

# "Principles of Sin"

## Part #1

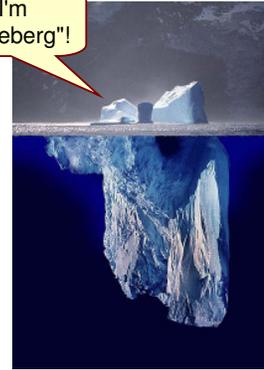
"You, too, can become a *good*\* sinner!"

\* (NOT "good" at *doing* it, but "morally good" through *repentance and trust*.)

BIG SINS

little sins

Hi! I'm "Ollie Iceberg"!



The Pharisee stood up and prayed,  
'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people!  
I'm not a robber or a dishonest person. I  
haven't committed adultery. I'm not even like  
this tax collector.  
I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

Luke 18:11-12 (GW)

- This religious leader focused on the "BIG" sins, which (he *didn't* commit), and ignored the "little" sins (which he *did* commit).
- At this very moment, he was committing the "little" sins of *pride* and *self-righteousness*.

Principle #1:

Sins of *any* size  
earn us eternal death.

- Note that there is no mention of "sin size" in the following verse. *Any* sin will do it:

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

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

Principle #2:

Some sins have a greater effect on *other* people.

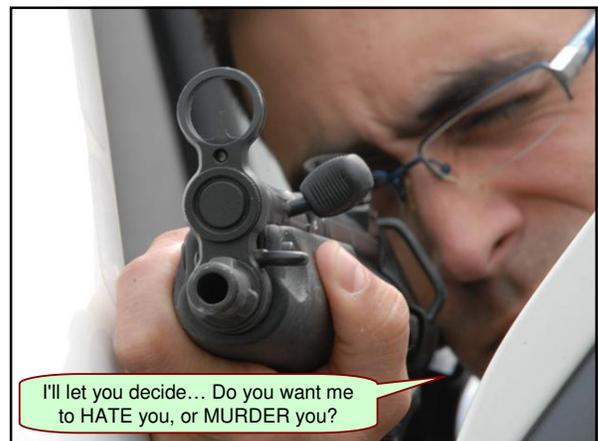
Compare these  
EXAMPLES:

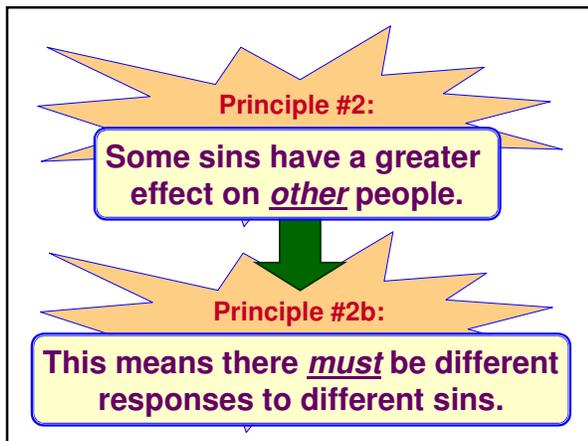
- Anger vs. murder
- Lust vs. adultery
- Covetousness vs. theft

- They have different effects on *other* people, even though ALL of them earn eternal death for the person doing them.

WANT AN EXAMPLE? →

I'll let you decide... Do you want me to HATE you, or MURDER you?

