

# "Principles of Sin"

## Part #2

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

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

The devil will use anything it takes to destroy you!

**Are YOU the next to be consumed?**



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

1 Peter 5:8b (NIV)


**LAST WEEK:**

- We looked at "BIG" sins and "small" sins.
- We saw that:
  - There are differences in their effects on other people.
  - But both need dealt with, if we don't want to perish in our sin.



**THIS WEEK:**

- Ways that the devil can turn you into "lion food."
- We will focus mostly on the "small" sins he uses – sins that people often think "aren't that bad."



★ **FIRST, A REMINDER:**

**Principle #5:**

**God defines sin, not us.**

- It's not an arbitrary definition, but based on his own nature.
  - HOLY and RIGHTEOUS:** Attitudes and conduct that are a reflection of God's nature, character, etc.
  - SINFUL and EVIL:** Attitudes and conduct that are a contradiction to what God is. **Such things cannot remain in his presence.**

**If God calls it "sin," it's because it violates his nature and is sin.**

- Even if we decide to call it "good"...
 

**It is still sin!**

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; ...

Isaiah 5:20a (NASB)
- Even if we think it's OK because nobody sees us do it...
 

**It is still sin!**

- Even if we believe in "situation ethics" or "moral relativism"...

**It is still sin!**

When people portray sin as good or beneficial...



They sinned...  
and lived happily  
ever after!!



**THEY LIE ABOUT SIN.**

**Principle #6:**

**The devil will use anything it takes to destroy you.**

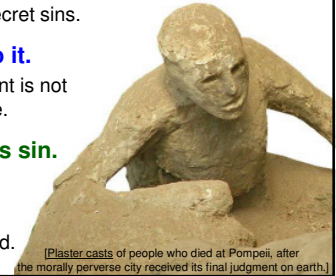
- It's all the easier for him, if you don't know it's happening.
- As "lion food," you taste the same whether or not you know it's happening.



**There are so many ways that the devil can destroy you.**  
**The following pages show a few of them.**

**The Various Sins of "Didn't"**

- **I didn't let others see my sin.**
  - Wrong motives, secret sins.
- **I didn't mean to do it.**
  - When the statement is not used as an excuse.
- **I didn't know it was sin.**
  - Ignorance.
- **I didn't do it...**
  - But I sure wish I did.



[Plaster casts of people who died at Pompeii, after the morally perverse city received its final judgment on earth.]

**"I didn't let others see my sin": Sins of the heart; evil motives.**

- You may do good things, but with motives that are not good.
- What others see may be good; but they cannot see your evil heart.

You try to look like upright people outwardly, but inside your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Matthew 23:28 (NLT)



**"I didn't mean to do it": Accidental sins.**

- We may know something is sin, and not want to do it. Because of old habits, we accidentally do it.
- EXAMPLE: This is a common result of careless talk.

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Proverbs 10:19 (NIV)

I am quite ashamed!  
I didn't mean to say that.

I'm trying to overcome my old sinful ways.

**"I *didn't* know it was sin": Sins done in ignorance.**

- We may not realize that we sinned. But *that doesn't remove our guilt*.
- Jesus' parables remind us that punishment will be less severe than for willful sin, but punishment will still be deserved:

But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.

Luke 12:48a (NIV)

**"I *didn't* do it..." (but I sure wish I did): Sins of desire.**

- We may *desire* to do certain sins, but fear or circumstances keep it from actually occurring.
- EXAMPLE: One common form of this is lust.

But I can guarantee that whoever looks with lust at a woman has already committed adultery in his heart.

Matthew 5:28 (GW)

**The "Negative Math" Sins \***

- **ADDITION:** The consequences of *previous* sins.
- **SUBTRACTION:** Not doing what you know is good.
- **MULTIPLICATION:** Encouraging others to sin.
- **DIVISION:** Sins based on *half-truth*.



\* (Math is *good*, except when it involves sin.)

**"ADDITION": Sins caused by previous *sins*.**

- A person's decision to sin may result in *bad* consequences that lead to *further* sin.
  - Because of our choices, we bring *unnecessary* pain and suffering upon ourselves and others.
- The only *good* option is to **NOT** do the *first* sin. After that, there may be no *good* choice left.
  - We may have to choose "the lesser of two evils" – with *both* options being bad. (But it's our own fault; we can't blame God for it.)

**"SUBTRACTION": Sins of omission.**

- Situations in which you *don't* do something right.

I know I *ought* to... [insert obligation here].

But... [insert excuse here].

Whoever knows what is right but doesn't do it is sinning.

James 4:17 (GW)

- *This is SIN!* It could have a significant negative impact on other people, and we might never find out... *until we face the final judgment*.

**"MULTIPLICATION": Sins encouraged by other *people*.**

- **YOU ARE AN EXAMPLE** that others will follow.
  - **This is especially true of leaders and parents.**
- People watch you, and what you do will influence them.

For the leaders of the people have led them down the path of destruction.

Isaiah 9:16 (NLT)

**A special warning about the sins of children.**

- Children often imitate the sin they see an adult commit.
  - They don't even know it is sin.
- It's not "cute" when a child does this.
  - Rather, it is practice for when he grows up.
  - Your approval (or laughter) reinforces what he is doing!
  - You are training him to sin!

