

SIN is the Problem Within

Text: Genesis 4:6-11 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. 8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. 9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? 10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. 11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

James 1:13-16 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then **when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.** 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Matthew 24:12-13 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Introduction: *This sermon is the 3rd sermon on the topic of the “Great Conflict Within”. The last two sermons have dealt with the struggle Christians face from within ourselves. The struggle between our Born Again Nature given to us by Christ and our Old Fallen Nature which surfaces from time to time and gives us problems! Romans 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

In this sermon, I want to focus more on the PROBLEM and not on our INNER STRUGGLE WITH THE PROBLEM. The problem that causes so much heartache within the Christian’s life is called “SIN”! SIN is not only a major struggle within the Christian but its effects are seen all around us in the modern world of today! SIN originated in the Garden of Eden and quickly spread to such an extent that Noah’s generation was judged by God. Every generation since Noah has been contaminated with its evil influence. Like a cancer it is spreading throughout our modern world and continues to grow worse and worse with each passing day! II Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Let us examine the evil cancer of SIN more closely:

What is SIN? Why is it so dangerous?

I. What is Sin? You may think you know but *ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW?*

(1.1). Definition of Sin: a transgression or violation of divine law, a deliberate act against God, or a state of being estranged from God. It can be understood as “Lawlessness” or “missing the mark”.

Sin is described as an act, thought, or attitude that fails to conform to God’s moral law as seen in biblical commandments such as the Ten Commandments (Google AI).

Sin can be divided into two categories: Sins of OMISSION and COMMISSION

- ❖ **DEFN. of Sins of Omission:** failing to do what is right such as neglecting to help someone in need or neglecting to be faithful in our church attendance or neglecting to pray as we should.
- ❖ **DEFN. of Sins of Commission:** actively doing something wrong such as lying, stealing, or cheating.

(1.2). We all have a natural inclination toward sin:

Romans 3:10-18,23 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet

are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

(1.3). A Definition of Sin Described in Length in the New Testament and is applicable to our generation: The Fruit (Works) of the Flesh -- Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God

17 Fruit or Works of the Flesh

Works of the Flesh (Sins of the Flesh) Explained:

- ❖ **Some are sins against the seventh commandment:** (*Thou shalt not commit adultery*): (1) **adultery** (voluntary sexual relations between a married person and somebody other than his or her spouse), (2) **fornication** (sexual intercourse between a man and woman who are not married, or any form of sexual behavior considered to be immoral), (3) **uncleanness**, (morally or spiritually impure, obscene, or vile) (4) **lasciviousness** (LEWD, LUSTFUL) by which are meant not only the gross acts of these sins, but all such thoughts, and words, and actions, toward lascivious behavior.
- ❖ **Some are sins against the first and second commandments:** (*Thou shall have no other gods before Me, Thou shall make no idols*): (5) **idolatry** (the worship of idols or excessive admiration shown toward somebody or something) and (6) **witchcraft** (the act of using alleged magical powers or influence).
- ❖ **Others are sins against our neighbor:** (*Thou shall not bear false witness against thou neighbor, Thou shall not covet, ... JESUS – Love thy Neighbor as Thyself*)
(7) **hatred, and (8) variance**, (the fact or state of being in disagreement : DISSENSE, DISPUTE : an act contrary to the usual rule <a zoning variance>) (9) **emulations** (desire or ambition to equal or surpass a rival as one would in a contest), (10) **wrath** (strong anger, often with a desire for revenge), (11) **strife**, (bitter and sometimes violent conflict, struggle, or rivalry) which too often occasion (12) **seditions** (actions or words intended to provoke or incite rebellion against authority), (13) **heresies** (an opinion or belief that contradicts established religious teaching), (14) **envying** (the resentful or unhappy feeling of wanting somebody else's success, good fortune, qualities, or possessions), and
- ❖ **Some are direct disobedience to one of the 10 Commandments such as (15) murders**, not only of the names and reputation, but even of the very lives, of our fellow-creatures.
- ❖ **Others are sins against oneself that causes the lose of self-control and the breaking of God's Laws** such as (16) **drunkenness** (overcome by alcoholic liquor to the point of losing one's control over one's facilities) and (17) **reveling** (participating in uproarious parties or celebrations); and he concludes with fair warning to all to take care against these, if one hopes to see the face of God with comfort. *Of these and such like, says he, I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that those who do such things, how much soever they may flatter themselves with vain hopes, shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* These are sins which will undoubtedly shut men out of heaven.

II. What makes Sin so dangerous:

The Effects and Results of Sin are what makes it so dangerous!

