The Nature



The Fundamental Question ABOUTSIN is not What?



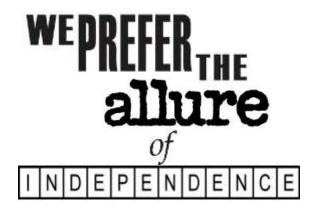


The Fundamental Question ABOUTSIN is WHY?



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









LAST Week...







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





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 <u>harmony</u> of all his <u>attributes</u>

...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.







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 <u>reality</u> 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

