

Meaning of Sin (from United Church of God commentary) my words are in italics

The Hebrew and Greek words translated “sin” throughout the Bible revolve largely around two major concepts. The first is that of transgression. **To transgress means “to step across” or “to go beyond a set boundary or limit.”** (*An Outlaw*) Most of the other words translated “sin” in the Bible involve a second concept, **“to miss the mark.”** To miss the mark aimed at or not reach the intended goal. The biblical definitions of sin show us the standards God has given us that define what is acceptable to Him and what isn’t acceptable. They show us what measures up and what falls short of those standards, the fundamental principles God has given us to live by. **The most basic definition of sin is in 1 John 3:4: (KJV). “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law”** Here God defines a boundary for mankind. He says that sin is transgressing His holy, spiritual law (Romans 7:12-14). Breaking that law—crossing that divine boundary, that limit God set for us—is sin. When we look at 1 John 3:4 in other translations, we see another important perspective. Here’s how the **NKJV translates it: “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”** God gave humanity His laws to show us His way of love. Those laws define how we demonstrate love to God and our fellowman (Deuteronomy 30:15-16 & 1 John 5:3)

My Definition of Sin - DRH

Any action, lack of action or thought that will cause unnecessary physical, mental, emotional or spiritual harm, discomfort, pain or intentional offense to any life form including other persons, self and God. Sin is breaking any of the biblical ten commandments from God and is summed up in the laws to love God and love your neighbor as yourself as presented by Jesus Christ. **(Matt. 22: 35-40)** The laws and commandments given through Moses were for the purpose of learning God’s way, defining sin, and creating peacefulness and harmony among humans and fulfilling God’s purposes for mankind’s salvation from sin and death through Christ and to establish His government on the earth at God’s chosen time. **(Daniel 9: 24-27)**

The law was given to the nation of Israel, so they would not have to go through life offending God and man by learning His ways through trial and error. The law was a teacher to help remove them from the path of learning good and evil themselves by personal experience, and to help them prosper and show all nations the beneficial ways of God during the time before the Holy Spirit was available to all on earth. The nation of Israel failed in their mission to bring the light of God’s ways to the earth by turning away from the commandments, but God always kept a remnant of faithful believers to carry the torch through all the generations. Yahshua (Jesus) fulfilled the ceremonial laws given to Moses by God by being the spotless lamb of God sacrifice because He did not break any of the commandments or ceremonial laws during His life on earth and He offered Himself as a willing sacrifice.

The Ten Commandments (abbreviated) Exodus 20: 1 And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below

⁷You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God ⁸Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

¹²Honor your father and your mother. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. ¹⁷ You shall not covet
¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke,
they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, Speak to us yourself and we will
listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die. ²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God
has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

Psalm 34: 11 Come ye, children, hearken to me, the fear of Jehovah I do teach you.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

SALVATION FROM SIN AND DEATH

After Yahshua (Jesus) Christ was crucified and was resurrected by YHVH God from death, He sent the power of God's holy spirit to dwell in the souls of repentant believers for the purposes of counselling, teaching God's ways, comforting, giving spiritual gifts, convincing people that sin is a direct result of non-belief that Jesus Christ was God's son sent by God who all sinners are ultimately rejecting, convincing people that Jesus went back to the heavenly Father proving He truly was righteous and came from God, (*John 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God² The same was in the beginning with God*) and that Satan, the ruler of this world had been judged and would be dethroned at Christ's return. (John 16: 4-10) In essence, true Christians who would receive that Holy Spirit would have direct access to God symbolized by the veil in the Holy of Holies at Jerusalem's temple being torn when Christ died completing the once for all sacrifice for sin and ending the need for ceremonial animal sacrifice. (Matt. 27:51)

Having direct access to God through His Holy Spirit and seeking guidance and truth concerning our actions, non-actions and thoughts, we will eventually be convinced or convicted of each sin within us. When we are convinced that something is truly indeed a sin we must completely turn away from it by true repentance.

If we are convinced and convicted that something is a sin and do not repent but reject the truth from the Holy Spirit because of a love for that sin, then we would be in danger of the judgement. If we repent but later fall back into that sin repeatedly we would be in danger of the judgement. However, the only way a Christian with the Holy Spirit could do that is to close their spiritual ears to the truth being presented to them and turn their back on God as the 25 men of Judah did in Ezekiel's temple vision after they fell into idolatry. (Ezekiel 8:15-16)

If we have a problem letting go or repenting of a sin, it is because of our love for that sin. But we cannot serve that sin (i.e. the idolatrous love of money, Mammon) and God. (Matt. 6: 24) This concept of not serving two masters includes sin carried out in the mind only. (Matt. 5: 21-22) The good news is that with the Holy Spirit to teach us we can overcome that sin. (Matt. 19: 23-26) If we struggle with love of a sin, we must ask God to remove that sin from our heart and help us to see it the way He sees it. The Holy Spirit will then teach us the truth about that sin, its consequences, all of the actual and potential negative ramifications of it and He will let you see its true face and fruit.

If a repentant Christian falls back into a sin without seeking true repentance again and turning back again to God's way, he will be in danger of the judgement because he has closed his ears to the Holy Spirit and turned his back on God's truth and will not be able to hear the voice of Christ when He returns. (Luke 12: 39-47) That person will be left to this world's fate when Christ returns because sin cannot enter heaven and sinners cannot partake of the tree of life (Genesis 2: 22-24) Therefore ALL sinners must believe in Christ and repent to enter heave.

Genesis 2: 22-24

²² And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: ²³ Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Deuteronomy 30: 15-16

¹⁵ "Look! I have set before you today life and prosperity on the one hand, and death and disaster on the other. ¹⁶ What I am commanding you today is to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to obey his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances.

Ezekiel 8: 15-16 NKJV

¹⁵ Then He said to me, "Have you seen *this*, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these." ¹⁶ So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.

Daniel 9:24-27 King James Version (KJV)

²⁴ Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Matthew 5 Murder Begins in the Heart

²¹ You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.²⁷ You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

1 John 3:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in *him*

Genesis 4 Jealousy, Hatred and Anger without cause

³ And ⁱⁿ the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. ⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 'If you do well, (right-NIV) will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, (right) sin lies (is crouching-NIV) at the door. And its desire *is* ⁱⁿ for you, but you should (must-NIV) rule over it."

Matthew 6: 24

²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 19: (KJV) Love of money & Idoltry

²³ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. ²⁵ When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? ²⁶ But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Matthew 22

³⁵ Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, ³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 27:51

And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Luke 12 KJV

³⁹ And this know, that if the good man of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. ⁴⁰ Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. ⁴¹ Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? ⁴² And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁴ Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. ⁴⁵ But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; ⁴⁶ The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

1 John 5 New English Translation (NET Bible)

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been fathered by God, and everyone who loves the father loves the child fathered by him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God: whenever we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments do not weigh us down, ⁴ because everyone who has been fathered by God conquers the world.

The Work of the Spirit John 16:4-10 NRSV

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convince^(a) the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.