

What is Sin



Common Definitions

Sin is one of the most misunderstood words in the English language. Most people have their **own** definition, based on their **own** standards. Common ones include:

- Very evil act, such as a murder
- Gross immorality
- Breaking religious rules
- Being rich and not helping the poor
- Outdated Victorian era standards
- Making nuclear weapons
- Polluting the environment

Very few know how GOD defines sin – yet **His** view is the one that really matters!!

What does God Mean by Sin?

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The word translated sin is **harmatano** which literally means **to miss the mark**. So one definition of sin means to miss the mark set by God for attitudes and behaviour. Put another way, it means to **fall short** of God's standards.

Who can honestly say that they live up to God's requirement? NOBODY.

Thus by God's definition, **we all sin**. (Romans 3:23)

Outlaws

Another Bible definition of sin is **lawlessness**. (1 John 3:4)

This is more than breaking God's laws; it's an attitude of heart and will. We want to go our **own way** and set our **own standards**.

In the world, when we don't pay any attention to the law or to authority, we become OUTLAWS. In a sense, this is how we appear to GOD, when we ignore His laws and authority. This is the **real** essence of sin, which is much more important than simply doing wrong things.

Who's Standards?

Most people agree that it is necessary to have a set of standards. The big problem is who draws them up? WHO IS QUALIFIED? Let's face it, everyone would set different standards, and would likely draw the line BELOW their own behaviour. If we are really honest about it, no one can set the standards except **God**.

Written on our Hearts

Many question the authority of the Bible. Yet **logically**, we should expect God to give us clear instructions. In fact, He has gone FURTHER. The Bible tells us that He wrote His laws upon our hearts, and gave us our conscience as a **built-in** "behaviour gauge". (Romans 2:14-16)

Change of Heart

We are **so set in our ways** that a complete CHANGE OF HEART is necessary. This is **exactly** what God has provided for us – if we choose to accept it. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, by which He paid the penalty for our sins, we can receive a **FREE PARDON** for the past and be born again as a brand-new person in order to make a completely fresh start. (John 3:7)

Although we may still fall short at times, our basic attitude towards God and the motivation for our behaviour will be acceptable to God.

Only the Beginning

Being born again is only the **beginning** of a completely new lifestyle, in which our aim is to be pleasing to God. **Jesus** is the **ONLY** one who has ever **fully** kept God's law. Only through Him can we remain acceptable to God. Thus we must also follow Him and make Him **Lord** of our life.

A Decision not a Feeling

This involves a DECISION TO BELIEVE AND ACT upon what the Bible says about Jesus. Feelings don't matter, though in time a new believer will begin to feel different as he puts the teachings of Jesus into practise.

The Bible tells us to that we need to believe in our heart and make a verbal confession of our faith.

As a first step into a new life, make a declaration to Him something like this:

"Lord Jesus, I confess that I have missed God's mark in my attitude and behaviour, and gone my own way. I believe you died to forgive my sins and rose again, and I receive you as the Lord of my life. I ask you to lead and guide me, and teach me your word and your ways."

Sign and Date to Record your Decision