

THE FACT OF SIN

The outline for the following study titled “The Fact Of Sin” is taken in its entirety from “Landmarks Of Baptist Doctrine”; Book III, pages 425-430, by Pastor Robert J. Sargent; Bible Baptist Publications; 1219 North Harns Road; Oak Harbor, Washington 98277. We have used their Bible Institute material for decades now and highly recommend it for training men for the ministry. It also makes for outstanding Sunday School material.

Understanding the Biblical is of the utmost importance because a correct understanding of sin is necessary to the right understanding of salvation. Current popular trends in evangelism do not preach God’s view of sin, but present it as “human weakness,” merely a “lack of fulfillment” or the like — turning the plan of salvation into a self-improvement program, or simply the attainment of a better life-style.

I. THE FACT OF SIN DENIED

There are a number of erroneous theories concerning sin:

A. **The Materialist Theory:** “All material substance is evil. The body is material, therefore necessarily and helplessly evil.” This view follows the Platonic line, and actually blames God for sin. It is important to understand that the Biblical use of the term “*the flesh*” in relation to sin (e.g. *Romans 7:18*) is referring to the old Adamic sin nature, not the literal substance of the human body.

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. *Romans 7:18*

B. **The Evolutionist Theory:** “Sin is the natural outgrowth of man’s progress, the backward pull of outworn good.” Sin is ‘good in the making.’

C. **The Flippant Theory:** This theory holds that sin is a joke, a matter so trivial as to be humorous.

D. **The Disease Theory:** “Sin is a weakness in man, an incurable sickness of the blood for which man is not held accountable.”

E. **The Christian Science Theory:** “Sin is the absence of good. Sin is a figment of man’s imagination, his failure to exercise the power of mind over matter.”

F. **The Accident Theory:** “Sin is accidental, and therefore carries no guilt.”

G. **The Demonic Theory:** Present day so-called ‘deliverance ministries’ see (for example) lust as a result of the “demon of lust” which must be cast out. Each one of these theories has a common denominator — they seek to remove any blame or guilt from the sinner. This very same thing was evident in the Garden of Eden — Adam blamed the “*woman whom thou [GOD] gavest (Genesis 3:12)*” the woman blamed the serpent (*Genesis 3:13.*)

¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did

THE FACT OF SIN

eat.¹³ And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. *Genesis 3:12–13*

Modern psychiatry also looks for a reason apart from sin. Parents, society, or the environment are often blamed, and the criminal exonerated.

II. THE FACT OF SIN DEMONSTRATED

A. Declared By The Bible: *Romans 3:10,23; Romans 5:12, etc.*

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: *Romans 3:10*

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *Romans 3:23*

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: *Romans 5:12*

The fact of sin is one of the great themes of the Word of God.

The Word of God declares sin to be:

1. Lying At The Door: *Genesis 4:7*

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. *Genesis 4:7*

2. Grievous: *Genesis 18:20*

²⁰ And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; *Genesis 18:20*

3. Impossible To Hide: *Numbers 32:23; Proverbs 28:13a; Ezekiel 21:24*

²³ But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out. *Numbers 32:23*

¹³ He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy. *Proverbs 28:13*

²⁴ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are discovered, so that in all your doings your sins do appear; because, *I say*, that ye are come to remembrance, ye shall be taken with the hand. *Ezekiel 21:24*

4. The Cause Of Turmoil: *Psalms 38:3*

³ *There is* no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; Neither *is there any* rest in my bones because of my sin. *Psalms 38:3*

THE FACT OF SIN

5. A Binding Cord: Proverbs 5:22

²² His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, And he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. *Proverbs 5:22*

6. The Cause Of Destruction: Proverbs 13:6.

⁶ Righteousness keepeth *him that is* upright in the way: But wickedness overthroweth the sinner. *Proverbs 13:6*

7. The Great Corrupter: Isaiah 1:5- 6.

⁵ Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. ⁶ From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is* no soundness in it; *But* wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: They have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. *Isaiah 1:5-6*

8. The Cause Of Woe: Isaiah 30:1

¹ Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, That take counsel, but not of me; And that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, That they may add sin to sin: *Isaiah 30:1*

9. The Cause Of Spiritual Death: Isaiah 59:2

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, And your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear. *Isaiah 59:2*

10. The Remover Of Blessings: Jeremiah 5:25

²⁵ Your iniquities have turned away these *things*, and your sins have withholden good *things* from you. *Jeremiah 5:25*

11. Graven Upon The Heart: Jeremiah 17:1

¹ The sin of Judah *is* written with a pen of iron, *and* with the point of a diamond: *it is* graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars; *Jeremiah 17:1*

12. The Cause Of Sickness And Desolation: Micah 6:13

¹³ Therefore also will I make *thee* sick in smiting thee, In making *thee* desolate because of thy sins. *Micah 6:13*

B. Proclaimed By Creation: Compare *Romans 8:21-22. To Genesis 3:17.*

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. *Romans 8:21-22*

THE FACT OF SIN

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; *Genesis 3:17*

With the rose is the thorn.

