

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

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Barry M. Grider

## **VISIT US SOON!**

### **Sunday:**

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship... 10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday:**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

## **HOME OF MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING**

### **Missions Supported:**

Iglesia de Cristo Memphis  
Kakinada, India  
Manila, Philippines  
Murmansk, Russia  
Far East/World Evangelism  
In Search of the Lord's Way

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## **WHAT IS SIN? (Part Four)**

Barry M. Grider

### **FACTS ABOUT SIN**

Sergeant Joe Friday of Dragnet was often quoted for saying, "Just the facts, Ma'am." What are the cold, hard facts about sin? Those who walk in darkness, do not desire to know the facts (John 1:5; 3:19,20). Prayerfully, some can be persuaded to know the facts about sin and be spared much pain and grief. Often our society speaks about educating our youth about the dangers of drugs or promiscuity. However, most of the time the root of the problem – sin – is not discussed. Know this about sin:

**1. Sin is Devilish.** All who sin are following the Devil. He hates everything good and holy. He will lie to accomplish his purpose. His purpose is your destruction and mine. He will deceive and trick you as he is "transformed into an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14). Yet, the Bible teaches, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:7). Satan knows our weakness and will often wait till our weakest moment before tempting us. Jesus was tempted by the Devil, according to Matthew 4. The Bible student will notice that Satan waited until Jesus fasted 40 days before he tempted God's Son. Temptation is the means by which Satan can cause us to sin. He cannot make us sin, but he can tempt us. Three avenues of temptation are used by man's arch enemy- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17). Satan tempted Adam and Jesus in this fashion, and he will every individual. Therefore, Paul instructs, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 The. 5:22). That is, when one sees temptation coming, go in the other direction immediately. The Devil will not rest until all are in his clutches. Those who live in sin belong to him.

**2. Sin is Divisive.** Because of sin families divide, churches are split, and nations go to war. Sin in the life of an individual separates a man from his creator.

Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear (Isa. 59:12).

When man sinned in the garden, his response was to hide or flee from the presence of God (Gen. 3:10). The intensely personal relationship that existed was now an estrangement. Jesus said on one occasion,

Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against the mother in law (Luke 12:51-53).

Some may ask, "Is not Jesus the Prince of Peace?" Absolutely! However, most have rejected the Prince of Peace and thus are in opposition to Him and His followers. Hence, because of sin, even families divide.

**3. Sin is Delusional.** Often someone will say he does not see anything wrong with gambling, dancing, premarital sex, or some unauthorized act in worship. Such an individual is absolutely right. He does not see anything wrong. Sin has blinded him (2 Cor. 4:4). It has been said that those who understand sin the least, are often ensnared by it the most. The person who lives his life in sin does not think properly. Isaiah recorded, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter (Isa. 5:20). Jeremiah penned, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jer. 6:15). How sad when individuals cannot distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil. Such a person is delusional. In fact, when the prodigal determined to repent and go home to his father, the text declares, "And when he came to himself" (Luke 15:17). Sin will not allow you to be rational nor reasonable.

**4. Sin is Digressive.** One will never be the master of sin, separate from Christ. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness" (Rom. 6:16). One who yields to sin will always find himself eventually in the pig pen (Luke 15:15). In the 1950's Hugh Hefner founded the Playboy empire. Though his publication was nothing but a sordid array of scantily clad women, such was mild compared to today. Those who delve into pornography some 50 years later can find the grossest, most perverted lascivious behavior in publications, movies, and now at their fingertips on the internet. You see, one who begins a life of sin will not be content until he tries something a little more obscene and finds something more taboo. Sin never satisfies and therefore is digressive in nature.

It is said that Adolph Hitler was an admirer of the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Nietzsche was enamored with the writing of Charles Darwin and the evolutionary process. In reality, evolution says man evolved from lower forms of life. Hence, if man is nothing more than an animal, he will behave in such a manner. Thus it does not take one long to go from the teachings of Darwin to the gas ovens of Hitler to the holocaust of unborn babies by means of abortion.

**5. Sin is Deadly.** Sin thrills-then kills. God said to the first couple, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). "The soul that sinneth it shall die" (Eze. 18:20).

"For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

Our sins are either pardoned in Christ or punished in hell. A laundry list of sins is mentioned in Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Let us not take sin lightly. Even one sin can separate us from God. James wrote,

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death (Jam. 1:14,15).

### CONCLUSION

Nothing good ever comes from sin. Engaging in that which is evil will always be harmful to body and soul. Sin creates shame and guilt. Sin causes people to flee from God's presence. Sin creates despair and robs people of meaningful lives. Sin is addictive. You see, dear friend, Satan is not finished with you after you commit one sin.

His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray (Pro. 5:22,23).

When one understands the seriousness of sin, the more he appreciates Calvary. The cross is a demonstration of the awfulness of sin. Yet, when we look at the cross, we then hear the conclusion of the matter. "For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**" (Rom. 6:23).

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**"And Such Were Some of You"**

**(Part Two)**

**Kevin Beard**

This change takes place in every person who becomes a Christian; it is called "repentance." Paul said that God commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30), and one cannot be saved without repenting (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 2 Pet. 3:9).

So many passages speak of this change of lifestyle in which the Christian ceases from the practice of sin. Paul asked the Romans "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Rom. 6:1-2). Continuing to live a life of sin is incompatible with the fundamental change that takes place in the process of becoming a Christian. John put it this

way: "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him" (1 John 3:6). John did not mean that those who abide in Him never commit any sin at all (see 1 John 1:8, 10), but that the one who abides in Him does not continue in the practice of committing sin. To use the Corinthians as an example of this, Paul said some of them used to be fornicators. What do fornicators do? They commit fornication. But when Paul said they **were** fornicators, but now were washed, sanctified, and justified, it is obvious that they ceased from the practice of committing fornication. The same can be said of the whole list of things Paul mentioned.

Sin is what defiles people so that they need to be washed. Sin dominates the life and priorities of people so that they need to be sanctified. Sin condemns people to death so that they need to be justified. When they are washed, sanctified, and justified, how can they expect to go back to the very things that their washing, sanctification, and justification removed?

All Christians must understand the vital importance of living a life that is separated from sin. Every child of God must strive to overcome every temptation he faces. Jesus paid too great a price to wash, sanctify, and justify us, for us not to withdraw ourselves from the evil practices of sin that characterize our lives before we were saved.

(Brother Beard preaches for the Lord's church in Fayette, Alabama)

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**MOTHER'S DAY**

*"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 31:30).*

Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) first suggested the national observance of an annual day honoring all mothers because she had loved her own mother so dearly. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Miss Jarvis gave a carnation (her mother's favorite flower) to each person who attended. Within the next few years, the idea of a day to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was observed in a number of large cities in the U.S. On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then it had become customary to wear white carnations to honor departed mothers and red to honor the living, a custom that continues to this day.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9. Join us for our morning worship when brother Grider will deliver the message, "A Great Woman" (2 Kings 4:8).

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