

SIN IS CONTRARY TO MAN:

Sin is contrary to the good of man, and nothing is properly and absolutely so but sin. This results and is evident from sin's contrariety to God: just as there is nothing contrary to God but sin (for devils are not so but by sin), so sin in being contrary to God, is and cannot but be contrary to man. Inevitably, that must be evil to man, which is evil against God, who is the chiefest good of man. Communion with, and conformity to God is man's felicity, his heaven upon earth and in heaven too, without which it would not be worth his while to have a being. Now since sin is a separation between God and man, an interruption of this communion and conformity, it must needs be prejudicial and hurtful to him.

Besides, the commandment of which sin is a transgression was given not only for God's sake, that he might have glory from man's obedience, but for man's sake, that man might enjoy the good and benefit of his obedience, and find that in keeping the commands of God there is great reward. These two were twisted together, and no sooner is the law transgressed but God and man are joint-sufferers, God in his glory and man in his good. Man's suffering follows at the heel of sin, indeed, as he suffers by sinning, so in sinning; suffering and sinning involve each other. No sooner did sin enter into the world, but death, which is a privation of good, entered by it, with it, and in it, for sin is the sting of death. So sin says, Here is death, and death says, Here is sin. No sooner did the angels sin, but they fell from their first estate and habitation, which they had with God in glory. There was not a moment between their sin and misery; as soon as man had sinned, his conscience told him that he was naked and destitute of righteousness and protection, and consequently an undone man, who could not endure God's presence or his own (Genesis 3.7-8). So apparent is it that sin, in being contrary to God, is contrary to man, for what crosses God's glory is opposed to man's happiness.

I. Sin is Contrary to Man's Body:

- A. Read Genesis 3:16-24:
 - 1. List every effect of the curse which has direct effect upon the human body.
 - 2. What fact concerning the mortality of man is implied from 3:22?
 - 3. What sort of sins are related to the various elements of the curse upon the human body?
- B. What is now the end of every human body? Heb. 9:27
- C. How does Paul describe the human body? 1 Cor. 15:42-43; Phil. 3:21.

- D. What can our current body not do? 1 Cor. 15:50
- E. Make a list of sins and couple that list with the physically resulting effects upon the body. Example:

Sin	Effect
Anger	Higher risk heart attack ¹

II. What is the Importance of the Human Body?

- A. Where did sin first take place? Genesis 3.
- B. What did God take on to deal with the effects of sin? John 1:14
- C. Where did the act of atonement take place? Isaiah 53; Matt. 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19.
- D. What was the surprising thing about Christ’s death? Matt. 28.
- E. In what space did God deal with sin? Rom. 4:25.
- F. What is the importance of the human body? 1 Cor. 6:12-20.
- G. Is there any sin which a human being can commit which does not involve the human body?

III. Sin is Contrary to the Human Soul.

- A. Read Genesis 3:16-24:
 - 1. List every effect of the curse which has direct effect upon the human soul.
 - 2. What sorts of sins are related to the effect of the curse upon the human soul?

¹<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1701335,00.html>
http://www.angermanagementseminar.com/articles/youthful_anger_means_early_heart_disease.html “A Johns Hopkins Medical School study, 48 years in the making, confirms that young men who reacted to stress with anger were three times more likely to suffer from CHD before the age of 55 than their peers who said they let stressful situations roll off their backs.”

- B. Read Matthew 10:28
1. What are we not to fear?
 2. What are we required to fear?
 3. Where does the value lie?

