

Sovereign Grace Church

“What Is Sin?” outline

July 14, 2019

This morning we will consider the question of sin.

Sin does not seem to be a living question in our broader society these days. You will still hear about wrong-doing in our media but often you get the impression that the 'wrong' in the wrong-doing has more to do with getting out-voted than it does with an objective moral order. Sin is a personal concept involving rebellion against a Person in authority over us. Since our society has discounted the practical presence of God in these matters we are left with whatever God-substitute we put in His place. Today that is often the “vote”. If we can get enough votes we get to decide what's right and what's wrong for everyone else viz., those losers who didn't get enough votes. If society says that same-sex unions are right....then they are right! And everyone else needs to adjust! Of course this enlightened form of moral reasoning didn't work so well for the Nazi's....or at least for those under their thumb!

So our society would do well to re-consider the matter of sin and the God to whom sin points. And in order for our society to do this....so must the church. For normally, the main access our society has to moral and spiritual truth comes through the church. So, what IS sin and how much of a problem is it? Is there a solution? Or must we just live with it?

1. Sin is natural....but not normal.

- Sin is not normal for one created in God's image. Gen. 1: 27; 2:7, 25.
- Sin is natural for the one in rebellion against God. Eph. 2: 1-2

2. Sin is more than disobedience to God's law.

- What is lawlessness? I Jn 3:4; Rom. 14:23
- Sanctification involves a choice. Rom. 6: 19

3. Sin is more than sins....it is a Power.

- **Original Sin Rom. 5: 18**

- **Habitual Sin Rom.7: 23, 24**

4. Sin is a Problem. Rom. 7: 24

- **For the believer sin is a love/hate relationship Rom. 7: 20-23**

- **Sins results from separation from/rebellion against Life Lk 9: 23**

Questions for Reflection and Conversation

- 1. How would you define sin as you perceive it? Is it a problem for you? If so, why? If not, why not? When you do sin, do you have a sense of guilt? Should you?**
- 2. Why do you think the question of sin seldom arises in our modern society? Was this always this way? What do you think accounts for the absence of a concern for sin in our broader society?**
- 3. What are various ways that people try to deal with sin? Are some ways more effective than others? Do you experience sin as a power in your life? Do you feel helpless in its presence? What is the biblical way of dealing with the power & guilt of sin? Is there a difference between true moral guilt and guilt feelings? What is it?**
- 4. Why is sin not normal for a human being? Why is it natural? Is it natural for you? Who is able to deliver us from our body of death?**