

Sin

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In the Bible in Genesis 1 and 2 we have the story of God's creation. God created Adam and Eve, and they were in a pure and right relationship with God. Then, in Genesis 3, Satan successfully tempts Adam and Eve to do the one thing God told them not to do, and, thus, sin enters the world. Sin is more than "bad behavior". Sin is anything that separates us from God and God's perfect plan for us.

Old Nature and New Nature

We are born with a sinful, rebellious nature. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we can have a new nature. We need to:

- Recognize our old nature
- Recognize our need for a Savior (to release us from our old nature)
- Recognize that we are set free from our old nature and the power of sin so we can have a new self as we are transformed to be like Jesus

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ - Romans 6:1-11

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may have a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin."

Romans 6:1-6

New Creation = New Identity

Through Christ Jesus we no longer have the identity of sin. Jesus takes residence in us, and we belong to Jesus.

“So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently do we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.”

2 Corinthians 5:16-18

“Jesus replied, ‘All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.’” **John 14:23**

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Can you relate to the “Old Nature” and “New Nature” description of how Jesus transforms our old nature?
2. Sin is any action that separates us from God. When this occurs we should ask ourselves these questions:
What was the motivation for making this decision? What was I afraid of?
Why/what was I not trusting God for?
Discuss your thoughts on these questions as they relate to sin.
3. Luke 6:41-42 discusses us judging others by giving the analogy of us seeing a speck in other’s eyes and not realizing the plank in our own eye. What are your thoughts on this scripture? Why is it easier to see others’ sins than seeing our own?

4. Kay Arthur said “Sin will take you farther than you ever expected to go; it will keep you longer than you ever intended to stay, and it will cost you more than you ever expected to pay.” How have you seen this in your own life?

5. Instead of just feeling guilty about sin, what next steps can you take to move away from sin and toward Jesus?