

MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING

(How to transform an attitude)

1. Jesus came to serve (Mk.10:45).
2. Christ set the ultimate example (Phil.2:3-11). We are to walk as He walked (1Jn.2:6).
3. The Apostles saw themselves as servants (Rm.1:1; Js.1:1 2Pet.1:1; 2Cor.4:5; Phil.1:1; Jude 1:1).
4. Paul "served" as an opportunity to witness (1Cor.9:19).
5. We are called servants (1Cor.7:22; 1Pet.2:16; 2Cor.3:5-6).
6. We are commanded to serve (a) God (Ps.100:3; 1Thes.1:9; Mt.4:10; Rm.12:11) (b) one another (Gal.5:13). Therefore it demonstrates our obedience.
7. Serving is an evidence of our salvation (1Jn.3:14-15; Js.2:14-26).
8. We serve from an unselfish attitude & motivation (Phil. 2:34). Whatever the serving is, we do it as unto the Lord (Eph.6:5-8) not for the approval of man (Jn.12:43) because in reality we are doing it for the Lord (Col.3: 24; Mt.25:40). Therefore SELF should not seek to "make more out of it" beyond simple obedience (Lk.17:5-10).
Why do you serve others? What do you want out of it?
What are you looking for? What are you after?
Anything other than a "Christ-centered" motivation is deficient!
9. Our serving causes praise & glory to go to God (2Cor.9: 10-12; Mt.5:16).
10. Serving shows your love for God (Heb.6:10).
11. Serving brings pleasure to God (Heb.13:15-16).
12. Jesus revealed it as the secret of greatness (Mk.9:33-37).
13. Jesus himself demonstrated practically the humility of serving & expects the same of us (Jn.13:1-17).
14. Serving brings us into an area of special blessing from God (Acts 20:34).
15. Christ will ultimately judge our works (2Cor.5:10) resulting in loss of rewards or further promotion & eternal rewards (Mt.25:21,33; 1Cor.3:11-15).
16. Whatever we have done for the Lord is never a waste or done in vain (Jn12:1-8; Gal.6:7-9; 1Cor.16:58).
17. However...Christ's evaluation & verbal appraisal "well done, good & faithful servant" should be all we want to hear (Mt.25:21,23).

Thomas F. Chambers
September, 1984

HOW GOD VIEWS SIN (A Call to Personal Revival)

It is evident that our society is trying to eliminate all the scriptural standards that it once based its freedom on. The more these standards are violated and ignored, the more sin will rise to epidemic proportion. It obviously has and will continue until the inevitable result - destruction. Now I'm not going to develop that thought any further in regard to the world around us because I have a greater level of concern and that is the church itself! The church of Jesus Christ is made up of "regenerated, Spirit - indwelt" people and yet it appears that we have become indifferent in our attitude toward sin. We have become hardened, calloused, even insensitive to the Holy Spirit. Why doesn't it bother us that we quench the Spirit and grieve Him? Why don't we experience brokenness (Ps.51) or godly sorrow that works genuine repentance (2 Cor.7:8-10)? Why don't we weep and mourn (Js.4:9) in recognition of the seriousness of our sin, selfishness, pride, and spiritual adultery (finding fulfillment in anything other than God)?

I think that one of the main answers to these questions is the we've lost perspective of how God views sin. In your thinking through that concept, pray now that as you continue this study God would increase your spiritual understanding and conviction through His Word.

1. How Does God Define Sin:

- 1 John 3:4 - "sin is the transgression of the law." (lawlessness)
- Rom. 14:23 - "whatsoever is not of faith is sin." (lack of faith)
- 1 John 5:17 - "all unrighteousness is sin."
- James 4:17 - "to the one who knows the right thing to do and doesn't do it, to him it is sin" (failure to do good)
- Prov. 24:9 - "the devising (or thinking) of folly is sin"

2. How Is Sin Revealed in Scripture:

The following definitions are combined from different Hebrew and Greek dictionaries. These are the words in scripture used to depict "what is sin."

