

## Sin

### STEP 1A

Sin is a central theme in the Bible, affecting our relationship with God and others. Understanding what sin is helps us grasp the need for repentance and God's grace.

Let's examine key scriptures to define sin, explore its impact, and discuss how we can live in alignment with God's will.

#### **1. Sin is Missing the Mark**

Romans 3:23

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

#### **2. Sin is Rebellion Against God**

1 John 3:4

*"Everyone who commits sin practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness."*

#### **3. Sin has Consequences**

Romans 6:23

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

#### **4. Sin in the Heart**

Matthew 15:18-19

*"But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a person. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slander."*

#### **5. God's Solution for Sin**

1 John 1:9

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Sin can be defined as going your own way, trusting and acting on your own opinions and feelings instead of on God's truth.

James 4:17

*"So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it."*

The Bible teaches that every human being is infected at the core with a sinful nature.

Romans 3:10-12

*"There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one."*

Sin brings brokenness into our personal lives, our culture and the world.

James 1:14-15

*"But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death."*

Galatians 5:19-21

*"Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

1. Based on Romans 3:23 and 1 John 3:4, how would you define sin in your own words, and what does it mean to "miss the mark" or practice "lawlessness" in the context of your relationship with God?
2. Romans 6:23 states that the "wages of sin is death." What are some practical ways you see the consequences of sin manifesting in personal lives or society, and how does the promise of "eternal life in Christ Jesus" offer hope?
3. Matthew 15:18-19 emphasizes that sin originates in the heart. How can we guard our hearts against sinful thoughts and desires, and what role does God's grace play in this process according to 1 John 1:9?
4. James 4:17 describes sin as failing to do what is good when you know it. Can you share an example from your life or observations where knowing the right thing to do but not doing it led to negative outcomes? How can we better align our actions with God's will?
5. Galatians 5:19-21 lists specific "works of the flesh" that are contrary to God's kingdom. Which of these do you see as most prevalent in today's culture, and how can individuals or communities counteract these behaviors to live in alignment with God's truth?