

Introduction:

- Jesus is Lord - our priorities become His. Brokenness, Surrender, Submission. The Alabaster must be broken for the oil to be poured out. Ie. Broken horse is rideable.
- I learned in church history that there always seems to be a pendulum of truth swinging. When God puts pressure on the church to move a certain direction it starts moving. The problem is that it reaches a point and you have to put pressure on it to move back towards middle ground. The holiness movement of the early 1900 hundreds moved the church to focus on sin. This moved the pendulum into the realm of grace and now it has swung so far to the other side that we are out of balance with the truth. We have so much grace revelation that we no longer 'sin.' Sin has been lost in the deep reservoir of grace.
- There are two types of people who respond to today's topic. 1. Those who say, I don't remember the last time I heard a sermon on sin. 2. I am offended that you would talk about sin because it is so divisive, negative and harmful.
- IE. "In 1973, the world-renowned psychiatrist Karl Menninger wrote a book entitled: **Whatever Became of Sin?** In his book the doctor projected the day would come when sin would no longer be an element of the human vernacular. He speculated that the explanation of sin and wrongdoing would be replaced by rationalizations excusing individual accountability." Keep Believing, internet.
- Here is my point today. When we don't see the gravity of sin, we won't be reliant upon God for the grace of sanctification and transformation, and holiness won't be an our aim in life.
- *""So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?"* (Luke 6:46, NLT) Read 46-49

I. Feelings About Sin

A. Let's ask ourselves: How Does God Feel About Sin?

1. *"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you;"* (Matthew 5:29, NKJV)
2. *"And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."* (Matthew 5:30, NKJV) Note the correlation between sin and hell.
3. *""Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."* (Matthew 18:6, NKJV)
4. So we are all assured to be tagged by the following passages: *"So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."* (John 8:7, NKJV) *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Ro 3:23*
5. *"Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?"* (Romans 6:1-2, NLT)
6. *"These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."* (James 1:15, NLT)
7. *"When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God."* (Galatians 5:19-21, NLT)

8. Sin has never made God happy. Sin has always grieved Gods heart because He paid a tremendous price for us to be freed from sin and made right with God. So to choose to keep on sinning is a slap in the face to the One who gave it all for us.

B. How People Feel About Sin

1. "I can do whatever I want because of God's grace."
2. "God forgives, you know!"
3. "All the regulations are so controlling and such a burden. I want to live my life."
4. "This is so negative, I need something more up-lifting."
5. Observations:
 - a) Many were wounded in their relationship to God by the legalism they experienced. It was all about "if you are good, God will be happy." When they heard the good news of God's unconditional love, they were healed in very deep ways. IE. My story.
 - b) Widespread apathy toward sin reveals itself in the lack of interest in holiness. In other words holiness is not important!
 - c) Little by little we have become accustomed to, and stopped finding fault with, sin – our own and the sin of others. We as a society do what we want, find ways to justify our sin, and ignore the consequences.
 - d) Saying that each of us sins isn't harmful; it is true (Ro 3:23)—it tells the true story of who we are and what the Gospel is designed to accomplish. So we see how God feels about sin and looked at the prevailing view of sin in our culture today.

II. What Is Sin?

A. "We may define sin as follows:

1. "Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature. Therefore sin is here defined in relation to God and his moral law." Excerpt From: Wayne Grudem. "Systematic Theology." Apple Books. Sin includes not only individual acts but also attitudes. Acts-what you do, your actions. Attitude—what's in your heart. Sermon on Mount: adultery/lust; murder/anger; you have heard...but I say.
2. "Sin has a willful, defiant, or disloyal quality; someone is defiled or offended or hurt. The willful disregard or sacrifice of the welfare of others for the welfare or satisfaction of the self is an essential quality of the concept of sin." Karl Menninger
3. One man defined sin as: "the ache and action to be God when we are not God." "I choose to do what I want instead of what God wants." Sin, at its core, usurps God's place in this world and puts us there instead. IE. Don't touch! Wet paint!
4. A common definitions from the Hebrew language is: *hattat*: *The basic meaning of the root is to miss a mark or a way.* Livingston, G. H. (1999). [638 נחן](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 277). Chicago: Moody Press. *To miss the mark.* IE. This is where you are supposed to be, but this is where you are. IE bow and arrow. Paratroopers in WWII
5. Sin is at the heart level a refusal to love others. ****

B. What is making sin disappear in our culture?

1. The Root of the Problem: Why have we turned away from the concept of sin in America? There's only one answer to that question.
 - a) We have turned from the concept of sin because we have turned away from the concept of God's moral law.

