

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Ok, let's start with the basics?

- Who here has a

Before we talk about the problem of sin, we need to talk about Identity

- Sin attacks our identity and distracts us from being who GOD created us to be...

So... WHO ARE WE?

- Identity is everything
 - o If we know WHO WE TRULY ARE then...
 - We know WHO God created us to be
 - We know WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR (What our Purpose in life is..)
 - o If we have a WRONG IDEA - Then we will never understand WHO God created us to be
 - We struggle with WHO we are (who we were created to be)
 - We struggle with WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR (our purposes in life)
- IDENTITY
 - o Are we self- described?
- GOD IS THE ONE WHO GIVES US IDENTITY
 - o He is the one who designed us (Knows who we really are)
 - o He is the one who has a plan for us (Knows what our purpose is...)

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE WE ARE...

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

2Co 5:21 (NIV) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become **the righteousness of God.**

- Jesus BECAME sin for us = We have BECOME the Righteousness of God

SAINTS (set apart for God)

Eph 2:19 (NKJV) Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with the saints** and members of the household of God,

THE RUB....

IDENTITY VS. BEHAVIORS

OUR IDENTITY: ARE WE SAINTS OR ARE WE SINNERS?

- In the past, I would have said that we are BOTH Saints and Sinners
 - o But I have been discovering an important differentiation in Scripture
 - WE HAVE AN IDENTITY = Who we are
 - WE HAVE BEHAVIORS = What we do
 - OUR IDENTITY – is who God says we are
 - OUR BEHAVIORS – is what we act like
 - o There is a disparity at times between our identity and our behaviors
- The Bible declares that ALL WHO HAVE BEEN
 - o CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST (died to self)
 - o ABIDE IN HIM (Follow Him as Lord) ARE SAINTS!

BUT...OUR BEHAVIORS: Yes, We deal with the problem of sin

- Paul describes it very well
- 1Ti 1:15-16 (NIV) Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. [16] But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.
 - WE SIN AT TIMES!
 - And very badly (“worst of sinners”)
 - THE PURPOSE FOR THIS =
 - So that God can give us mercy
 - Jesus can display His patience with us
 - To provide an example for those who have not yet believed
- “SINNER” is not our identity – it describes our behavior
 - Sinning is what we often/sometimes do
 - It does not describe God’s plan
 - It is not His DESTINY for our lives

HOW IT WORKS...

Rom 6:4-8 (NIV) We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [5] For **if we have been united with him in a death** like his, we will certainly also **be united with him in a resurrection** like his. [6] For we know that **our old self was crucified** with him so that **the body ruled by sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— [7] because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. [8] Now **if we died with Christ**, we believe that **we will also live with him**.

- TO FOLLOW JESUS WE MUST DIE TO SELF
- WE MUST FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS
 - Luk 9:23-24 (NIV) Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. [24] For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.
 - BEING A FOLLOWER OF JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO BE FREE OF SIN
 - WE MUST
 - DENY YOURSELF (Die to self – Jesus is Lord)
 - PICK UP YOUR CROSS – CARRY the call/ direction of God
 - FOLLOW JESUS – (not the Bible, not Christianity but THE PERSON of Jesus
 - Jhn 10:27 (NIV) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
 - Follower of Jesus = Knowing and following Jesus (the Person – friendship with Jesus)
VS...
 - “Cultural Christian” – Knowing and following Christianity (knowledge of Bible, doctrine)
- RESULTS
 - IF WE HAVE DIED TO SELF = WE LIVE TO JESUS
 - United with Him in death = United with Him in resurrection
 - **THE BODY THAT IS RULED BY SIN IS “BEING DONE AWAY WITH”**
- IF WE HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED = WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES TO SIN
- BECAUSE WE ARE DEAD TO SELF = WE ARE SET FREE FROM DOMINATION OF SIN
- BECAUSE WE DIED WITH CHRIST = WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM

THE LAW DOES NOT APPLY TO THOSE WHO ARE DEAD

Rom 7:1-25 (NIV) Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives?

- The law applies ONLY to those who are ALIVE under the law
- The law does not apply to those who are DEAD
 - they are no longer UNDER IT'S AUTHORITY/Curse etc..

[4] So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

- Those who have **died to self** and live under the authority of Jesus
 - They are **dead to the authority** of the law
- Purpose: SO WE CAN BEAR FRUIT FOR GOD

[5] For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death.

