



Dealing with my Own Sin
Genesis 3: 1-5; Romans 8: 1-2
Message Notes, February 5, 2017

This week we're discussing the issue of brokenness that results from our own sinful choices. We can be quick to blame other people or other circumstances for our condition. While it's true that people or circumstances may have played a role, it is essential to understand that our own sin is our most fundamental problem. We are 100 percent responsible for our own sinful choices.

Defining Sin

We live in a time when the very notion of "sin" has radically changed both in the world and among many Christians. What do you think of when you hear the word "sin"? What are your first thoughts or associations?

Possible Thoughts/Associations

- Someone wagging their finger telling us what is wrong.
- Legalistic and restrictive rules promoted by folks who are scared to death of a little fun and want to inflict misery on everyone else.
- An outdated concept that just isn't relevant in a postmodern society.
- For those who accept the authority of the Bible, first thoughts might be:
- The Big 10 (Exodus 20: 2-17).
- New Testament lists such as Galatians 5: 19-21 and Matthew 22: 34-40

Sin is not loving God and the failure to love others as our self. Has there been any compromise, like the world, on your view of "sin"?

The Nature and Essence of Sin

Read and discuss the biblical account of when sin entered the picture found in Genesis 3: 1-5.

Do you see the following progression in the scriptures?

- God's original instructions.
- Satan twisted the truth to:
 - Create confusion; cast doubt on the goodness of God; sow deception causing desire to have the counterfeit now, rather than wait for God's provision of the real thing.
- Satan used the idea of independence to:
 - Suggest that they did not need to depend on God for the knowledge of good and evil; cause belief that they could have knowledge of good and evil for themselves; lure them to want to be like God.

Sin is not primarily about breaking the rules and avoiding sin to keep our nose clean. The essence of Sin is rejection of God's authority, rooted in desire to be our own authority.

Our enemy uses exactly the same strategy in our postmodern world, only he has taken it a step further.

- He doesn't just twist the truth; he would have us reject the very idea of truth.
- He doesn't just highlight the flaws of poor authority; he would have us reject authority altogether.



- He demonizes the idea of holiness or righteousness by making it look like legalism, bigotry, or self-righteousness.
- He aims to draw you away from living under God's loving rule with the idea that you would be better off being the god of your own life.

The temptation of sin is meant to break you, fracture you, steal from you, destroy you.

Consequences of Sin

Physical, Legal, Financial, Social, Emotional (guilt, shame, regret, fear), Relational (broken relationship with God/others). Romans 6: 15-16

Sin will

- Take you further than you intended to go.
- Keep you longer than you intended to stay.
- Cost you more than you intended to pay.

Provisions

What do we do with this? There is Good News! Read Romans 6: 6-10 How do we avail ourselves of God's provision?

Confession

- To agree with God. No rationalizing, justifying, and compromising. Agree with God that it's sin. Psalm 32: 1-3,5; James 5: 13-16

Repentance

- To turn and go in the other direction. Confession without repentance is nothing more than words. Repentance is not just turning from sin; we are turning toward God. Acts 3:19

Power

- To break the power of sin. Romans 8: 1-2
- To live in the power of the Spirit. Romans 8: 9-11

Can we agree on the following?

- God is utterly good.
- God is generous. He is an extravagant giver.
- God is a passionate lover-even His anger is rooted in love.
- Everything God has prohibited is meant to protect you, and everything He has commanded is meant to lead you to abundance.

Reflection Questions

1. Is there anything in this message that was confusing to you?
2. What one thing that most stirred your heart from this message?
3. Is there a place of brokenness in your life that God is surfacing and you want/need to share it in the safe place of your supportive group?