- b) In order to talk about sin, you have to have two things.
- (1) One, you have to have an objective standard against which all human behavior can be measured, that is, you have to have an absolute standard of right and wrong.
 - (2) Two, you've got to have a person against whom a sin can be committed. Take away God's law and you lose both things. You no longer have the absolute standard and you no longer have the person against whom the sin is committed.
 - (3) Take away God's law and you have no reason to maintain the concept of sin. That is why American society is declining today. We have turned away from the concept of sin because we have turned away from the concept of God's law, which is the only thing which reveals our true spiritual and moral condition.
 - (4) When you turn away from the concept of sin, you give it new definition: I didn't sin, I messed up. I didn't sin, I made a mistake. I did not sin I did something wrong. "My bad."
2. We turned sin into a crime. Crime - Whenever you take sin and turn it into crime, what you've done is taken God out of the picture because sin is committed between a person and God. Crime is wrong conduct between two human beings. So if you call it crime, you've really taken God out of the picture and given 'the sin' a new name and defined it downward.
 3. We turned sin into a symptom - If you take sin and turn it into symptoms, you've gone even lower because there you're talking about things like outward indications (that point to sin), you're talking about heredity, you're talking about environment, you're talking about early life choices and factors that infringe upon the outside.
- C. What does this mean? Since the language and definitions have changed, so have the accepted remedies. Jesus is no longer the answer. Once we move away from a biblical definition of the problem, we began to see the answer as being beyond the scope of Christ and the Scriptures. As we define the problems of man in terms of crime or symptoms, we no longer have 'sin' we psychological issues, medical issues, hereditary issues, cultural issues. The solution is not in Christ but else where. We don't want to have a false concept of sin.
1. And Jesus said to them, *"Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees"* (Matt 16:6).
 2. Paul also used leaven as a metaphor to illustrate how a false idea and incorrect teaching can quickly spread and influence the believer and the Church. Paul wrote: *"You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you." A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough. I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view...* (Gal 5:7-10a).
 3. Paul is asking the Church at Galatia where their false ideas were coming from. Why were they returning to a *"yoke of slavery"* (Gal 5:1) when they had been set free? He indicates the church was "running well" until they were "hindered" (distracted) from "obeying the truth." And Paul notes that this influence did not come from *"Him who calls you."*
 4. By changing our language, focus, definitions, and solutions, the Church is quickly returning to bondage. Slavery is advanced by the avoidance of the truth that makes one free. Jesus said: *If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free* (Jn 8:31-32).

III. Jesus Is Lord Over Sin

- A. Jesus gives us two commands: *"Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."* (Matthew 22:37-40, NLT)
1. This is the heart of the Kingdom of God...Love. Love God and love each other.
 2. Therefore anything that is not of love or goes against loving God and loving others... is sin. It is not a mistake. It is not, I messed up. It is sin! Because you have violated or rebelled against the King and His Kingdom.
 3. All the law and prophets are based on these two commands.
- B. As a Christian you are subject to the King. You have no rights Everything the King says, we do! We do not have an option or an opinion. We don't get to select which command we will do today. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lord.
1. IE. Narnia - old TV version of the beaver. Lucy asks, "Is he dangerous?" "Dangerous! Of course He is dangerous! But He is GOOD!"
 2. Sin takes life from us. And the very thing we refuse to surrender is the very thing that is robbing us of life. I have always 'faired better' after I have surrendered.
 3. When we understand that we are sinning and not making a mistake, or messing up, the weight of sin will lead us to a place of brokenness/repentance! It will lead us to grace. A changed life. Sin is a weighty matter that put us under the burden of its responsibility!
 4. And if Jesus is Lord we must surrender our will to His. Trade Him our sin for His life!
- C. The Bible tells us not only that God is gracious and loving, but it reveals an unforgettable statement in Leviticus: *"Be holy because I am holy."* (Lev 11:45) Let us not forget we are summoned by God to make our pursuit in life a pursuit that is simultaneously after love and after holiness. Be set apart for I am set apart!"

Conclusion:

- About 10 years ago I was at my Chiropractor getting a back adjustment. He does not require the removal of your shirt. But this session he was going to do something different and I needed to remove my shirt. As he worked on my back, he suddenly stopped and I could tell he was looking at something. Then he said, "You have a curious looking spot on your back that you should have your dermatologist look at." I told him to circle it with a permeanant marker and I would follow his advice. I found out a few days later that I had a melanoma on my back. It was a stage one caught very early. Thank you Jesus!
- When God brings something to our attention it is for our own good. Had I neglected my chiropractors advice, I most likely would not be here today. Why would want to neglect God's advice in dealing with a cancer in the soul?
- He does not reveal it to keep from having fun. He reveals it so it can be eliminated from my life, thus giving me life.
- What sin has God been bringing to your attention. I am not cancer focused just as I am not sin focused but I do get a check up each year to make sure I am clean.
- Following God is a call to action.
- Lord is not a name. It is a declaration or relationship.