- There are two REALMS – the realm of the flesh and the realm of the Spirit
 - The realm of the flesh is governed by the law – all things are done by the flesh
 - The realm of the Spirit is governed by the Spirit of God – All things are done by the Spirit
- In each REALM there are PASSIONS
 - Passions in the realm of the flesh are carnal passions – condemned by the law
 - Passions in the realm of the Spirit are Spiritual passions – Not under the law
 - Gal 5:18-23 (NIV) But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the law.** [19] The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; [20] idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [21] and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. [22] **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**
 - **WHEN WE ARE GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT – IT GIVES US DIFFERENT PASSIONS!**

[6] But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

- We are dead to the REALM of the law
 - We are released from the power of the law (curse of the law)
 - We no longer serve God by trying to obey the written Code
- We are alive to the REALM of the Spirit
 - We now serve in THE NEW WAY of the Spirit
 - We operate under the PASSIONS OF THE SPIRIT
 - We can live lives NOT bound by sin
 - We can live

[7] What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

- IS THE LAW WORTHLESS
 - No! Without the Law we would not know WHAT IS RIGHT and WHAT IS WRONG
- THE LAW SHOWS US WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG
 - Right and wrong are DEFINED by the law

[8] But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.

- THIS IS HOW IT WORKS
 - The Law (commandment) told me NOT to do something
 - Because it told me NO, You can't do that = I wanted to do it!
 - **THE LAW IS SIN FOCUSED**
 - It **INFORMS YOU** about the things that you cannot do
 - It **KEEPS YOUR EYES FOCUSED** on what you cannot do.
 - If there was no law then we probably would not want to do it (at least right away)
 - Because it would not be "forbidden fruit"
 - "Sin seized an opportunity to mess with me because of the law"
 - **WHEN THE LAW IS ALIVE – SIN IS ALIVE**

[9] Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. [10] I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. [11] For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.

- Before the Law - we were alive and unaware of separation from God (= death)
- When the the LAW came = Sin came – and we became separated from God
 - Separation from Life (God) = Death
- SOOO...
 - The commandments designed to bring me closer to God actually separated me from God (because of sin)
- Sin separated me from God because
 - When I sin – I am being deceived into believing that sinning will bring me life
 - But the end result of sin = spiritual death

[12] So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. [13] Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

- THE LAW and COMMANDMENTS are holy, righteous and good!
 - So why did they produce death in me?
- THE LAW and COMMANDMENTS show us what SIN is...
 - The law showed me that **IN MY OWN STRENGTH – I AM UTTERLY SINFUL**
 - It made me realize **HOW I NEED GOD!**

[14] We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

- **THE LAW SHOWED ME WHAT WAS HOLY**
- **BECAUSE OF THE LAW I FOUND OUT**
 - **...I AM NOT HOLY ON MY OWN!**
 - ... that I am a slave to sin..
 - ...How unspiritual I actually am

THE STRUGGLE – THE PROBLEM OF SIN...

[15] I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

- I cannot explain myself
 - What I want to do – I **DON'T** do it (for some reason)
 - What I **HATE** to do – That is what I do (for some reason)

[16] And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

- So the LAW is not Bad... THE LAW IS GOOD!
 - I AM THE ONE THAT IS BAD – Because I am the one that is sinning!

[17] As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

- The realm of Sin is messing with my plan!
 - SIN is living in me
 - SIN (living in me) is what is doing what I don't want to do!

[18] For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. [19] For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

- I have the desire to be holy, but I find that I cannot always carry it out
- If ONLY GOOD were dwelling in me, I would not sin like this
 - It is the sinful nature in me that keeps leading me into sin
 - It makes me unable to carry out the good that I want to do
- INSTEAD of doing good - like I want, I FIND that I keep on sinning – like a don't want!

[20] Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

- IT'S NOT ME THAT WANTS TO SIN
 - So it must be THE REALM OF SIN LIVING INSIDE OF ME!