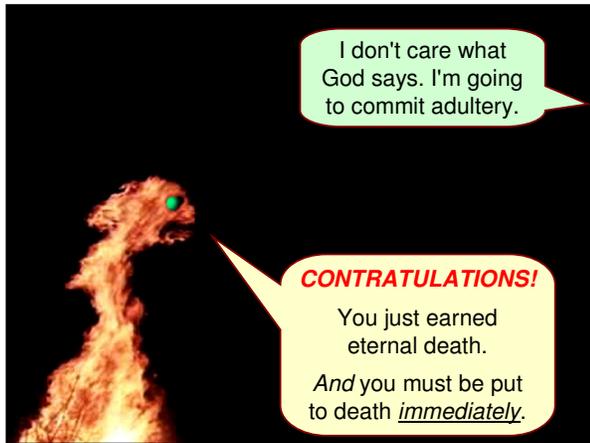
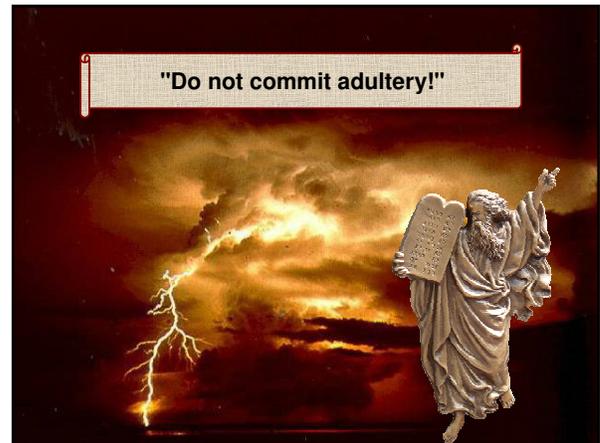




- Both **OLD** and NEW Testaments illustrate this.
- **OLD TESTAMENT**
    - Israel, living under the *OLD COVENANT*.
    - The people were called to be *citizens* of *God's* country.
    - The nation was to purge evil from the *land*. They were *unwilling* to do this, So God removed *them* from the land.  
He sent them into captivity in Assyria and Babylon.

- Both **OLD** and NEW Testaments illustrate this.
- **OLD TESTAMENT + New Testament**
    - We can *learn* from the Old Testament laws and from the judgments that Israel received for ignoring them.
- Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.
- 1 Cor. 10:6 (NIV)
- We have *no authority* to take *government* matters into *our own* hands, when leaders reject God's moral requirements for governing.





**Both OLD and NEW Testaments illustrate this.**

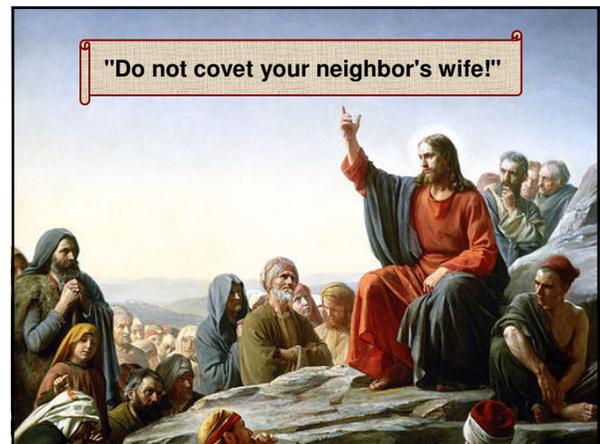
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- **NEW TESTAMENT**
  - The Church, living under the NEW COVENANT.
  - Jesus' followers are like sojourners in foreign (and often hostile) countries.
  - We often have no control over what evil governments may do in the land.  
    - Though we should try to influence public policy for the good.
  - The church is to purge evil from the church. If we are unwilling to do this, God may discipline or even remove us.  
    - He can remove an entire church, if necessary – Rev. 2:5.

**Both OLD and NEW Testaments illustrate this.**

↓

- **NEW TESTAMENT + Old Testament**
  - At various times (in the early church), God affirmed the seriousness of sin and the righteousness of the O.T. law's requirements.
  - For instance, there were times that God punished, or put to death, those who sinned.  
    - Especially if it was a "big" sin, or else a "little" sin that they refused to repent of.
    - Examples: Acts 5:1-11; 12:19b-23; 1 Corinthians 11:27-32.

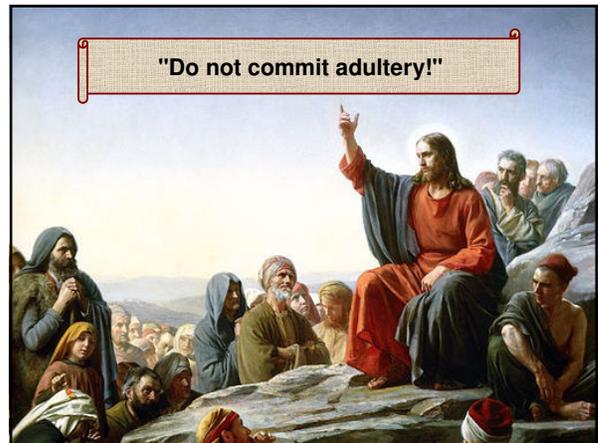


I don't care what God says. I'm going to covet anyway.