IV. A List of How Sin has Caused Us Injury:

- A. Consider the following list of injuries caused by sin:
1. Sin is against man's rest and ease, of which man is a great lover; and, indeed, he needs it as a great part of the well-being of his life.
 2. Sin is against man's comfort and joy.
 3. Sin is against man's health.
 4. Sin is against the quiet of a man's natural conscience.
 5. Sin is against the beauty of man.
 6. Sin is against the loving and conjugal co-habitation of soul and body.
 7. Sin is against man's relative good in this world. Man's comfort or sorrow lies much in his relationships; the weal or woe of his life is as his relationships are.
- B. One great difficulty people have in giving up a sin is in seeing damage caused by the continuance of sin. They look to their sin as a source of comfort or joy. Yet, the Bible portrays sin as a constant source of misery. Pick a sin and work out the way in which the sin is contrary to the good of the one practicing the sin:
- C. Consider: How does engaging in a sin degrade a human being?

V. Sin Separates Us From Our Greatest Happiness:

- A. The happiness in God will be dealt with at length in another lesson. At this point consider the following:

- B. *Man's folly appears to be great in relation to the means and way leading to happiness, as well as in relation to his end and happiness; he mistakes them both. The enjoyment of God is our happiness, and religion, viz. rightly serving and worshipping God, the means of enjoying God, and therefore of our happiness. Alas! here man is a very fool. Though in general men acknowledge that there is a God, and that God is to be worshipped and obeyed, yet who this God is, and how he is to be worshipped--man is full of darkness, doubt and perplexity about it. Hence we have expressions in the Scripture concerning sinners, such as: 'Ye worship ye know not what' (John 4.22). Surely they who worship they know not what, worship also they know not how, as there follows. The Athenian altar had this inscription, To the unknown God (Acts 17.23), and the world by wisdom knew not God, viz. God manifest in the flesh (1 Corinthians 1.20. Though nothing is more knowable, yet nothing is more unknown than God. It is visible to all the creation, by the creation, that there is a God (Romans 1.20); but who and what he is, and what his will is, who hath known the mind of God? (1 Corinthians 2.16).*

Sin has made men worship either (1) a false God, which is idolatry; or (2) God falsely, which is superstition. Man has become such a fool that his worship, till enlightened and converted, is either a breach of the First or Second Commandment. He fails as to the object or the manner of worship, and both speak man's folly, that his religion is either idolatry or superstition. (RV)

- C. Question: If sin causes us to wrongly worship – that is, sin causes us to submit to something other than our Creator – what could more grotesque or dishonoring? Eph. 4:8
- D. Give an example of how sin causes a human being to be worshipful submission to something or someone other than God:

VI. Sin Has Separated Man from God:

- A. From the Sight of God:
1. Read Genesis 3:8: How has sin separate man from this element of relationship to God?
 2. What is that Jesus prays that we may receive? John 17:24
 3. Read 1 John 3:1-2: What will be the effect of seeing Christ?
- B. From the life of God.

1. What is the status of a sinner? Eph. 2:1-2
 2. Read Ephesians 4:17-24
 - a. Why are human beings said to be mired in sin?
 - b. How is the work of sanctification described?
- C. From the love of God.
1. What does God think about sinners? Psalm 7:6-11
 2. How are the ungodly called in Ephesians 2:3-4.
 3. What is God going to do about sin? Col. 3:5-6; Hos. 7:11-13
- D. *From communion with God. While man and holiness kept company God and man kept company, but when man and holiness parted, God and man parted, and the restoration of any to this relationship is on a new basis. They could not walk together because of this disagreement (Amos 3.3) When man left walking in the light of holiness and walked in the darkness of sin, fellowship ceased (1 John 1.6,7). It is true, there is reconciliation and recovery by Jesus Christ, but sin did what in it lay to cut man off from all communion with God for ever. Oh this spiteful and pernicious sin! (RV)*

V. Sin is Against the Good of Man in the Life to Come:

- A. God speaks extensively on the subject of hell for those who persist in rebellion. For the person who persists in willful rebellion against God despite warning, the only expectation is of condemnation. While we cannot absolutely speak on ultimate the status of human beings before God, we cannot give comfort and assurance to anyone who persists in rebellion against God.
- B. Should someone persist in unrepentant sin, we must follow in the steps outlined in Matthew 18. This, obviously, will not be a typical part of counseling.