

The Nature
of



The Fundamental
Question
ABOUT SIN
is not
What?

LYING
Stealing
SWEARING
ADULTERY

LYING **Stealing**
SWEARING **ADULTERY**
ARE
SYMPTOMS
of
THE PROBLEM

The Fundamental
Question
ABOUT SIN
is **WHY?**

IT'S NOT
WHAT
YOU DO
BUT WHY
YOU DO IT

“Light has come into the world, but **people loved darkness instead of light...**” **John 3:19**

The Fundamental **PROBLEM**

WE PREFER THE
allure
of
I N D E P E N D E N C E

OVER
THE
BEAUTY
OF
PERFECTION

WHAT MAKES
SIN
SINFUL?

LAST WEEK...

GOD'S GLORY_Y



everything
everywhere

That Was



EXISTS

for the



GLORY_{of} GOD

God is glorified when he, in his full perfection, is **esteemed**, **praised**, **worshiped** & **valued** in proportion to his worth.

God's glory is **magnified** when his full perfection is esteemed, praised, worshiped & valued **by others**.

Being 'created for the glory of God' means: that he created us to **display his glory**. That his glory might be **known and praised by us and others**.

The very
essence of sin
 therefore is
to not live for
 the glory of God.

The very
essence of sin is to
think, desire and **act**
 in a way that does not
 bring glory to God.

The true **root**
 cause of each
 and every sin
 then is a
 fundamental
 disregard for
 the glory of
 God.



And that is exactly what we
 find in scripture:

*“...they became fools and
 exchanged the glory of the
 immortal God for images made to
 look like a mortal human being...”*

Romans 1:22-23

SIN IS THE
 EXCHANGE



of
GODS GLORY
 for
LESSER 
 THINGS

The essence of sin and wickedness: is when we set our highest affections on the things of little or no worth.

The essence of faith and righteousness: is to be moved by delight in and enjoyment of that which is perfectly glorious!



God's glory is
the perfect harmony of
all his attributes

...into one infinitely beautiful and personal being. The glory of the Lord is everything that makes God, God.

God is glorious
 because
he is the...

...absolute, infinitely
perfect embodiment
 of holiness, purity,
 love, mercy, grace,
 kindness.

God is glorious
because
he is the...

...absolute, infinitely
perfect embodiment
of all knowledge,
all wisdom, all power.

SIN IS THE
EXCHANGE



of
GOD'S
PERFECTION for
Man's
& **IMAGINATION**
INDEPENDENCE



Man
IMAGINES
SOMETHING BETTER

There is nothing
better

That is what makes
sin, **truly sinful**.

Sin, at it's core, is
when we decide that
God is not **best**,
and does not know
what is **best**.

“**The root conflict** in the human
soul **is between two glories**—
the glory of the world and all the
brief pleasures it can offer,
versus the glory of God and all the
eternal pleasures it can offer.”
John Piper

Sin is when we
believe that the **world**
offers the superior
glory and pleasure.

Faith is when we
believe that God
offers the superior
glory and pleasure.

Let's look at the
anatomy of sin:



If we are going to win
the battle again sin...



...we must know where
the war is being waged.



***“...what may be known
about God is plain to them,
because God has made it
plain to them...”***

Rom 1:19

**Sin begins with the
knowledge...of God.**

***“For since the creation of the
world God’s invisible qualities—
his eternal power and divine
nature—have been clearly
seen, being understood from
what has been made...”***

Rom 1:20

**Sin begins with the
understanding of the
glory of God.**

“...although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him.”

Rom 1:21

Sin begins when man does not live in step with this understanding.

Sin occurs when God’s glory goes ‘unglorified’.

Sin occurs when God’s goodness goes ‘unthanked’.

“...they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.”

Rom 1:23

Sin goes public when God’s glory is exchanged for lesser things.

“their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...”

Rom 1:21-22

Sin occurs when what is glorious, correct, right & wise is seen as **foolish**.

Sin becomes rampant when going **against** God’s design is called **wise**.

“They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.”

Rom 1:25

Sin occurs when the truth about God is exchanged for the **illusion** of desire.

“God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.”

Rom 1:24

“Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another.”

Rom 1:26-27

Sin becomes specific
(adultery, homosexuality)
when the foolish thinking and illusion of desire create a new **reality** that is ‘to be more desired’.

Sin becomes common
when God’s design is **replaced** with man’s independence and imagination.

The very basic nature of sin therefore is:

(1) When the knowledge of God’s glory is rejected and not esteemed.

(2) When God’s goodness is not appreciated.

(3) When His design is considered foolish.

Goodness,
godliness,
non-sinfulness
therefore is...

When **(1)** God's glory is valued & praised and **(2)** when his goodness is thanked and **(3)** his design is followed.

Faith then

(believing there is a God, that he is indeed glorious and that what he has said is true and designed is best)

is the essential way we please him.

“Whatever is not from faith is sin.”

Romans 14:23

faith
Next Week