

Growing Believer's Class

Sin – Every Believer's Struggle

What Is Sin?

- Any thinking or activity that goes against God's standards. – [1 John 3:4; 5:17](#)
- Sin is lawlessness, unrighteousness, and rebellion against God. – [Deut. 9:7; Job 13:23](#)
- The Greek word for sin means, "To miss the mark."
- God's standards are impossible for any human to meet.

Three Types of Sin

1. Imputed Sin, aka Adam's Original Sin – [1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12; 3:23](#)
2. Inherited Sin, aka the Old Sin Nature, the Old Man, or the Flesh – [Psa. 51:5; Rom 5:12; 7:14-23](#)
3. Personal Sin – Individual acts of sin compulsively and inevitably committed by all people – [Rom.3:23; 1st John 1:8](#)

The Essence of the Soul

- Self-consciousness
- Mentality
- Volition
- Emotion
- Conscience
- The OSN (the distorter)

Sin – Every Believer’s Struggle (Continued)

Facts About the Old Sin Nature (OSN)

- It is the source of spiritual death. – [Rom. 5:12](#); [Eph. 2:1, 5](#)
- It is passed down to all humans through physical birth. – [Psa. 51:5](#); [1 Tim. 2:13-14](#)
- Believers still have their OSN’s after salvation. – [1 Cor. 3:1](#); [1 John 1:8](#)
- Believers under the control of the OSN are called carnal. – [Rom. 7:15](#)
- The OSN frustrates the production of divine good. – [Rom. 7:15](#)
- The believer’s resurrection body will not have an OSN. – [1 Cor. 15:56](#); [Phil. 3:21](#); [Col. 3:4](#); [1 Thess. 5:23](#)

The OSN: Two Trends

Legalism: unrestrained sin → *Moral Degeneracy*

- *Seeming good thoughts*
- *Seeming good motivations*
- *Seeming good deeds*
- *Acceptable to human society but not to God – Isa. 64:6*

Lawlessness: unrestrained sin → *Immoral Degeneracy*

- *The source of temptation which directs production of all personal sin.*
- *The OSN is manifested in different patterns of lusts – the basic motivators of carnal desires*

Sin – Every Believer’s Struggle (Continued)

Lust Patterns – Legalism and Lawlessness

Moral Degeneracy

- Sinful thinking: Pride, ego-lust, envy, possessiveness, praise-lust, judgmentalism etc.
- Sinful talking: Gossip, putting down, lying, spreading rumors
- Sinful actions: social exclusion, self-righteousness, self-vindication, etc.

Immoral Degeneracy

- Sinful thinking: Sensual fantasy, savoring any fleshly thoughts.
- Sinful talking: Filthy talk of any sort, threats, raging, verbal abuse
- Sinful actions: fornication, adultery, drug abuse, unnatural vices, unlawful violence, theft, murder, etc.

God’s Solution to the OSN

- All personal sins were borne by Jesus Christ on the cross – [1 Pet. 2:24](#) – and will never be mentioned again. – [Psa. 103:12](#); [Rev. 20](#)
- Jesus Christ rejected human good on the cross – [Eph. 2:8, 9](#). Unbelievers are condemned because they rejected grace, not because of their sins.
- Legalism—human good production—is never the basis for God’s blessing; all blessing comes by grace.
- All legalism comes from the lust patterns of the OSN – man’s efforts for man’s glory.
- In Grace, God does all the work and gets all the credit (glory).
- The human good production of all believers will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. – [2 Cor. 5:10](#)
- There, human good (wood, hay & stubble) will be burned up; only divine production (gold, silver, precious stones) will remain. – [1 Cor. 3:10-15](#)