SIN: to miss the mark, is a failure or a coming short of that aim which God intended all His children to reach. Rom. 3:23.
Man made in the image of God - should live as God lives. Judges 20:16

WRONG: to be bent out of shape or crooked - a perversion or distortion of nature which is caused by evil doing. Esther 1:16

TRAVAIL: labor in its toilsome aspect, sin has made life a burden and has turned work into toil. Gen. 3:17-19; Gen. 41:51; Job 5:6,7; Eccl. 1-12. Burdensome of earthly existence. Rom. 28:21-22

- INIQUITY:** manifestations (outward evidences) of unrighteous and lawless living (sins that are "complicating sins" that rise out of sin). That which is altogether wrong (Ps.51:1-2).
- TRANSGRESSION:** to cross over; ie, crossing over the boundary of right, entering into forbidden land of wrong. Ps.7:3; Hos.6:7; 8:1. Overstepping the bounds of the law of Moses (God). (Heb.2:2)
- EVIL:** breaking up or ruin - combines in one word the idea of the wicked deeds and the consequences - bringing further "trouble." It is evil as opposed to good. Gen.2:17. Opposition to God. (Jn.3:20)
- REBELLION:** to revolt or to refuse subjection to rightful authority, treason, rejecting God and His Word. I Sam.15:23; Hos.8:1; 2 Kings 8:20,22; I Kings 12:19
- WICKEDNESS:** refers to the activity, the tossing, the confusion in which the wicked live and the perpetual agitation which they cause to others. Isa.57:20,21; Job 3:17.
The outworking of the evil nature (depravity) Ezek.33:19
In the Book of Job the wicked are presented as triumphing for a time, but as finally put out into darkness; in the Psalms they are represented as busily occupied in disturbing the peace of others, and as trying to destroy them.
- ERROR:** that which disregards right and goes astray (Js.5:20; I Jn.2:6)
- UNGODLINESS:** lacking any worthy fear of God (Ps.1:1-6; Jude 15)
"Ungodliness - (Gk. asebeia)
Asebeia focuses on the relationship to God. God is angry because men are not rightly related to Him. The ungodliness of men is evidenced by their impiety toward God - their lack of reverence, devotion, and worship of Him which leads to idolatry. (Note the four "ungodlies" of Jude 15; cf. II Tim.2:16; Ti.2:12; I Pet.4:18; II Pet.2:5-6; 3:7)" John MacArthur Jr.
- BREACH OF TRUST:** unfaithfulness and treachery of sin - breach of trust (Judas) Josh.7:1; 22:20; Ezek.14:13; 15:8; 18:24; 39:23 (violating a covenantal agreement).
- VANITY:** nothingness. Amos 5:5; Hos.4:15; 5:8; 10:5,8. Not so much a breach of the law or injury done to another, as it is a course of conduct which will in the end prove unprofitable and fruitless to the doer. See Sccl. 1-12.
- GUILT:** sin committed through error, negligence or ignorance which when we become aware of our failure, we are to admit it and make it right. Lev.4:13. (the feeling of remorse).
- DISOBEDIENCE:** unwillingness to be led in the truth. Rom.5:19. Unresponsiveness to a call.
- UNBELIEF:** failure to trust in God. Heb.3:7-19; Jn.3:18
- LAWLESSNESS:** persistent sin, self gratification (I Jn. 3:4-10). Living as though God issued no laws.

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS:

"Unrighteousness - (Gk. adikia)
While adikia encompasses the first concept as well, it emphasizes more the result of asebeia. When you are not rightly related to God and fail to reverence Him properly, then your transactions with everyone else around you aren't right either. All sin, you see, first attacks God's majesty and then His law. The reason men unrighteously treat other men the way they do is because they treat God the way they do. When man becomes unrelated to God, his human relationships and transactions become corrupted. Ungodliness leads to unrighteousness; and such a failure to reverence God's laws leads to immorality. (cf. Rom.6:13; II Thess.2:12; II Pet.2:13,14; I Jn.5:17)" John MacArthur Jr.

