

SIN, IS THERE SUCH A THING?

The Lord Jesus Christ explained to His apostles what the purpose of the Holy Spirit's work of revelation would be when He was sent by Jesus to them. "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). The world needs convicting of sin – that is brought to the realization of its guiltiness of sin. By what means are people to be convicted of their sin? The Spirit of truth guided the apostles "into all truth" (16:13). The word of God is the Spirit's sharp sword, able to pierce the conscience and discern between "the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). This inspired word of the Lord is the truth regarding sin and sinners.

"...Sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). Lawlessness is defined as unruliness, disorderliness and disobedience of law. It is action in violation of the jurisdiction and regulation of law; it is to live outside the principles and pattern established by law. The One who has the authority to lay down what the law is for humanity is the Son of God because His authority is preeminent (Matthew 28:18). The Lord's word can save us (James 1:21, 25). His words are eternal life (John 6:68). His words are what will judge us (John 12:48). Thus whenever a person disobeys the law of Christ or transgresses the doctrine of Christ, he sins.

Divine law is "holy and just and good" (Romans 7:12). It is given to direct men in God's righteousness and to equip them for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Through that word of truth believers are able to become approved workers of God (2 Timothy 2:15). To choose to live outside the commandments and principles established by the law of Christ is to choose a path which is not good but harmful to oneself and to others. When men establish their own righteousness, the consequence is unrighteousness. When they do what is right in their own eyes, they do not produce the true righteousness of God. When they reject the light of God, darkness fills their hearts and produces unfruitful and shameful deeds.

Sin is stubbornness and rebellion. Sin lifts up an individual's thoughts and desires above God, putting them before the authority revealed in His inspired word. Any time the truth and wisdom of God are exchanged for the pleasures of unrighteousness the hearts of men are darkened. Sin is the fruit of darkness. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life are a love of the sinful world, a realm that opposes the way of Christ (1 John 2:16). A person who walks in darkness is sinning. All who give themselves "over to lewdness to work all uncleanness with greediness" have been blinded by darkness (Ephesians 4:19). A soul who practices the works of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom God because those works are contrary to Christ and are sinful (Galatians 5:19-21).

The nature of God does not change because He is eternal. He is holy, just and good. In God is no darkness (1 John 1:5). He is not tempted by evil, nor tempts anyone with evil (James 1:13). The laws and commandments of God are a reflection of His character. When we obey His word and will, we become partakers of His nature. But when we follow the spirit of disobedience, we commit sin, lawlessness, transgression. Every time modern man chooses a different path than what the Lord has determined and declared in His word as honorable and holy, man sins. He becomes guilty of iniquity. There is still such a thing as sin because God is and men give into the temptations of ungodly gratification, unlawful ambition and selfish esteem, instead of abiding in the doctrine of Christ.