

# THE DOCTRINE OF SIN

## Christianity: Understanding What Christians Believe<sup>1</sup>

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**H**amartiology is the study of the origin, nature, extent, and consequences of sin. The history of the human race as presented in the Bible is primarily a history of man in a state of sin and rebellion against God and God's plan of redemption to bring back man to himself. Therefore, it is appropriate to consider the nature of the sin that separates man from God.

### A. WHAT IS SIN?

- It is \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 6:23)
- It is going beyond an \_\_\_\_\_ (transgression; 2 Tim. 2:14)
- It is deviating from the \_\_\_\_\_ (iniquity; Acts 8:23)
- It is rebellion \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 2:1-3)
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ (lying, cheating or misleading others; Ps. 38:12)
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ the truth (Prov. 15:4)

### B. HOW DOES AN UNDERSTANDING OF SIN HELP US?

- It helps us understand that we are "sin-aholics"
- It helps understand our need for Christ
- It helps us understand the price God paid for our sins
- It gives us confidence and peace that we as believers are forgiven, once for all

### C. NINE THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN WE SIN

- It enslaves us (Rom. 6:17)
- It makes us want to hide from God (Gen. 3:10)
- It produces denial (Jer. 2:35)
- It puts the blame on others (Gen. 3:12)

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<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed version of this topic see the booklet "Christianity: Understanding What Christians Believe" at [www.TaylorNotes.Info](http://www.TaylorNotes.Info).

- It numbs the conscience (1 Tim. 4:2)
- It makes the sinner self-centered (2 Tim. 3:2-4)
- It reduces our interests in others (Phil. 2:3-5)
- It makes the sinner restless (Isaiah 57:20-21)
- It produces unhealthy competition (Jas. 4:1-2)

#### D. WHY SHOULD I ASK FOR FORGIVENESS WHEN I'VE ALREADY BEEN FORGIVEN?

- Reason No. 1: To restore \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason No. 2: To restore \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason No. 3: To \_\_\_\_\_ for what it is
- Reason No. 4: To recognize that \_\_\_\_\_!

#### E. IF I'M FORGIVEN, WHY DO I CARRY AROUND SO MUCH GUILT?

Types of Guilt	Description	Biblical Response
Healthy Guilt	It is a feeling of remorse from unconfessed sin.	1 John 1:7-10; Ps. 51:17.
Unhealthy Guilt	It can be a feeling of remorse from <i>past confessed</i> sins. (You don't need to confess the same sins over and over again).	Jer. 31:34; Heb. 10:22; Rom. 8:38-39

#### F. WHAT IS THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN?

Some Christians worry about committing the unforgivable sin. The unforgivable sin (Matt. 12:31-32; Luke 12:10 Mark 3:29) is knowingly attributing the works of the Holy Spirit to Satan, and persistently rejecting the Holy Spirit's testimony concerning Jesus Christ.<sup>2</sup>

Charles Ryrie puts it this way, "To commit this particular sin required the personal and visible presence of Christ on earth; to commit it today, therefore, would be impossible."<sup>3</sup> Any sin for which you sincerely seek Jesus' forgiveness, is not the unpardonable sin

<sup>2</sup> Robert Hughes and J. Carl Laney, Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1990), 408.

<sup>3</sup> Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, 407.