SIN is therefore failure to do what God requires and willfully doing what God forbids.

3. Because of That, How Does God See Man: (lest we forget what we were outside Christ)

Rom.3:9 "all under sin."

Rom.3:12 "all gone out of the way."

Rom.3:19 "guilty BEFORE GOD." We may think well of ourselves, or PEOPLE may think well of us - this is what GOD thinks.

Rom.3:23 "for all have sinned."

"For there is no man that sinneth not." (I Kings 8:46)

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. (Jer.17:9)

"For there is not a just man upon the earth that doeth good and sinneth not." (Eccl. 7:20)

"All we like sheep have gone astray." (Isa.53:6)

"But we are all as an unclean thing and our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." (Isa.64:6)

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom.3:23)

"But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin." (Gal.3:22)

"For whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all." (Js.2:10)

PERSONAL APPLICATION - think it through, "How have I broken God's laws?"

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or earth.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the earth.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house,...wife... nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

In no way does the New Testament of the teaching of Christ imply that we throw out the 10 commandments. In fact, Christ says in Matt.5:21-28 that you are just as guilty by the thought of violating God's law.

PURPOSES FOR THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. To be God's Covenant people, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation (Ex.19:5-6)
2. To instruct the redeemed (Ex.20:2-3; Lev.18:5)
3. To restrain sinfulness and condemn the sinner (Rom.3:19-20; Gal.2:16; 3:22)
4. To show man's sinfulness (Rom.7:7)
5. To typify Christ and lead to Him (Heb.9:8,9; 10:1; Gal.3:24)

Definition of the LAW: a manifestation of the character and will of God (Lev.19:2)

The LAW - Ex.20-24 "By the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom.3:20)

Man does wrong because he is wrong, and the law by its deep spirituality touches the root and core of things and thus reveals to man that the sin within, unseen by men is as much sin in God's sight as what men see without. The law is therefore -

1. A scale to make known to man his deficiencies (James 2:10);
2. A looking-glass to show man his sinfulness (Rom.7:7);
3. A stethoscope to discover man's disease (Matt.5:27-37);
4. A rule to evidence his crookedness (Rom.7:14);
5. An officer to demand man's condemnation (Gal.3:10);
6. A judge to condemn him to death (Rom.7:10).

THE METAPHORS OF SIN

Sin is poisonous like a viper (Ps.140:3; Matt.23:33)

Sin is stubborn like a mule (Job 11:12)

Sin is cruel like a bear (Dan.7:5)

Sin is destructive like a canker worm (Joel 2:25)

Sin is unclean like a wild dog (Prov.26:11)

Sin is cunning like a fox (Luke 13:32)

Sin is fierce like a wolf (Jn.10:12)

Sin devours like a lion (Ps.22:13; Dan.7:4)

Sin is filthy like swine (II Pet.2:22)

SOME SPECIFIC SINS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

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| 1. Disobedience (Gen.3:6) | 10. Rape (2 Sam.13:14) |
| 2. Drunkenness (Gen.9:21) | 11. Plotting murder (Gen.37:18-22; 4:8) |
| 3. Self-worship (Gen.11:1-9) | 12. Mockery (2 Kings 2:23,24) |
| 4. Sodomy (Gen.19: Rom.1:24-32) | 13. Adultery (2 Sam.11:4,27) |
| 5. Hatred (Gen.27:41) | 15. Rebellion (Num.16) |
| 6. Deceit (Gen.27:11-15) | 16. Idolatry (Ex.32) |
| 7. Incest (Gen.19:33-38) | 17. Blasphemy (Acts 12:20-23) |
| 8. Lying (Gen.26:7,8) | 18. Breaking the Sabbath (Num.15:32-26) |
| 9. Jealousy (I Sam.18:8-12) | 19. Covetousness (Josh.7) |