My parents are training me for hell!



**Don't bring judgment upon your children!**

- Warnings like this exist because parents teach their children to sin by their own example:

... punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ...  
Exodus 20:5b (NIV)

- There is also encouragement for godly parents:

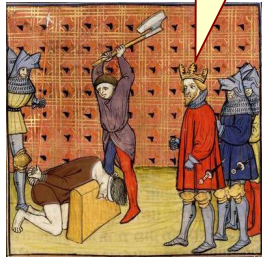
... but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.  
Exodus 20:6 (NIV)

If this applies, it's your fault, not God's.

**"DIVISION": Sins caused by half-truth.**

- Half-truth means half-lie.
- When you act based on half-truth, sin occurs.
  - Even though the results you see may look good.
- The false gospel is guilty of this.

We'll keep the half we like!



**The UPSIDE-DOWN sin:  
Distorted priorities and values.**

- Certain obligations take priority over others; and to get them backwards is sin!

**These obligations are usually not in conflict!**  
But living in a sinful world sometimes causes conflicts.

**VALUES:  
The "Order of Priority."**



[Our sin affects all of creation.]

- ↑ **Priority #1: Love for God.**
  - Takes priority over all other things.
- ↑ **Priority #2: Love for neighbor.**
  - Takes priority over religious activities, legitimate love for self and creation, etc.
  - If there is a conflict, love for God takes priority.
- ↑ **Priority #3: Everything else that is not sin.**
  - This includes religious activities! ("Love for God" has to do primarily with moral conduct, not ceremonies!)
  - If there is a conflict, love for God and love for neighbor take priority.
- **Not an option: Sin.**

**Two examples that illustrate the order of priority.**

- Love for God takes priority over love for neighbor. (The leaders told them to stop talking about Jesus.)

But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than human authority."  
Acts 5:29 (NLT)

- Love for neighbor takes priority over religious activities.

If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,'\* you would not have condemned the innocent.  
Matthew 12:7 (NIV)

\* (Jesus quoted Hosea 6:6. The obligation was the same in the Old Testament!)

**The "SOMETIMES" Sins**  
Sinfulness that depends on circumstances.

- Some actions are governed by moral commands or prohibitions.
  - The rightness or wrongness of these actions *never* changes.
- Other actions belong to the realm of "**freedom within the context of responsibility and love.**"
  - The *context* will determine whether the actions are God-honoring or sinful.



**"The realm of freedom"**

- There are *MANY* things that we are *free* to do (or not do), but *only within the context of responsibility and love.* **EXAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK:**
  - Does it control us, or cause anyone to fall into sin?
  - Does it build us up (and others)?
  - Is it a legitimate option, based on circumstances, abilities, etc.?
  - Have I made any promises or commitments?
- It may *honor God* in one situation, and may be *sinful* in another.

★ **If it is sinful, pretending does not make the sinfulness go away.** ★

**The "INSIGNIFICANT" Sins**  
Those generally viewed as "not big enough" to worry about.

- Sinful attitudes and actions tend to be a "root" from which many other sins grow.
- Historically, seven of these sins have been grouped together and called the **"Seven Deadly Sins."**



**"The Seven Deadly Sins"**

If left unrestrained, *these will kill you!*

1. Lust
2. Gluttony
3. Greed
4. Laziness, apathy
5. Wrath
6. Envy
7. Pride, vanity



**The "FREE TICKET" Sin**  
You *deliberately* sin, because you think you can get away with it.

- You think willful sin OK, because you're saved and will be forgiven.
- This is an *utterly corrupt* concept of grace and forgiveness!



- People with this view have ignored God's warning that *it doesn't work!*




Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more kindness and forgiveness?

Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

Romans 6:1-2 (NLT)

The "UNPARDONABLE" Sin  
 You've done it to yourself.  
 You can never be saved.  
 (Church-goers often commit this sin.)



**IF YOU ARE:**

- Unwilling to take sin seriously,
- Unwilling to learn from Scripture and to obey it,
- -- AND --
- You continue to harden your heart in this way...

**THEN:**

- You may reach the point where you lose the ability to respond to the truth.


At this point, you will lose the ability to be saved.

↓

**AND NOT REALIZE IT.**

**YOU MAY BE VERY RELIGIOUS,**  
 but be so spiritually dead,  
 that you can't even realize  
 that the devil is already  
 EATING YOU.

YUM !!  
 B-U-R-P !!



**God's Sovereignty and human responsibility will work together**

- To guarantee that YOU will receive the appropriate consequences of YOUR choices.
- YOUR choices will be the reason that Scriptures such as this are fulfilled in you:

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.  
 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ...

2 Thes. 2:10b-11 (NIV)

The lie they wanted to believe

**Do you want this to NOT happen to you?**


- Then pay attention to the next page:



**YOUR MISSION**

**Do you want to be "lion food"?**

YUM!



- **IF NOT**, take your responsibility seriously!
  - Find out what the Bible says about sin.
  - Respond appropriately.
- God has offered us the power to do this... but the power does **NOT** come to the lazy or the unwilling.

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