

Thomas F. Chambers

CONSEQUENCES OF SIN - Everybody Loses!

Think it over - it's not worth it! (Ask somebody who's been there)

Sin is no respecter of persons - no matter who commits it, they'll experience the same results. The degree to which one experiences these consequences will obviously vary, and certainly God's sovereignty and grace can intervene and "abound", but we can't presume upon it (Rom. 6:1). Also, if repentance, reconciliation and restoration occur at any point, some consequences may be lessened, overtaken and/or may never even occur. However, one thing for sure that the scriptures affirm is "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever you sow, that shall you also reap". (Gal. 6:7)

Remember, when God's order (truth) is disrupted (gone against) just the opposite of what God intends to happen, occurs. "The way of the transgressor is hard". (Prov. 13:15)

Satan has a lot of alluring disguises to mask SIN and make it look attractive and fun. Rarely do people take time to think past that facade to the true results of such actions. Will it make one bit of difference if you change the label on a bottle of poison and then drink it? Of course not! So then, it's just as irrational for us to think we can minimize our sinful choices and not fully experience the after math! Tragically, things will/may not ever be the same again and that's why we must think about all we might be bringing upon ourselves and others whom we allow sin to go on unconfessed and unresolved in our hearts before God.

Famous last words:

"It's just a little sin"

"It's not as bad as what others do"

"Other people get away with it"

"Nobody will ever find out"

Certainly, our love for the LORD should be the only reason we need to obey and follow His commands and principles for living, but when we get our eyes off the Lord, Satan works fast. However, because scripture itself records so many warnings about sin and its consequences, we had better listen up to spiritual reason and fortify our spiritual faculties to be alert to the danger of going against God's true and wise instruction.

Sin does have consequences! Just read through the Bible about Israel, (Num. 11 - 16), Moses, Nadab and Abihu, Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), Jonah, David (2 Sam. 11 - 14), and notice all the prophets' messages of repentance from sin will help to overtaken some of the consequences of captivity! Yes, from the very beginning, sin brought devastating results on man's relationship with God, the environment, man's nature, woman, animals, and the whole human race (Gen. 3)! (Notice even in the book of Revelation the finale). Everybody is effected, our choices and decisions eventually ripple out to those around us - it is inevitable "law of sin". You could say that the consequences "out number" the "pleasures of sin", 10 to 1. So then, let's think it through.

WHEN YOU DELIBERATELY & WILLFULLY SIN OR GO AGAINST GOD'S LAWS & ORDER, YOU:

- You break fellowship with God (I John 13:7)
- You lose the joy of your salvation (Ps. 51:12; Jn. 15:11)
- You lose power for serving God (Jn 15:4-5)
- You jeopardize future rewards in heaven (I Cor. 3:12-15)
- You forfeit present blessing and prosperity (Prov. 23:13)
- You bring God's chastening upon yourself (Heb. 12:6-11; I Cor. 11:31-32)
- You risk losing your own life if unrepentant! (I Jn. 5:16; I Cor. 11:30)
- You dull your spiritual senses to spiritual truth (Acts 28:27)
- You darken your ability to understand (how life works "rightly") (Eph. 4:18)
- You increase fleshly thoughts creating enmity toward God (Rom. 8:7)
- You warp your spiritual capacity and intellect (I Cor. 2:9-14)
- You bring "deadness" to your inner being (Rom. 5:12; Js. 1:13-16; 2:14-26)
- You deprive yourself of God's comfort (Lk. 15:32)
- You place yourself in Satan's power (grip) (Eph. 2:2)
- You possibly face sickness (I Cor. 11:28-32; Js. 5:14) and other types of suffering.
- You may not have your prayers answered (Ps. 66:18; I Pet. 3:12; Prov. 28:9)
- You and your sin will be found out (Num. 32:23)
- You may forfeit God's mercy (Prov. 28:13)
- You experience fruitless, empty, barren, useless existence (Js. 1:13-16; 2:14-26;
Jn. 15:1-8)
- You set God in opposition against you (Ps. 7:11-13; Js. 4:6)
- You deceive your own heart (Jer. 17:9)
- You will retard your spiritual growth (Heb. 5:12-14)
- You diminish your spiritual potential in serving (2 Tim. 2:19-20)
- You lose assurance (Rom. 8:16)
- You may lose your health (I Cor. 5:17; 11:30)
- You lose your confidence (I Jn. 3:19-22)
- You reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7)
- You lose God's approval (I Cor. 3:12-15; 9:27; Js. 1:12)
- You forfeit peace (I Jn. 2:5; 15:17; 4:12)
- You lose spiritual power (Jn. 15:4-5; Gal. 5:16)
- You quench God's spirit (I Thes. 5:19)
- You grieve God's spirit (Eph. 4:30)
- You experience turmoil (Isa. 57:20-21)
- You have no fulfillment but emptiness (Ps. 1:4)
- You risk being cut off from other Christians (I Cor. 5:11,13)
- You mess up others' lives and they could suffer personal loss (Jonah 1)
- You set yourself up for nothing but calamity and heartache . . . Read Proverbs!

