

SNL – FEBRUARY 11, 2005 – SIN

1. **Intro** – Sin is something we all deal with but God promises victory!
 - a. **Rom.3:23-24** – For *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* and are *justified freely by His grace* through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ.
 - b. **1Jn.1:9** – If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
 - c. **Is.1:18** – “...Though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow.”
 - d. **Ps.103:12** – “As far as the East is from the West so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”
 - e. **The purpose of this talk is to discuss *what sin is, how to deal with it and how to experience victory* in the Christian walk.**
2. **Sin defined** – Sin is the condition of not measuring up to God, of violating His standard.
 - a. Greek word for sin: *Hamartano (αμαρτανω)* – *“to miss the mark.”*
 - **Rom.3:23** – *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
 - b. God’s standard, His *law is designed completely for our good.*
 - **Heb.11:25** – Sin is pleasurable for a short time.

R.C. Sproul: “Sin can be pleasurable but it never brings happiness. It seems utterly stupid for a person to do something he knows will rob him of his happiness. Yet we do it. The mystery of sin is not only that it is wicked and destructive but that it is so downright stupid.”

- c. Sin is rooted in the **condition of the heart** not measuring up to God.
 - **Jer.17:9** – “The heart is deceitful above all things.”
 - **Is.55:8-9** – “For my *thoughts* are not your thoughts neither are your *ways* my ways, declares the Lord.”
 - **Mar.7:23** – Sin comes from the inside first.
 - **James 1:14-15** – “But each on is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived it gives birth to sin and sin when it is full grown, gives birth to death.”
 - **Mt.5:22, 27-28** – Jesus equates hate and lust with murder and adultery.
 - **Think differently than God → act differently also.**
 - **Conditions of the heart are the worst sins:** Pride and arrogance, greed and selfishness, hate and anger, bitterness, lust, envy and others.

C.S Lewis: “The sins of the flesh are bad but they are the least bad of all sins. All the worst pleasures are purely spiritual...That is why a cold self-righteous prig who goes regularly to church may be far nearer to hell than a prostitute. But of course, it’s better to be neither...Of all bad men, religious bad men are the worst.”

- d. **Results of the condition of the heart:** Sin begins with the condition of the heart, and is manifest in wrong actions and inaction.
 - **Doing wrong:** Committing Actions which violate God’s standard.

- **Not doing right:** Not doing what God tells us to.
 - A. **James 4:17** – “He who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.”
 - B. **Are pride, anger or refusing to share our faith any less sinful than adultery, stealing or violence.**
- **It’s easy to point at the big sins but the condition of my heart is the source!**

3. Results of sin.

- a. There are **natural consequences** to my sin.
 - **Ex.** If you steal God will forgive you but you may spend some time doing jail ministry from the inside.
- b. When the Christian sins there is a **temporary barrier** formed in their relationship with God.
 - **Ps.66:18** – “If I regard sin in my heart the Lord will not hear me.”
 - **Ex.** Marriage analogy.
 - This is different than the **separation** sin causes before salvation.
- c. **Sin is a downward spiral;** all sin makes future sin easier.
 - **Heb.3:13** – Sin deceitfully hardens us.

4. Victory over sin.

Andrew Murray - “Not to be occupied with your sin but to be occupied with God brings deliverance from self.”

- a. Greek word for repentance: **Metanoeo (Μετανοεω)** – “A change of mind.”
 - Must **start with the root** – the condition of the heart.
 - **Rev.2:5,16, 21-22, 3:3, 19** - **Repent → be restored.**
 - **Jer.4:3-4** – Break up unploughed ground and circumcise our hearts.
- b. **1 Cor.10:13** – For every temptation there is a way out.
 - **It starts with thinking like Jesus.**
- c. **If you think like Jesus you’ll act like Jesus.**
 - **Rom.12:2** – “...Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
 - Importance of the Word.
 - A. **Jn.8:32** – “...The Truth will set you free.”
 - B. **Ps.119:11** – “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”
 - a. Read, study, memorize and apply Word.
 - C. **James 1:22** – “Be doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
 - **Daily time with Jesus is vital** – Quiet Times → victory.

Ravi Zacharias - “Your personal, daily, devotional time is the most important part of your day. If you fail there, you will fail everywhere else also.”

- d. **We obey out of love for Jesus!**
 - **Law analogy.**
 - **Jn.14:15** (Jesus) – “If you love me you will obey what I command.”

e. **Spiritual breathing.**

- Be filled, empowered and directed by His Holy Spirit (**Eph.5:18**).
- A. **Gal.5:22-23** – Fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- When you sin, confess that to God.
- **1Jn.1:9** – “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
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C.S. Lewis – “Be sure that the ins and outs of your individuality are no mystery to Him; and one day they will no longer be a mystery to you.”

- **Remember, sin is not necessary!**
- **Mt.7:17-18** – “Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.”
- A. **Tree Analogy!**

5. **Results of victory over sin.**

- a. The abundant life Jesus promised (**Jn.10:10**).
- **Gal.5:1** – “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and don’t let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”
- b. An eternally significant life.

6. **Summary.**

- a. **Mt.15:18** – We often honor God with our lips when our hearts are far from Him.
- **Condition of our heart is vital!**
- b. **How evil is my sin: pride, etc.**
- **All my sin, the incorrect conditions of my heart, wrong actions and inaction hurt me and deprive me of the abundant life He promises!**
- **What am I willing to tolerate?**
- A. A little hate, greed, lust or lack of obedience?

C.S. Lewis – “This year, or this month, or, more likely, this very day, we have failed to practice ourselves the kind of behavior we expect from other people.”

- c. Get deeper in the Word.
- **Repent** – Change way of thinking.
- **Think like Jesus → act like Jesus!**
- A. **Is.55:8-9, James 1:14-15, Rom.12:2 and Ps.119:11.**
- d. Take a spiritual breath when necessary.
- e. God promises redemption and restoration.
- f. The victorious Christian life is a promise and it is possible.
- **The abundant and eternally significant life is possible; it starts with a deeper relationship with God and His Word.**

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think that it is easier to obey God out of love than compulsion; and why?
2. Do you view sins of omission (not doing what you know is right; not forgiving, not sharing your faith, etc.) with the same disdain you have for the “big sins?”
3. Have you seen, in your life, how the condition of your heart impacts and determines how you act or don't act?
4. Do you agree that reading, studying, memorizing, knowing and applying His Word (**Think like Jesus → act like Jesus**) will result in victory over sin?
5. Knowing God and His Word better will give you increasing victory over sin. How can you apply this principal more this week (think Quiet times)?