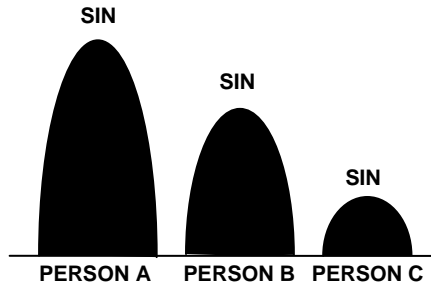


The Concept of Sin

This study defines sin and shows how it separates us from God.

Romans 3:23-24

- Definition of sin – “to miss the mark”
- Who has sinned? Everyone.
- **Illustration:** Who is further away from God?
 - All equal, all lost sinners.
- Verse 24: How does God redeem (save) sinners?
 - His **grace** through Jesus Christ.



Romans 6:23

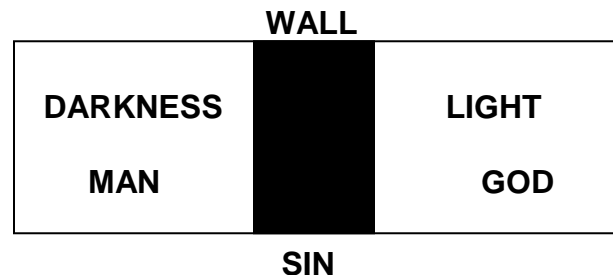
- A *wage* is what we **deserve** for what we have done.
- What is the penalty (payment) for sin?
 - The “wages of sin is death” (physical & spiritual death; hell)
- A gift is something we don’t deserve; unearned.
- What is the gift of God?
 - God **graciously** gives eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Peter 2:9-10

- Verse 9: How are these Christians described?
- Verse 10: How is their past life described? Why do we need mercy from God?
- Key point: All in darkness or light; no twilight zone
 - For additional study see Col 1:13-14, Eph 5:8-14, John 3:19-21, John 8:12, & 1 John 1:5-7

Isaiah 59:1-2

- Verse 1: God is perfectly able to save us & hear us.
- Verse 2: If God is able to save, what’s the problem?
 - Our sins (iniquities) **separate** us from God.
 - **Illustration:** Sin creates a wall between us & God.
- We must understand the bad news to grasp the good news.



Genesis 6:5-6

- How does God feel about sin?
 - God takes it personally; it deeply hurts God.

Ephesians 2:1-5

- Not only does sin hurt God, but it also angers him.
- Wrath: intense anger
- Vs. 3 = God’s wrath is directed at us because of our sin.
- Vs. 4 = This is why we need God’ grace and mercy so much – to save us from God’s wrath and punishment.

Galatians 5:19-21

- Define sins & give examples if there are questions.
 - For additional study see 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Mark 7:20-23; Rev. 21:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Questions:

What have you learned about your sin today? In view of your sin, are you in the light or darkness? Why? In the coming studies, we’ll learn how to go from the darkness into the light.

*Suggest individual write a description of their sinful nature & specific sins they have committed in an apology letter to God. This is to help them see what is causing a separation from God. **He or she should keep this for personal use only.**