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| 20. Compromise (Jdg.2:1-3) | 32. Prayerlessness (Hosea 7:7) |
| 21. Taking bribes (I Sam.8:3) | 33. Polluting the house of God (Jn.2:14-16) |
| 22. Eating blood (I Sam.14:33) | 34. Scattering the sheep (Jer.23:1) |
| 23. Practicing witchcraft (I Sam.28:7-18) | 35. Teaching false doctrine (Mt.16:6) |
| 24. Intruding into the priest's office (I Sam.2:17) | 36. Lack of mercy (Mt.18:23-35) |
| 25. Causing division among God's people (2 Sam.15:4) | 37. Hypocrisy (Matt.23) |
| 26. Despising a husband (2 Sam.6:14-23) | 38. Denying Christ (Mt.26:69-75) |
| 27. Offering human sacrifices (2 Kings 17:17) | 39. Crucifying Christ (Acts 2:23) |
| 28. Pride (I Sam.14:12-14) | 40. Being stiff-necked (Acts 7:51) |
| 29. Self-will (Ezek.28:17) | 41. Unthankfulness (Rom.1:30) |
| 30. Despising God's Word (2 Chron.36:16) | 42. Boasting (Rom.1:30) |
| 31. Attributing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit (Mt.12:24-32) | 43. Disobeying parents (Rom.1:30) |
| | 44. Without natural affection (Rom.1:31) |
| | 45. Living in the flesh (Gal.3:3) |

- Wilmington Guide to the Bible

5-FOLD JUDGMENT UPON CREATION

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| Upon man (Gen.3:17) | - effecting our physical and psychological being |
| - wearisome toil | |
| Upon woman (3:16) | - effecting our relationship to God |
| - suffering in childbirth | - effecting our bodies |
| - subordination to man | - effecting our marriages |
| Upon nature (3:18) | - effecting our environment |
| - thorns and thistles | |
| - aimlessness | |
| Upon serpent (3:14) | - effecting animals |
| - crawl on belly | |
| Upon Satan (3:15) | - effecting our spiritual warfare |
| - to suffer a fatal head wound | |
| Upon the human race | - effecting everything and everyone! |
| - to be under judgment (Rom.5:12-14) | |

God didn't minimize even one sin or treat it lightly! God hates all sin and it will keep man out of heaven! (Heb.1:13; Heb.12:1 and 2; Rev.21:10,27).

THE SOURCES OF SIN

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|-------------|-----------------------|
| Satan | Jn.8:44 |
| Man's heart | Matt.15:19 |
| Lust | Js.1:15 |
| Unbelief | Rom.14:23; Jn.16:8,9) |

ADAM'S SIN INTRODUCED

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| Fear | Gen.3:10 (personal problems) |
| Blameshifting | Gen.3:12-13 (interpersonal prob.) |
| Death | Gen.2:17,19 (physical & spiritual prob.) |
| Nakedness | Gen.3:17 (shame, guilt) |
| Curse | Gen.3:14 ("nothing will go right") |
| Sorrow | Gen.3:17 (grief) |
| Thorns | Gen.3:18 (inconvenience) |
| Sweat | Gen.3:19 (struggle) |
| Sword | Gen.3:24 (judgment & destruction) |

MAN IS ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD FOR HIS:

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| Works | I Cor.3:14-15 |
| Words | Matt.12:36-37 |
| Motives | I Cor.4:5 |
| Life | Rom.14:12 |

CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

(for Non Christian)

(for the Christian)

