

Biblical Theology

U3L3: Sin Part 1

Definition of Sin

- Definition: Any failure in action, attitude or nature to conform to the God's holy, moral standard.

- 1. **Failure to conform to God's holy and moral standard in action.**
 - Exodus 20:13 - You shall not murder.
 - Exodus 20:14 - You shall not commit adultery.
 - Exodus 20:15 - You shall not steal.

- 2. **Failure to conform to God's holy and moral standard in attitude.**
 - Matthew 5:22 - everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment;
 - 1 John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer
 - Matthew 5:28 - who looks at a woman with lustful intent has committed adultery

- 3. **Failure to conform to God's holy and moral standard in nature.**
 - Ephesians 2:3 - were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
 - Psalm 51:5 - I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
 - 1 John 1:8 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Origin of Sin

1. **God did not create sin, rather, created an existence where sin is possible.**
 - Deuteronomy 32:4 - "A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He."
 - 1 John 1:5 - "God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all."
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin

2. **Angels sinned first, followed by mankind.**
 - 2 Peter 2:4 - God did not spare angels when they sinned
 - Genesis 3:1-6 - she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
 - 2 Corinthians 11:3 - the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning

Curse of Sin

1. **From paradise to pain.**
 - Satan
 - Genesis 3:13-14 - Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life."
 - Woman
 - Genesis 3:16a - To the woman he said, I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.
 - Man
 - Genesis 3:17-18 - And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread."
 - Creation
 - Genesis 3:18 – thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you

2. **From relationship to estrangement.**
 - Satan
 - Genesis 3:15 - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- Woman
 - *Genesis 3:16 - “Your desire shall be for your husband, he shall rule over you.”*
- Mankind and God
 - *Genesis 3:24 - He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*

3. From innocence to guilt.

- Legal indebtedness
 - *Genesis 3:7-10 - Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”*

4. From life to death.

- *Genesis 3:19 - By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*
 - Physical Death
 - *Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*
 - *Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
 - Spiritual Death
 - *Ephesians 2:1-5 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.*
 - Eternal Death
 - *Matthew 25:41 - Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*
 - *Revelation 20:13-15 - And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Discussion Questions

1. Describe in your own words where sin comes from.
2. What aspects of the curse of sin are most apparent to you as you live out your daily life in a sinful, fallen world?
3. Do you believe Christians today have a firm awareness of sin and the role it plays in our individual lives and in our culture? Explain.
4. Read Revelation 21 and identify many of the ways God removes the curse of sin.

Reading Assignment

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem –Chapter 24: Sin.