**CONTRATULATIONS!**

Such a sin is worthy of eternal death.

Your attitude is *incompatible* with salvation, and you must repent of it.



I don't care what God says. I'm going to commit adultery.

**CONTRATULATIONS!**

Such a sin is worthy of eternal death.

And you can *no longer* be considered *part* of the church until you repent of both *action* and *attitude*.

**Principle #3:**

**"Little" sins grow into "BIG" sins.**

- This is one of the reasons we can't just *ignore* the "little" sins.

★ People don't start out life committing "BIG" SINS. ★

**This just *doesn't* happen!**

I want to be a chronic liar! That's the truth!

★ Instead, the "little" sins **GROW...** ★

I want to be a chronic liar! That's the truth!

I want to be a murderer!

**and GROW...**

I want to be a chronic liar! That's the truth!

My goal is to be as evil as possible!

I want to be a murderer!

**& GROW...**

I want to be a chronic liar! That's the truth!

My goal is to be as evil as possible!

I want to be a murderer!

I plan to be a bank robber!

**& GROW...**

I want to be a chronic liar! That's the truth!

My goal is to be as evil as possible!

I want to be a murderer!

I want to commit adultery!

I plan to be a bank robber!

**& GROW...**

### The example of Cain: A "little" sin that grew "BIG."

- To start with, Cain was *not* doing what was right!  
... *his own actions were evil* and his brother's were righteous.  
1 John 3:12b (NIV)
- Therefore, God did not accept his offering.  
[God said to him:] "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?"  
Genesis 4:7a (NIV)

- Cain's response? NOT repentance, but the "little" sin of anger.  
Cain was very *angry*, and his face was downcast.  
Genesis 4:5b (NIV)
- God warned Cain that he needed to deal with his sin, *or it would overpower him*.  
If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?  
But if you do not do what is right, *sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.*  
Genesis 4:7 (NIV)

- Cain did *not* deal with it, and his "little" sin of *anger* grew into the "BIG" sin of *murder*.  
And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and *killed* him.  
Genesis 4:8b (NIV)

**Principle #4:**

**We need to deal with the "little" sins, as well as the "BIG" sins.**

- The devil uses *both* VISIBLE sins *and* HIDDEN sins to destroy people.

If not dealt with, "little" sins grow and come to the surface!

"Ollie," our iceberg, will be happy to illustrate this!

If we get rid of everything that is VISIBLE and looks BIG...

It's OK – it doesn't hurt!

GUESS WHAT HAPPENS!

Where'd THAT come from???

SURPRISE!!

- It doesn't work to STOP ONLY the VISIBLE and BIG sins (though stopping them is important).
- More sins will keep coming to the surface.

**YOUR MISSION:**  
**Beware!**

The devil will use anything it takes to destroy you.  
**"BIG" sins or "little" sins.**

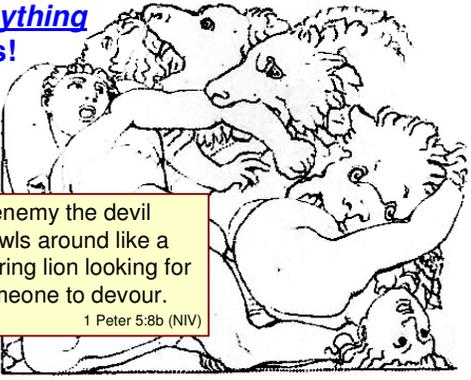
★ What are YOU doing to prevent it from happening? ★

NEXT WEEK (God willing) ...

- We will look more at the "small" or "hidden" sins that people tend to ignore.
- Until then, remember this:**

**The devil will use anything it takes!**

**Are YOU next?**



Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8b (NIV)

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