- It dulls man's ears (Acts 28:27)
- It darkens his eyes (Eph.4:18)
- It diverts his feet (Isa.53:6)
- It defiles his tongue (Rom.3:13-14)
- It deceives his heart (Jer.17:9)
- It devours his intellect (I Cor.2:14)
- It deadens his spirit (Eph.2:1)
- It dooms his soul (Ezek.18:4)
- Physical Death (for Christians too)
Gen.2:9; 3:19; 5:5; Ps.90:10; Jn.19:30)
- Spiritual Death - cut off from God (now)
Mt.7:23; 25:41; Rev.2:11; Eph.2:1
- Eternal Death (future)
Matt.13:42; 25:41-46; Rev.14:10-11
Rev.20:10-14; 21:8
- No peace, but turmoil (Isa.57:20-21)
- No fulfillment but emptiness (Ps.1:4)
- No assurance of eternal life but
condemnation
- No confidence of hope but bondage to
fear of death (Heb.2:15)

- The loss of God's approval (I Cor.3:12-15
cp.Js.1:12)
- The loss of rewards (I Cor.3:12-15, 2 Cor.5:10)
- The loss of power in service (I Jn.14:4-5)
- The loss of light (I Jn.1:6)
- The loss of joy (I Jn.1:4; Ps.51:12,
Jn.15:11)
- The loss of peace (I Jn.2:5; 15-17; 4:12)
- The loss of fellowship (I Jn.1:3; 6,7)
- The loss of confidence (I Jn.3:19-22)
- The loss of your testimony (lampstand) (Rev.2-3)
- The loss (possibly) of health and life
(I Cor.5:17; 11:30; I Jn.5:16)
- No spiritual growth (Heb.5:12-14)
- No spiritual service (2 Tim.2:19-20)
- No assurance (Rom.8:16)
- No fruit (Jn.15:1-8)
- Experience deadness (Js.1:13-16; 2:14-26)
- Experience chastening (Heb.12:5-11; I Cor.11:27-32)

EVERY PERSON AND THEIR SIN WILL FALL INTO ONE OR THE OTHER

THE UNBELIEVER'S SINS

- John 8:24 "shall die in your sins."
- I Tim.5:24 "sins . . . follow after."
- John 15:22 "no cloak for their sin."
- John 9:41 "your sin remaineth."

THE BELIEVER'S SINS

(a) WHERE THEY WERE

- Isa.53:6 "hath laid on Him."
- 2 Cor.5:21 "hath made Him to be sin."
- I Pet.2:24 "His own self bare our sins."
- Heb.1:3 "by Himself purged our sins."

(b) WHERE THEY ARE

- Isa. 43:25 "blotteth out . . .will not remember."
- Isa.44:22 "blotted out."
- Ps.103:12 "as far as the east is from the west... removed."
- Isa.38:17 "cast... behind thy back"
- Micah 7:19 "into the depths of the sea"
- Col.2:13 "forgiven"
- Heb.10:17 "remember no more."

What Does it Take to Remove Our Indifference? Rev.3:14-21

BROKENESS - The Missing Element!

OBSERVE HOW GOD'S people acknowledged themselves in response to God

1. Seeing Jehovah in His holiness made Isaiah cry, "I am undone" (Isa.6:5)
2. The remembrance of God's deliverance moved David to exclaim, "I am a worm" (Ps.22:6).
3. The manifestation of Christ's power urged Peter to confess, "I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8)
4. The contemplation of the father's home prompted the prodigal to own, "I am no more worthy ..." (Luke 15:19)
5. The application of the law of God in its spirituality led Paul to declare, " I am carnal" (Rom.7:14)
6. The unveiling of God's glory led Job to his heart-cry, "I am vile" (Job 40:4)
7. The consciousness of the Lord's remembrance made the psalmist say, "I am poor and needy" (Ps.40:17)
8. The sense of Jehovah's presence caused Jacob to acknowledge, "I am not worthy of the least of all Thy mercies" (Gen.32:10)
9. The knowledge of Christ makes everyone who sees himself in the light of His presence to exclaim, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (I Tim.1:15).

