

# SIN

## What do each of these verses say about sin?

### 1. I John 3:4

**Sin is action, word or thought contrary to the character of God** (1 John 5:17, James 4:17). In simplest terms, it is disobedience to God. It is any wrong doing. It is any word, action or thought that is wrong. In both Testaments it carries the idea of missing the mark (and hitting a wrong mark). It is used of an archer who misses the target, and by default hits a wrong area. The idea is not just to passively miss the right target but to willfully hit the wrong area. Sin is not just not doing the right thing; it is doing the wrong thing.

### 2. Romans 3:23

**Sin affects all humanity.** All human beings are sinners. (Romans 3:10-12, Proverbs 20:9, I Kings 8:46, Ecclesiastes 7:20, Psalm 143:2) With respect to doing what God considers wrong, every must say, "I am guilty." *We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe; yet, at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.* Keller, Timothy (2011-11-01). *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God* (Kindle Locations 574-576). Penguin Group US. Kindle Edition.

### 3. Romans 5:12

**Sin first entered humanity through Adam.** When Adam disobeyed God in the garden of Eden, his very nature became corrupt. His nature became sinful. Because all humans trace their origin to Adam, they are all corrupt in their nature as well. He passed his sin nature on to all humanity. The transference of sin from Adam to every human being is called imputed sin.

### 4. Psalm 51:5

**Sin is also transmitted to each person at conception.** (Job 14:4, 15:14, Psalm 58:3, Ephesians 2:3) This transference of sin is called inherited sin. So, both imputed sin and inherited sin result in man having a sin nature. We cannot not sin. It's our very nature to sin. Humans are born sinners. We don't become sinners due to our surroundings. Imputed sin is cancelled by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:22) Inherited sin is overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:16) Personal sins are forgiven upon confession. (1 John 1:9)

### 5. Romans 6:23

**Sin is deadly.** It fatally sickens all humans. All are incredibly spiritually sick. Humanity is not just a little bad, but totally depraved. (Jeremiah 17:9, Mark 7:21,22, Isaiah 1:4-6, Romans 3:10-18) The human heart is desperately sick. In medical terms the human spiritual condition is "terminal." *"The nature to sin blinds the intellect* (2

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*Corinthians 4:4), sickens the mind (Romans 1:28), darkens understanding (Ephesians 4:18), degrades emotions (Romans 1:21, 24,26, Titus 1:15) and enslaves the will (Romans 6:20, 7:20).<sup>1</sup> “Total depravity must always be measured against God’s holiness. Relative goodness exists in some people. They can do good works, that are appreciated by others; but nothing that anyone can do will gain salvational merit or favor in the sight of a holy God.”<sup>2</sup>*

### 6. John 8:34

**Sin enslaves.** Not only does sin terminally inhabit every human soul, it also exercises power over those very souls. (Romans 3:9, 6:16, 2 Peter 2:19) The more one commits a specific sin, the more enslaved to that sin he/she becomes. A sin when first committed seems weak and unable to bind. But, like a single thread that is repeatedly wound around two fingers binding them together, sin binds (enslaves). The ultimate expression of the power of sin is death (Romans 6:23, 5:21).

### 7. Sin can and should be overcome.

#### a. 2 Corinthians 5:21

**Sin is overcome by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ** (Romans 3:25, 4:25, 8:3, Galatians 3:13, 1 Peter 2: 24, Isaiah 53:11, 1 Corinthians 15:3, Hebrews 9:28). The penalty, power and, eventually, the very presence of sin is removed by the substitutionary, atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Adam’s sin was imputed to us in the Garden. Christ’s righteousness was imputed to us at the cross.

#### b. Galatians 5:16

**Sin is overcome by walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.** The power of sin is weakened and overcome by allowing the Holy Spirit to occupy one’s mind and guide one’s actions (Ephesians 5:18, Romans 8: 6)

#### c. I John 1:9

**Sin is overcome by confession.** Admitting wrong doing to God is the practice of healthy Christians. (Psalm 32:5) Confession is agreeing with God on a specific wrongful matter. Failing to admit wrong doing brings about spiritual separation and physical and relational poverty. (Psalm 32:3, Proverbs 28:13)

#### d. Psalm 119:11

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, Moody Press, Chicago.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, page 253

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**Sin is overcome through interaction with Scripture.** (Psalm 37:31, 40:8)  
Memorizing, dwelling upon, reading and applying Scripture are key elements in living the victorious Christian life.

**What was the most important verse you read in this study? Explain.**