- (1). God hates Sin... God loves the sinner... Yes, but God hates Sin and doesn't allow it to go unpunished!**
 - a) *Sin is either forgiven through repentance and the atonement of Christ's Blood through prayer*
 - b) *or God will deal with sin in the Final Judgement with the sentence of eternal damnation!*
- (2). The corrupting effects of Sin in our Modern Society... LET US LOOK AT SOME EXAMPLES:**
 - (2.1). The cost for the defense of our nation from evil foreign governments:** *the US defense budget for 2024 was \$883.7b (\$2,599 per person living in the US per 340 million US population) (Google AI)*
 - (2.2). Crime:** *over 14 million criminal offenses reported in 2024 reported by over 16,000 state, county, city, university & college, and tribal agencies (FBI Statistics)*
Note: a crime occurred every 25.9 seconds on average

(2.3). Alcohol/Drug Abuse: Alcohol Related Cost to Society \$249b in 2024 (Google AI)

Illegal Drug Cost to Society \$193b in 2024 (Google AI)

Prescription Drugs Abuse Cost to society \$78.5b in 2014 (Google AI)

Workers Lost Productivity Cost to Society over \$759b (Est.) (Google AI)

Total Estimated Cost in 2024 = over \$1.25 trillion (\$3,676 for every person in the US per year)

(2.4). Murder: 19,800 murders in the US in 2023 (over twice the population of Covington, TN)

Note: a murder occurred every 31.1 minutes on average (FBI Statistics)

Note 2: Globally: around 458,000 murders in 2021 (over twice the population of Little Rock, AR)

(2.5). Suicides: almost 49,000 suicides reported in 2024 (10th leading cause of deaths in the US)

(2.6). Abortions: 1,038,000 abortions in the US in 2024 (ref. Guttmacher Institute).

Note: The highest number in over a decade!

(2.7). Robberies: \$112b lost due to theft in 2022 (ref. National Retailers Federation) \$112b represents \$329 loss for each person living in the US (per 340 million US population).

A devastating sum to be paid for by increasing the price of merchandise for us all!

(2.8). Rapes: 140,000 reported to law enforcement in 2019 (FBI Statistics)

estimated 420,000 total when including nonreported rape cases

(2.9). Pornography: online and on TV - \$287b spent in 2023 (Transparency Market Research)

The website Pornhub was the 6th most popular website in the world in 2024 with 5.6 billion views

(2.10). Gambling: \$116b spent on gambling in US in 2024 (ref. Google AI)

Note: 116b represents \$341 for every person living in the US (per 340 million US population)

(2.11). Divorce: 672,502 divorces in US in 2023 (ref. National Center for Health Statistic)

(2.12). Today we see an all-out frontal attack upon the Children: the Perversion & Corruption of young Children's Minds and Futures!

(2.13). A Total Disregard/disrespect for Christians, our Clergy, and the entire Church in general!

The effects of Sin are the cause of today's partial collapse and the soon coming total collapse of our Modern Society:

THE LAWLESS ONE IS SOON TO COME! (Antichrist)

II Thessalonians 2:3-12 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.** Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

(3). Sin is dangerous because of the self-afflicted damage caused to ONESELF and the Collateral Damage caused toward OTHERS:

(3.1). The Damage to ONESELF are in two categories:

- *damage to ONESELF while on Earth: examples of broken lives can be found everywhere, in the homeless people of our cities, hospitals and prisons, in drug/alcohol rehabilitation centers, in broken bodies and health damage to the body by overindulgence abuse*
- *damage to ONESELF in Eternity: Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...*
Jesus warned in **Matthew 5:29-30** And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

(3.2). Damage to the Victims: Collateral Damage from the after-effects of the sins of others!

God is concerned about the innocent and the victims! God will punish and avenge the rights of the victims unless forgiveness is obtained from God by the perpetrator!

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, *Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

Matthew 18:6-7 *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!*

An Example is in our TEXT: Cain and Able

Genesis 4:8. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

- Able was a victim of Cain's hatred! What had Able done to Cain to cause this outcome? Nothing!
- Cain tried to hide the sin from God but God would not allow him the option of a coverup!
- God did not allow the issue to go undealt with. Cain had to answer for his crime, as all unforgiven sinners ultimately answer to God on his own personal Day of Judgement!

Victims of Sin Today:

- **Children...** *children from broken homes – children of divorce - children of alcoholism - children of drug addicts – children of murder victims – children of sex abuse – children growing up without fathers or mothers – orphaned children! GOD SEE THE INNOCENT CHILDREN!*
- **Parents...** *the tragic death of a child through DUI, the murder of sons and daughter by thugs in our cities, loved ones who die by the overdose of drug use, children in prison, etc.*
- **Victims of Crime...** *murder victims, stolen cars, identity thefts, home burglaries, rapes, etc.*
- **Spouses who are abused or cheated on...** *Although they were faithful, they still suffer with a broken home.*

Closing: God will NEVER allow sin to enter the perfect environment of heaven.

Allowing sin into heaven would be worst than allowing a mad dog to freely roam the streets of our cities. As seen from our sermon, sin would quickly corrode the perfect environment of heaven and spoil all that it touched! God will never allow heaven to become like our fallen earth!

Revelation 22:11-15 *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*