SIN CREATES EXTREME DOMINATING EMOTIONAL RESPONSES, SUCH AS:

embarrassment	shame	guilt	fear
remorse	paranoia	hurt	"pain"
depression	confusion	anger	bitterness
inward turmoil	loneliness	despair	resentment
doubt	anxiety	stress	worry
regret	hatred	condemnation	tears

SIN ROBS US OF:

joy	peace of mind	assurance	confidence
comfort	productivity	"fruitfulness"	hope
time	health	victory	contentment
fellowship	friendships	trust	money
reputation	possessions	job	family
sleep!	wisdom	understanding	strength
God's blessing	God's working	God's promises	God's presence
God's provision	God's protection	God's power	God's peace
fun	happiness	privileges	

SIN BRINGS:

moral ruination	feeling oriented behavior	emptiness
more sin	perversion of what's right	guilt
self deception	some kinds of sickness	deadness
captivity to Satan	some types of diseases	rationalizing
spiritual bondage	unforgiving attitudes	blameshifting
hard heartedness	justification of behaviors	gossip
distorted perceptions	excusing of ones responsibilities	misunderstanding
dishonor to God	greater addictions	criticism
unwanted changes	foolish "mind build ups"	defeat
sometimes divorce	denial of seriousness of sin	hypocrisy
stubborn pride	minimizing of the problems	sorrow
further failure	destruction to reputation	tensions
numerous disadvantages	awkwardness to relationships	selfishness
deeper rebellion	condemnation from others	accusations
cover up/hiding	vulnerability to Satan's lies	breakdowns
rejection from others	living a lie	imbalances
mistrust from others	withdrawal from _____	apathy
needless suffering	(friends, family, church, society)	indifference
guilt trips	fear of getting caught	crying
spiritual ruination	vicious cycles of regret	punishment
continual over-reactions	hatred toward life	even death or
foolish projections	sickening sense of overwhelming	suicide
bizarre behavior	sorrow	
sometimes insanity	judgment from God	

SIN AND IT'S CONSEQUENCES CAN ALSO:

- Open the door for other sins to come in
- Devastate and threaten life long friendships
- Tear families apart, make everyone feel uncomfortable
- Cause innocent people to suffer (children, spouse, parents, inlaws, friends, churches . . .)
- Give the world a chance to mock God (blaspheme)
- Create feelings of inferiority
- Take years to mend, restore, pick up the pieces, and get on with life
- Taint that which is good
- Give Satan a chance to laugh at you
- Cause one to make irrational choices and decisions
- Keep one from turning to God and keeping their eyes on Him.
- Complicate ones ability to think clearly
- Bring out extreme reactions and responses
- Destroy ones self image
- Deplete one of spiritual, moral, physical, emotional, strength
- Create misconceptions about God (blaming Him . . .)
- Destroy one's reputation, testimony and/or ministry
- Destroy the reputation of others, business, church; even God's reputation is at stake!
- Cut off resources for living abundantly and/or ministering effectively
- Lead others astray, cause them to fall or backslide
- Cause others to justify their sin
- Cause some to "give up on God"
- Hinder God's working, plan or purpose
- Give the sinful nature and/or Satan more of a foothold
- Make "worse" sins easier
- Make one vulnerable to Satan's lies
- Make one suceptable to fall for counterfeit/attractive lifestyles
- Reinforce self-centered living - only living with self in view
- Jeopardize the "trust" others have in you
- Reinforce patterns of wrong living
- Radically effect the future
- Break down ones ability to resist further temptations
- Create the illusion that we can meet our needs apart from God's all-wise ways and plan
- Cause doubt toward God and His word
- Deceive one into thinking things aren't that bad - "I'm okay"
- Cause one to be fooled by their emotions
- Put unfair pressures on those people close to you
- Force people, families to take sides and many remain unreconciled
- Make enemies
- Set in motion irrevokable consequences (the damage has already been done)
- Creates many different kinds of "breakdown" and "break-ups"
- Bring church discipline and even excommunication
- Start short term and long term chain reaction of negative events
- Plant seeds of disintegration
- Lead to fines, lawyer fees, court costs, imprisonment . . .
- Cause some to lose out for the rest of their lives
- Possibly even kill someone; physical death
- Doom one's soul (Ezek. 18:4)
- Separate one from God for eternity in hell (Matt. 13:42; 25:41-46; Rev. 14:10-11; Rev. 20:10-14; 21:8)