OBSERVE the following scriptural principles for practical application:

Ps. 51:1-19

I Jn.1:6-10

Prov.28:13

2 Chron.7:14

2 Cor.7:9-11 (vs.10)

Js.4:9-10

Rom.7:24

Ps.38:18

Isa.61:1-2

Ps.34:18

Instead of - comparing ourselves "I'm not just as bad as _____"
 - justifying ourselves "I don't do this all the time"
 - rationalizing "It's not that serious"

We must be UNCONDITIONALLY HONEST with ourselves, others, and God about:

- The holiness of God
- The wrath of God
- The reality of our sin.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The key word in understanding any concept(s) of the Christian life is balance. We need to look at the whole counsel of God in order to understand Scriptural truth accurately. This study only emphasizes SIN; the reason is explained on page 1. Other studies I have available such as "Union With Christ," "How to Have A Biblically Balanced and Accurate View of Ourselves, will be extremely helpful to emphasize the "other side of the coin" - (only as a believer in Christ).

HOWEVER, so as to not leave one feeling overwhelmed and hopeless (as a Christian), here is our hope and help:

I. Union with Christ Gives Power Over Sin - Romans 6:1-22

1. Romans 6 deals with the problem of recurring sins.
2. By Union with Christ the believer has been taken out of the realm of sin's sovereignty; "in Christ" sin cannot rule.
3. The "in Christ" status makes the believer to have been crucified, 6:6,8, buried, 6:4; united, 6:5; raised, 6:5; living, 6:8, "together-with-Christ."
4. Two benefits follow from this spiritual union:
 - a) No longer bondslaves to sin. Rom.6:6
 - b) Provided with the power of/for the new life. Rom.6:4
5. These benefits become realities in experience as we;
 - a) Receive the truth in faith (reckon) - Rom.6:11
 - b) Present ourselves to God in obedience - Rom.6:13
 - c) Withdraw from this service of sin - Rom.6:13

NOTE: Paul regards all this as standard items of Christian faith; note the phrases "know ye not", and "knowing this," Rom.6:3,6,9.

6. The same truths are given in Col.3:1-10. Here specific sins are name.

II. Union with Christ is a Basis for Assurance - Eph.2

Ephesians 2 contrasts the former with the present spiritual conditions of the Gentiles who had turned to Christ. Knowing what they are and have "in Christ" gives the assurance that they are truly children of God, notwithstanding what they had been. (See "Self Image: Biblically Balanced View of Self" for further detail.

From <u>Adam</u>	to <u>Christ</u>
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BUT DON'T FORGET HOW GOD VIEWS SIN!

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sin entered 2. Death offered 3. Judgment 4. Condemnation 5. Unrighteousness 6. Sin reigned 7. Brought sin & death as a result 8. Disobedience 9. Sin entered 10. Bondage 11. Offense imputed | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> - sin cleansed - life offered - no more judgment (freedom) - justification - righteousness - grace reigned - brought life & righteousness as a result - obedience - grace entered - freedom - gift given | <p>Man calls it an accident; God calls it an abomination.</p> <p>Man calls it a blunder; God calls it a blindness.</p> <p>Man calls it a defect; God calls it a disease.</p> <p>Man calls it a chance; God calls it a choice.</p> <p>Man calls it an error; God calls it an enmity.</p> <p>Man calls it a fascination; God calls it a fatality.</p> <p>Man calls it an infirmity; God calls it an iniquity.</p> <p>Man calls it a luxury; God calls it a leprosy.</p> <p>Man calls it a liberty; God calls it a lawlessness.</p> <p>Man calls it a trifle; God calls it a tragedy.</p> <p>Man calls it a mistake; God calls it a madness.</p> <p>Man calls it a weakness; God calls it willfulness.</p> |
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- Moody Monthly

"He that covers his SIN (even by calling it something else) won't prosper, but he that confesses (agrees; says the same thing as God says about it) and forsakes it shall have mercy." - Prov.28:13