion. It does not make sense – it would be an injustice for God to do so while He demands repentance and faith for all sinners.

### C. What Are Sins?

Sins spring from the sinful nature that indwells EVERY person. Sins are willful acts of transgression and disobedience. They are attitudes of the mind too numerous to name here. Sins are committed by the believers and the unbelievers also. To sum it up, they are comprised of the contrary issues of life that come from the heart. In Genesis 6:5, we read of God's displeasure regarding people in those early days, *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*" Here we see man in rebellion against God in willful acts and thoughts of the mind, the will, and the heart. Does this not tell us what SINS are?

### D. Who Are Saints?

If you want to know who the saints are, spend time in Paul's letters, for in the salutation of six of them, he includes saints specifically. You will find clear, comforting, encouraging, strengthening truths about the saints in Christ. I will mention a few things that tell us who the saints are. The following are twelve statements of the many ways saints are described in the Scriptures:

1. Saints are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8).
2. Saints are indwelled by the Holy Spirit (John 14:17; I Corinthians 3:16).
3. Saints have a new nature, the Christ-life – the presence of Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit.
4. Saints have been forgiven, accepted by God (Ephesians 1:6).
5. Saints have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Colossians 1:13).
6. Saints have been crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20).
7. Saints have peace with God (Romans 5:1).
8. Saints have been baptized into Christ (Romans 6:6).
9. Saints have been redeemed by the blood of Christ (Colossians 1:14).
10. Saints have been washed from their sins, and made kings and priests (Revelation 1:5).
11. Saints have been made victorious, made complete in Christ (Colossians 1:28).
12. Saints are sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:10).

Now please understand that saints have not attained to sinless perfection, but they possess the perfection of Christ. Because they have repented of their SIN, when they commit SINS, they have the blessing of confessing them and being forgiven and cleansed by the blood of Christ. AMEN!