What you need to do is to "personalize" this information to your situation, yourself and family by asking:

1. What consequences do I run the risk of experiencing? (short term and long term)
2. How will these effect (name) (spouse, parents, children, grandparents, inlaws, relatives, church, friends, coworkers, others)?
3. Am I really desiring to bear the responsibility and pay that price?
4. Why is it hard to trust God's best wisdom and warning to me? What is my concept of God anyway?
5. How could I (or anybody) not care about the seriousness of these consequences?
6. What else can I do to get help so that I can experience the fulfillment and contentment from God instead of such misery and trouble?

As you now have evaluated your choice in light of potential consequences, I pray this may have strengthened and reinforced rational logical obedience to righteous behavior; if not I won't say "I told you so" but I would be interested to know what more could have been said to stop you from choosing this side of the fence! Because when we choose to sin, in reality we're actually saying . . . "but I want to experience these terrific consequences . . . !"

Listen! No matter what point you're at in you life, right now, you can be honest with God and humble yourself before Him. If you need help and hope, your next decision should be to call me for further spiritual information and counsel.

(Granted, this study maximizes "the negative", unfortunately, that's what gets our attention most of the time, but remember, if you go back through and list the opposite of each consequence, you'll build up positive motivation to live righteously).

The highest court of appeal is the sacred oracle of God's truth. There are many similes which God uses to bring home the fact, the force, and the folly of sin. Sin like the beast in the Book of Revelation, is many-headed and as glaring in its pronounced iniquity. Sin is:

1. A grievous malady contaminating the whole of the being, as the Lord said of the iniquity of Sodom, when He pronounced it "great" and "very grievous" (Gen. 18:20);
2. An obscuring cloud which hides the face of God's approval and blessing: as we read in Isaiah 59:2, "Your sins have hid His face from you";
3. A binding cord that keeps the powers of man from fulfilling their designed functions: the wicked one is said "to be holden with the cords of his sins" (Prov. 5:22);
4. A crouching beast which waits to spring upon its victim to its destruction, as Jehovah reminded Cain when He declared "sin croucheth at the door" (Gen. 4:7);
5. A rest-destroyer unHINGING the mind and plunging it into the throes of travail and anguish, as David found when he exclaimed, "There is no rest in my bones because of my sin" (Ps. 38:3);
6. A blessing-robber that strips and starves, to the soul's nakedness and destitution, as jeremiah reminded Judah when he spoke of the cause of their captivity, and said, "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good from you" (Jer. 5:25);
7. A terrible desolater which devastates personhood like an earthquake devastating some fair city to its overthrow: "I will make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate, because of thy sins" (Mic. 6:13);
8. A tripper-up which continually throws the sinner over to his hurt by the obstacles which it places in his way: as the wise man remarked, "Wickedness overthroweth the sinner" (Prov. 13:6)

9. A written record which leaves its indelible mark upon the man who commits it: "Sin . . . is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond it is graven upon the heart" (Jer. 17:1);
10. A betraying presence which "will be found out" no matter how carefully one seeks to hide it: "Ye have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are discovered, so that all your sins do appear" (Ezek. 21:24);
11. An accusing witness which points its condemning finger at the prisoner arraigned before the bar of justice: as we read in Holy Scripture, "Our sins testify against us: (Isa. 59:12);
12. A sum of addition, which is ever adding to its catalog of ills: as Jehovah once plaintively said, "Woe to the rebellious children . . . that take counsel, but not of Me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin: (Isa. 30:1).

-Bancroft, Christian Theology; pp. 215-216