



WHAT IS SIN?

Scripture Focus: Genesis 2:15–17; Isaiah 6:1–3; Matthew 22:36–40; Romans 3:10–25; 1 John 3:4; 1 Peter 1:15, 16

I. God's Standard for _____ (Gen. 2:15–17; Isa. 6:1–3)

A. God _____ the standard (Gen. 2:15–17)

God created humanity and therefore has the authority to set the _____
_____ for our lives.

B. God's standard _____ His _____ (Isa. 6:1–3)

The Bible sums up God's character in the word "_____."

God's glory is His holy character in _____.

II. God's _____ of Sin (Matt. 22:36–40; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 3:4; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16)

A. A violation of God's _____ (Rom. 3:23; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16)

To sin is to _____ _____ of, or not measure up to, God's glory.

No one can _____ the _____ of God's holiness by living a completely holy life.

B. A violation of God's _____ (Matt. 22:36–40; 1 John 3:4)

To fail to love God and our neighbors in any way is to _____ God and
_____ His standard for our lives.

III. Humanity's _____ (Rom. 3:10–20)

A. Universal _____ (Rom. 3:10–18)

All people are guilty of sin with no _____ of changing that fact on their own.

B. Universal _____ (Rom. 3:19, 20; 6:23)

The law proves we are guilty but offers no hope of _____.

We need a Savior to _____ us from our helpless estate.

IV. Humanity's _____ (Rom. 3:21–25)

In this current age, God makes us righteous when we put our _____ in Jesus
for _____.



Time with God

God has given us His Word to know Him personally. Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

MONDAY

Read Genesis 2:15–17.

What did God expect of Adam?

Why did God set a moral standard for Adam?
What gave God that right?

TUESDAY

Read Isaiah 6:1–3.

What one word sums up God's character?

God's glory is His holy character in action. How have you seen God's holy character in action?

WEDNESDAY

Read Romans 3:23; 1 Peter 1:15, 16.

Who can match God's glory, His holy character in action?

Why is failing to live up to God's holiness a problem?

THURSDAY

Read 1 John 3:4; Matt. 22:36–40; James 2:10.

Lawlessness is breaking God's general standard for humanity. How did Jesus summarize His general standard for us?

How many violations of God's standard does it take to prove a person is a sinner by nature?

FRIDAY

Read Romans 3:10–20.

What is true of everyone's character, speech, and conduct?

What would you say to someone who thinks he is good enough to earn his way to Heaven?

SATURDAY

Read Romans 3:21–25.

What did God do to justify us, or make us righteous?

All humanity is helpless to save themselves but not hopelessly lost. Have you trusted in Jesus as your Savior? Have you admitted you are helpless to save yourself?



Tough Questions Answered



Why does God hate sin?



God hates sin primarily because it violates His character. God is perfect and holy, meaning He has never and would never sin (Isa. 6:3). Everything about God is pure, so He regards every sin as repulsive and disgusting (Prov. 6:16–19). Think of the nastiest, most repulsive garbage you could pile up. God sees sin as more offensive and disgusting than that.

God is our creator. That means He owns us and has the right to set standards for what we do, say, or think. Doing, saying, or thinking something that violates God's standard for our lives is sin. Even sins we might find trivial are offensive to God. There is no such thing as a no-big-deal sin.

We can find God's standard for our lives in His Word. Jesus summarized the standard as loving God and loving others.

God also hates sin because it destroys people emotionally and physically (Ps. 32:3–5). The curse affects our bodies, making us sick and diseased. Our addictions and sinful habits ruin our bodies and minds from the inside out.

Furthermore, God hates sin because it drives people to attack each other (Zech. 8:17). God loves and values people because He made them in His image. Even unkind words thrown back and forth in an argument offend God.

God is longsuffering and patient with sinners, meaning He doesn't immediately judge every sin a person commits. We should not interpret God's patience to mean God doesn't care or notice when we sin. Remember the Holy Spirit is in us. He experiences every sin we commit and grieves because of them (Eph. 4:29–31).

As we read God's Word and fill our hearts with truth, we will adopt God's hatred of sin (Rom. 12:9). What once attracted us will become repulsive and disgusting. What we viewed as dainty desserts will be revealed as rancid garbage. What are you doing to adopt God's view of the sin in your life?

Think of the nastiest, most repulsive garbage you could pile up. God sees sin as more offensive and disgusting than that.

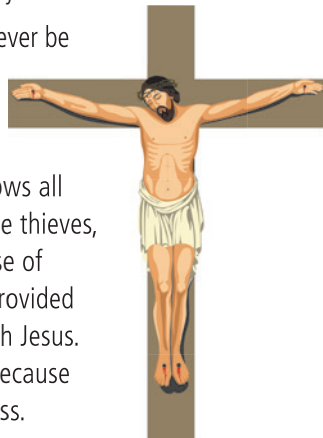
Unsolved, but Not Unseen, Crimes



On March 18, 1990, two thieves posing as police officers gained entrance into Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum by claiming they were responding to a disturbance. They tied up the guards and stole thirteen paintings valued at around five hundred million dollars. The heist remains the largest private property theft in the history of the United States. To this day the criminals have never been caught. The museum has offered a ten-million-dollar reward to anyone giving information leading to the art's recovery.



The art thieves will probably never be caught and held responsible for their crimes. God, though, knows who they are. No sin escapes His gaze. God knows all about our sins too. We, like the thieves, are under God's wrath because of our sin. Thankfully, God has provided forgiveness of our sins through Jesus. We can escape God's wrath because Jesus bore our sins on the cross.



Memory Verse Review



Memory Verse—Romans 3:23

Every person is guilty of sinning against God and thereby falling short of God's glorious perfection. No one can claim to have reached God's righteous standard. We must all face this grim reality before we can realize and accept the solution for our sin.

1. How sure are you that you have fallen short of God's standard of perfection?
2. What have you done about not measuring up to God's standard?
3. Find a way every day to thank God for sending Jesus to bear the wrath for your sin.

Measuring Growth



The lesson for this week covered the definition of sin. Sin is any thought, word, or action that violates God's righteous standards. We are all guilty of sin and deserve to suffer God's wrath on our sin.

Look for the following indicators that you view sin as God views sin.

1. I define sin as any act, thought, or word that violates God's righteousness.
2. I recognize sin in my life and desire to overcome it.
3. I know the only solution for sin is faith in Jesus' death on the cross.

Additional Memory Verses—Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10; 1 John 3:4