C. Confessed By Men: When men have seen their true condition before a thrice holy God, they have said, “I am...

1. Not Worthy: *Genesis 32:10*

¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. *Genesis 32:10*

2. Vile: *Job 40:4*

⁴ Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. *Job 40:4*

3. Poor And Needy: *Psalms 40:17*

¹⁷ But I *am* poor and needy; *yet* the Lord thinketh upon me: Thou *art* my help and my deliverer; Make no tarrying, O my God. *Psalms 40:17*

4. Undone: *Isaiah 6:5*

⁵ Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. *Isaiah 6:5*

5. A Sinful Man: *Luke 5:8*

⁸ When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. *Luke 5:8*

6. No More Worthy: *Luke 15:19*

¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. *Luke 15:19*

7. Carnal: *Romans 7:14*

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. *Romans 7:14*

8. Chief Of Sinners: *1 Timothy 1:15*

¹⁵ This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. *1 Timothy 1:15*

D. Proven By Experience: There is a universal confession by men: “I have sinned!” —

THE FACT OF SIN

Job 33:27-28.

Job 33:27-28

27 He looketh upon men, and *if any* say, I have sinned, and perverted *that which was* right, and it profited me not; 28 He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

For example, this statement has been made:

1. By Pharaoh: *Exodus 9:27; Exodus 10:16*

²⁷ And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD *is* righteous, and I and my people *are* wicked. *Exodus 9:27*

¹⁶ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. *Exodus 10:16*

2. By Balaam: *Numbers 22:34*

³⁴ And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. *Numbers 22:34*

3. By Achan: *Joshua 7:20*

²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: *Joshua 7:20*

4. By David: *II Samuel 19:20*

²⁰ For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king. *2 Samuel 19:20*

5. By Nehemiah: *Nehemiah 1:6*

⁶ Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. *Nehemiah 1:6*

6. By Job: *Job 7:20*

²⁰ I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? Why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, So that I am a burden to myself? *Job 7:20*

7. By Micah: *Micah 7:9*

⁹ I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, Until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: He will bring me forth to the light, *and* I shall behold his righteousness. *Micah 7:9*

THE FACT OF SIN

8. By Judas: Matthew 27:4

⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*. *Matthew 27:4*

9. By The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:21

²¹ And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. *Luke 15:21*

E. Acknowledged By Christians: I John 1:8-10; Romans 7:15-25.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. *I John 1:8–10*

¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. ¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. *Romans 7:15–25*

F. Defined By The Law: Romans 3:19,20.

¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. *Romans 3:19–20*

The “Law” is like a speed limit sign. A driver may be traveling down a highway at a rapid rate and know he is speeding—but when he sees a speed limit sign, he knows by just how much he is speeding. See: *Romans 5:13, 20.*

¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. *Romans 5:13*

²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: *Romans 5:20*

III. THE FACT OF SIN DELINEATED

Sin is universal.

THE FACT OF SIN

A. **All Men In All Ages Are Sinners:** *Genesis 6:12; Psalm 14:3; 53:2, 3; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10, 23.*

¹² And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. *Genesis 6:12*

³ They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *There is* none that doeth good, no, not one. *Psalm 14:3*

² God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there were *any* that did understand, that did seek God. ³ Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; *There is* none that doeth good, no, not one. *Psalm 53:2–3*

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. *Isaiah 53:6*

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: *Romans 3:10*

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *Romans 3:23*

B. **There Are No Exceptions:** *1 Kings 8:46; Isaiah 64:6; James 3:2; 1 John 1:8-10.*

⁴⁶ If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near; *1 Kings 8:46*

⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; And we all do fade as a leaf; And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. *Isaiah 64:6*

² For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body. *James 3:2*

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. *1 John 1:8–10*

C. **There Are No Age Limits.**

1. **Children:** *Psalm 51:5; Psalm 58:3*

⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me. *Psalm 51:5*

³ The wicked are estranged from the womb: They go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. *Psalm 58:3*

2. **The Aged:** *1 Samuel 2:22-30*

²² Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the

THE FACT OF SIN

women that assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ²³ And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. ²⁴ Nay, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to transgress. ²⁵ If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them. ²⁶ And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men. ²⁷ And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? ²⁸ And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel *to be* my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? ²⁹ Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my* habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? ³⁰ Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. *1 Samuel 2:22–30*

DOCTRINAL VERSE MEMORIZATION: #17 *Romans 3:23*

Romans 3:23

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;