

Sin

We are all living in sin, and we are all dying from sin. Although we were designed to reflect God's holy character, sin has damaged our ability to do so. Apart from God's intervention, we all face spiritual and physical death as a consequence of sin.

“Certain new theologians dispute original sin, which is the only part of Christian theology which can really be proved...If it be true that a man can feel exquisite happiness in skinning a cat, then the religious philosopher...must either deny the existence of God, as all atheists do; or he must deny the present union between God and man, as all Christians do. The new theologians seem to think it a highly rationalistic solution to deny the cat.” —G.K. Chesterton

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For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person. —Matthew 7:21-23

Sin violates God's character.

Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man. As for you, be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it. —Genesis 9:6-7

God is not a man, that He should lie. —Numbers 23:19a

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are His delight. —Proverbs 12:22

This mystery [i.e. marriage] is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.
—Ephesians 5:32-33

Sin infects God's creation.

– We have inherited Adam's guilt.

Through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...Death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam. —Romans 5:12, 14

– We are sinners by nature.

We all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. —Ephesians 2:3

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. —Psalm 51:4

– We are sinners by choice.

There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.
—Romans 3:10-12

I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. —Romans 7:18-19

Sin destroys God's people.

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. —Psalm 5:4

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return. —Genesis 3:19

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. —Romans 8:22-23

- **Acknowledge the bad news of sin.**
- **Proclaim the good news of Jesus.**