

Hamartiology - Study of Sin

Hamartiology = Study of sin. Greek word Hamartia (sin) + Logos (study of)

Approximately **8 different** words in O.T. Approximately **12 different** words in New Testament for sin.

Why are there so many different words? Answer: Because mankind is very creative at sinning.

There Are Many Different Aspects To Sin

- General **missing the mark** or the target.
Ex. 20:20 *“Moses said to the people, do not be afraid for God has come in order to test you, and in order the the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.”*
 - God tests (not tempts) Israel so that they might not sin. This is a general sin.
- **Something morally wrong** or broken.
Gen. 3:5 *“Do not eat or you will know good and EVIL”*
- The Idea of **actively rebelling**.
Isa. 1:2 *“Listen O heavens, and hear O earth, for the Lord speaks, Sons I have reared and brought up, But they have revolted against Me.”*
 - God raised up sons who revolted against Him.
- **Going astray** like sheep or drunk person might do.
 - **Isa. 28:7**
 - **Ezek. 34:6** *“My flock wandered through all the mountains. My flock was scattered over all the surface of the Earth.....”*
- Idea of **moral evil** often used of Satan & demons
Acts 17:5 Jews riled up wicked men to form a mob and drug Jason out into the streets
- Idea of **falling away** with deliberate choices
Read **Romans 5:15-20**

Most Widely Used Words Refer to General Missing the Mark- Falling Short of God's Standard

Chata (Hebrew) most used in Old Testament **Harmartia** (Greek) most used in New Testament

Most scholars note missing the intended target is only half. It also means you hit something else.

Israel: *Moses went up the mountain and Israel fashioned a golden calf*

Missing the Mark = Failed to trust God in Moses' absence

What They Hit Instead = Fashioned an idol to worship

Proverbs 8:36 *“He who sins against Me injures himself, All those who hate Me love death.”*

Missing the Mark = Sinning against God

What They Hit Instead= They love death

James 4:4 *“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*

Missing the Mark = Choosing Friendship w/ World Over God

What They Hit Instead = Became an Enemy of God

Pro-Choice Movement

Missing the Mark = Disregard for the unborn, failure value human life.

What They Hit Instead = They love death. (Should be called Pro Life & Pro Death)

Sin always represents loyalty to something else in lieu of God. Repentance always requires about face

3 Categories of Sin Plaguing Humanity

1. Imputed Sin (Imputed Consequences)

- Title is a little misleading.
- **To Impute:** means to assign or ascribe something to someone, or credit something to someone.
- Title implies we have been credited with Adam's sin. As though we were there with him sinning.
- In reality, what has been imputed to us is physical death as a result of Adam's sin.
- It would be inconsistent to assert that God assigns Sin or Fault to us as a result of another.
 - We are not saved by someone else's confession of faith, nor condemned by someone else's sin.
 - **Romans 5:12-14** God does not need to assign/credit Adam's sin to us because we have all sinned on our own. *"Death has spread to all men because all sinned."*
 - We CAN reasonably say that the consequence of physical death has been imputed to us.
 - An unborn baby or an infant a few days old may experience the **consequence** of physical death

2. Inherited Sin

- This is also referred to as **"Sin Nature"**, or **"Original Sin"**
- Reality of being human.
 - We have human parents who were born with a sin nature. They inherited a sin nature.
 - **Ephesians 2:3** we are all objects of wrath.
 - **Romans 5:10** *"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."*
 - **Psalm 51:5** David recognized Inherited Sin • Inherited Sin is not a choice. It is a condition.
- **Inherited Sin Leads to the Total Depravity of Man**
 - **Romans 1:28-32** This is what inherited sin looks like.
 - While humanity is totally depraved, NOT every individual is totally depraved
 - **Mat. 5** Beattitudes *"Blessed are the poor in Spirit....."*
 - **Romans 7** *"O wretched man that I am, who will rescue me....."*
 - It simply means total depravity affects all aspects of humanity and all people.
 - **II Cor. 4:4** Our intellect is blinded
 - **Ephesian 4:18** Our understanding is darkened.
 - **Titus 1:15** Our emotions are compromised
 - **Romans 6:20, 7:20** Our will and bent is toward sin which is in opposition to God.

