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# THE BRIDGE

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What is Sin



# What is Sin?

The meaning of sin is “an immoral act considered to be a transgression (acting against) of God’s law”. It is to “miss the mark” of God’s perfect target/standards. We were designed to respond to God, in line with His perfect attributes so working against this, separates us, with our deep imperfection, from being in His perfect presence to have a close relationship with Him.

Adam & Eve’s disobedience (eating the fruit of the tree that God told them not to) caused sin to come into the world. The tree represented Adam & Eve’s free choice to:

- not eat the fruit and remain in a relationship with God or
- eat and sever their relationship with God.

Satan, the once Shining Angel of God (who tried to take over God’s heavenly throne and was thrown out of heaven), in the guise of a serpent, (to thwart God’s “very good creation”), tempted Eve who ate and then gave to her husband, Adam, who was with her. The serpent tempted them by saying that the only reason God did not want them to eat from the tree was because He (God) knew they would become as “wise as Him”. Adam & Eve took the bait and decided they wanted to become gods themselves; to stop depending on God for their wants and needs - to depend only on themselves.

The perfect innocence Adam & Eve had in the Garden was corrupted and this one act of disobedience terminated the close relational contract between God and Man, bringing sin into the world, which impacted

all human beings. As descendants of Adam & Eve, the punishment for their offence, curse of hardship, pain and sorrow came to all creation; that is the earth, all life forms and all mankind. The curse has been passed down to all succeeding generations, we inherited a sin nature. We are all a part of Adam & Eve's team, so their "foul" means that as team members we all pay the penalty.

## The Bible's definition of sin

**Transgression** is defined here as acting against His Law.

when we **do things** that **God tells us not to do.**

**Iniquity** is defined as having or showing a wish to do evil to others.

when we **do not do things** that **He instructs us to do.**

Hundreds of sins are noted in the Bible and even more not detailed, but all are summarised in the Ten (10) Commandments. The first five commandments talk about the law pertaining to God ("love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind") and the rest talk about the law pertaining to how we treat each other ("*love your neighbour as yourself*").

Sin is not a created thing. Sin is a distortion/corruption of the original course or state, an intrusion based on the choices made under our free will. Sin is a condition present when the fundamental necessity - God - is missing. Light exists, and can be proven, measured and artificially created. Dark only happens when there is no light. Sin only happens when God is out of the equation.

## Types of Sin

Sins of **Omission** are sins we commit which is failure to do something we should, as illustrated in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

Sins of **Commission** are wrongful acts that are done, for example: lying, stealing, coveting etc. Galatians 5:19-21 adds the “**sins of the flesh**”, and all are sins of commissions, sin we wilfully commit.

The Sins listed in the Bible are not a comprehensive list, but a covering list, to identify practises we must avoid. God also specifically tells us of the seven sins He particularly hates in Proverbs 6:16-19.

Our inherited Sin nature plus our own personal sins throughout our lifetime, condemns us from God's presence; we are born separated from God's presence. Proverbs 22:15, Genesis 8:21, Ecclesiastes 7:20 & Jeremiah 17:9.

Sin is sin, and there are neither small or great sins when measured by God's standards, instead of man's standards. The Bible warns that if you break one of the commandments you break them all. Like clauses within a contract, if you break one clause, the whole contract is broken.

The Bible does warn against:

<b>Intentional sin</b>	Sexual immorality, idolatry, stealing, drunkenness, extortion, pre-meditated murder etc. falls in this category.
<b>Unintentional sin</b>	A thoughtless word or action which hurts someone.
<b>Motive</b>	Sins committed in ignorance of what God requires.
<b>Frequent Sin</b>	The Bible compares a single sin to a practise of sin, where the perpetrator knows that it is wrong and continues to perform the same sin repeatedly.

The Bible also warns; *“be sure your sins will find you out”* (Numbers 32:23). It will become public at some point no matter how long it takes. Personal sin impacts behaviour as it produces guilt, and guilt changes a person’s private and public actions. It may also affect others as we are relational beings and “not an island”. It is dishonest and living with dishonesty is closely related to self-deception.

It is not possible to stop sinning on our own, we need God's presence in our lives. Through belief in Jesus, God's Holy Spirit will be working in us to help to instruct and guide us and will stop us from giving into temptation. However, if we fail and commit a sin, we have forgiveness through Christ, so we immediately confess and continue to strive to stop sinning in order to maintain our relationship with God.

The **penalty of sin is God's curse of death, both physical and spiritual**. As humans we will all die physically, but we have the option of free will to choose whether we die spiritually as well.

Hebrews 9:27 says *"its appointed for men to die once and after that face the judgement"*.

Jesus makes the difference.

**Hell & eternal damnation** is the penalty for those who refuse to follow God's commands and live to their own rules.

**Heaven & everlasting life** is the reward for following God's command & commandments.





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