[21] So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. [22] For in my inner being I delight in God's law; [23] but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

- It is a problem – I desire GOOD but I find EVIL is right there with me
- MY INNER MAN – Delights in God's Law
- MY CARNAL MAN = is another law at work
 - It wages war against my MIND
 - It makes me a prisoner of the law of sin

[24] What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? [25] Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

- FRUSTRATION IS THE RESULT
 - My GOD-GIVEN INTENTIONS are being FRUSTRATED BY "THE BODY OF DEATH"
- THANK GOD
 - HE DELIVERS ME (by HIS LORDSHIP)
 - THE BATTLEFIELD IS THE MIND – I deal with TWO ALLEGIENCES...
 - BEING A SLAVE TO GOD'S LAW = Freedom
 - BEING A SLAVE TO THE LAW OF SIN = Bondage

OUR SALVATION! (read this in context for the first time!)

Rom 8:1-11 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [2] because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

- FREEDOM from the Law of Sin and death
 - Comes by Lordship of Jesus

[3] For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, [4] in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- CANNOT BATTLE WITH THE LAW USING THE FLESH
 - WE MUST LIVE ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT
 - We must LIVE IN THE REALM of the Spirit
 - We must DIE TO SELF = NOT LIVE ACCORDING TO SELF DESIRE/ SELF-DIRECTION
 - We must live in RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS!

[5] Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

- WE MUST SET OUR MINDS ON WHAT THE SPIRIT DESIRES
 - = LIFE AND PEACE
- The mind governed by the flesh = DEATH (separation from God)

[7] The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

- WE CANNOT PLEASE GOD OR EXPERIENCE VICTORY IF WE ARE NOT SUBMITTED TO THE SPIRIT

[9] You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. [10] But if Christ is in you, then **even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life** because of righteousness.

- YOU ARE DOING IT!!
- SEEK THE SPIRIT OF GOD – ALLOW HIM TO LEAD YOU
- EVEN IF YOU EXPERIENCE DEATH DUE TO OCCASIONAL SIN
 - THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

[11] And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

- EVEN YOUR BODY WILL BE GIVEN POWERFUL LIFE
- Because the SPIRIT OF GOD LIVES IN YOU

WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE WITHOUT SIN (There is no sin, Sin was done away with.. etc)

1Jn 1:8-10 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

- UBER GRACE HERESY
 - “I don’t sin any longer because I am a Christian”
 - I am under grace, not law
 - “God loves me and accepts me JUST as I am - no matter what I do
 - “Sin was done away with at the cross”

- TRUTH
 - o We all sin at times
 - o If we confess (I did it) our sins...
 - God will forgive our sins
 - God will purifies us from all unrighteousness
- UBER GRACE – Spiritual condition
 - o We make Jesus out to be a liar
 - Rom 3:23 (NIV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - o Truth is not in us
 - We are not connected with the source of Truth

WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO KEEP ON SINNING?

1Jn 3:5-6 (NIV) But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. [6] No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

- NO ONE WHO LIVES IN HIM KEEPS ON SINNING
 - o IN HIM – there is no sin
- IF YOU KEEP ON SINNING ON PURPOSE it means..
 - o You are not living in relationship with Him
 - o You don't know Him
- WHY... because if you were in relationship with Him
 - o you would be aware of your sin
 - o you would be getting free of your sin

1Jn 3:9 (NIV) No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

- BORN AGAIN – Under the Lordship of Jesus
 - o Makes it impossible to keep on sinning
 - o Those who are BORN OF GOD do not go against His nature but are transformed

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT OTHER BELIEVER THAT STRUGGLE WITH SIN?

1Jn 5:16-18 (NIV) If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. [17] All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. [18] We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.

- PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE STUGGLING WITH SIN
 - o God will give them LIFE!
 - You are not the Holy Spirit
 - Stand with them against the tyranny of sin
- SOME ARE STRUGGLING WITH LIFE-BESETTING SINS
 - o Don't pray about that!!
 - o Instead, you must encourage them toward holiness!
- THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SIN...
 - o ALL WRONGDOING IS SIN
 - We all sin at times
 - o SOME SIN IS LIFE-BESETTING

- IT LEADS TO DEADLY PATTERNS OF LIVING
- SOME SIN IS NOT LIFE-BESETTING
 - IT DISTRACTS US – FROM FOLLOWING JESUS
 - GOD KEEPS US SAFE – IF WE ARE FOLLOWING HIM

LIVING LIKE JESUS...

1Jn 2:1-6 (NIV) My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. [2] He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. [3] We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. [4] Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. [5] But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: [6] Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.