The Consequence for Inherited Sin Is Spiritual Death

- Spiritual Death **Ephesians 2:1-5** *"dead in your transgressions, but made alive in Christ"*

God's Provision for Inherited Sin Is Redemption & The Gift of the Holy Spirit

- God does not eliminate physical death. But He makes a provision for us to live forever
- **Ryrie** *"We are freed of the dominion of sin by Christ's death & we are freed of the domination of sin by the power of The Holy Spirit."*
 - Jesus died on the cross to address the universal condition of inherited sin.
 - He has not prevented its TRANSMISSION, but dealt w/ its consequences.
 - **Romans 5:8** *"While we were yet sinners Christ died for us."*
 - **Romans 6:17-18** This is akin to missing the target but hitting something else
 - We were once slaves to sin, now we are slaves to righteousness.
 - Outside of Christ we are obligated to sin because that was our nature.
 - **Romans 8:1-2** *"There is therefor now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."*
 - Our sin nature made us subject to the law of sin & death. Now we are freed of that.
 - **Gal. 5:24-25** We have been given life in the spirit, and we are empowered to walk by the Spirit.
 - **Colossians 1:13** God has RESCUED us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of Jesus.

3. Personal Sin

- Personal Sin is when the condition of our sin nature (or Inherited Sin) is manifest today.
- We don't get a choice about inherited sin, but we can choose personal sin.
- **Romans 3:9-18, 22-23** Paul gives an amalgamation of various Psalm & Isaiah references
 1. There is no people group better than another when measured by God's standard.
 2. Nobody is righteous and nobody seeks God
 3. Everything that is within us is wicked, & that is what exudes from us.
 4. We have no fear or reverence for God.
- Personal Sin includes the obvious outward acts that we easily witness.
- Personal sin also includes the quiet internal matters of our hearts.
 - **Mat. 5** Adultery = looking at a woman lustfully
 - **Mat. 5** Murder = harboring anger in your heart toward another
 - **II Cor. 10:5** "we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."
 - **Col. 3:5-6**
 - **James 4:17** "If you know the right thing to do and you do not do it, that is sin."
 - **I Corinthians 8:4-13** Christian liberty can actual be sin.

The Consequence of Personal Sin is Broken Fellowship with God

- The **Unbeliever's** personal sin warrants his eternal condemnation
 - He is not in fellowship with God now, and he will experience separation for eternity.
- For the **Believer**, personal sin temporarily forfeits our fellowship with God until repentance.
 - We are not disqualified from Heaven. We are not disowned by God.
 - God hears our prayers.
 - But we ARE sideways with God for a time. Our relationship with Him is tainted.

God's Provision for Personal Sin Is Forgiveness Through Confession

1. For the nonbeliever personal sin is first covered by a confession of faith
 - **Acts 2:38** "*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
 - The non believer must first recognize that he is a sinner
 - The non believer must repent of his sins and do a 180 toward Jesus
 - **Eph. 1:7** "*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.*"
2. For the Believer, Personal Sin Is Forgiven When We Confess Our Daily Sins
 - **I John 1:9** "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"
 - "*Peter, you don't need your WHOLE body washed, but your feet got dirty on the way here....*"
 - **Psalm 51** "*Against You only God have I sinned.....*"

Christians' Protection From Sin

1. The Word of God

- **Psalm 119:11**
- **Psalm 19:7-8**
- **Eph. 6:17** "*Sword of the Spirit*" which is the word of God. (only offensive component)
- Time in the word reinforces God's principles and truths.
- We can hear scripture resonating in our minds when we're tempted to sin.

2. The Intercession of Jesus

- **Hebrews 7:25** Jesus always lives to make intercession for believers.
- **John 17:15** Jesus prays that we would be in the world but not of the world and that while we're here that the Father would protect us from the evil one.
- **Luke 22:32** Jesus prayed for Peter, and told him that Satan has asked to sift him like wheat. Jesus specifically referenced Peter's denial and then his return. Jesus' prayer was about Peter's faith being resolute and strengthening his brothers.

3. The Indwelling of The Holy Spirit

- **Gal. 5:16-24** The Holy Spirit helps us to abstain and put to death the desires of the flesh. At the same time, He helps us set our desires on the fruit of the Spirit
 - This is another example of not just abstaining from one, but engaging another.
 - Its like missing the target but hitting something else.
- **I Cor. 2:10** The Spirit reveals the things of God and searched the depths of God.
 - He reveals things to us that only God knows.
 - Things that we could not know without Him.

You've Heard that sometimes best the defense is a good offense?

God has given us the tools and equipped us to reject sinful tendencies.

James 4:7 "submit yourselves to God, resists the Devil, and he will flee"

- Focussing on God is our primary goal.

We need not become depressed and fatalistic about sin.

- Our sin does not surprise God
- I John 1:9 We are to confess our sins and He is faithful to forgive.

I John 1:5-2:2

C.S. Lewis: "*Progress means getting nearer to the place you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turn, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. IF you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man.*"