



**What could possibly go wrong? -
Discovering real answers to the most
fundamental questions**

Key Truth: Our sin separated us from that relationship.

Last week, we dealt with the first biblical concept with which we needed to wrestle: you and I were created for a relationship with God. We looked at two aspects: (1) you were created “in God’s image” and (2) you were created to enjoy “relationship with him.” Together, these two aspects describe your design and your purpose. Every aspect of your being must be interpreted through these two aspects.

It doesn’t take long, however, to recognize a disconnect between the biblical concept and our daily reality: people in general (and you and I in particular) don’t live according to our created design (to reflect God’s holiness, character, heart, mind, and purposes). By and large we have also exchanged our created purpose for purposes of our own (i.e., career, family, status, legacy, etc.). The cause for the disconnect is what the Bible calls “*sin*.” While this is not a popular word, it is nonetheless a fundamentally important concept we need to deal with.

Since our culture is one of tolerance and acceptance, sin has taken on a different meaning than what the Bible communicates. What sin is not: (1) Sin is not making a mistake. (2) Sin is not making poor choices.

Sin is “cosmic treason” - even the slightest sin that a creature commits against his Creator does violence to the Creator’s holiness, His glory, and His righteousness. Every act of sin is an “act of rebellion” - an act of rebellion against the sovereign God who reigns and rules over us and as such is an act of treason against the cosmic King.

The Bible calls sin a “debt,” “an expression of enmity,” and “a crime.”

Sin is breaking God’s law, and we’ve all done it. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Romans 6:23 tells us the punishment for breaking God’s law. “The wages of sin is death.” Wages are what we earn for what we’ve done. According to the Bible, we have all earned death.

When the Bible speaks of death, it speaks primarily of separation. When we die physically, our spirit is separated from our body. When we died spiritually because of sin, our spirit was separated from God’s Spirit. “But your iniquities [or sin] have made a separation between you and your God...” (Isaiah 59:2). Holiness and sin cannot coexist. One excludes the other. At the very core and through its varied expressions sin separates us from the relationship with God (and affects every other relationship).

Make it personal:

- * In what ways have you recognized the disconnect between your created design & purpose and your daily experience?
- * What is your reaction to the biblical definition of “sin?” Why do you feel/think this way?
- * Have you observed the “separating” nature of sin in your own life? In relationships around you?
- * Have you “sinned”? How would you describe your relationship with God in light of that?



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