

(Clip) What Is Sin

by Zac Poonen

This sermon delves into the profound definition of sin as falling short of the glory of God, emphasizing that any aspect of our lives not reflecting Christ-likeness is considered sin. It challenges the notion of comparing one's sinfulness to others and highlights the importance of recognizing our own sinfulness before God. The focus is on understanding that sin is not just about the punishment we may receive but about missing out on the glory that God intended for us.

Scripture: Romans 3:23, John 1:14, 1 John 3:4, James 4:17, James 4:15, Matthew 5:48, Romans 6:23, 1 John 1:8

Topics: "Understanding Sin", "The Glory of God"

Description

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Transcript

And he says in verse 23, All have sinned, he finally says. That's the conclusion. Everybody has sinned.

Religious sinners, non-religious sinners, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. What is the definition of sin? For many, many years, I looked for a definition of sin which would be an ideal definition. There are different definitions.

In 1 John 3, it says sin is transgression of the law. In James 4, it says that sin's of commission. In James 4, it says sin's of omission, the one who knows what to do which is right and does not do it.

That is sin. Yeah, it's all good. But I finally came to see the finest definition of sin is here in Romans 3.23. What is sin? Sin is to come short of the glory of God.

That's it. It's in that verse. I read it for so many years and it never struck me that this is a definition of sin.

Sin is not murder, adultery, theft, gambling, drinking, drug addiction. No. Sin is coming short of the glory of God.

You want to know what sin is in your life? Wherever you fall short of the glory of God, you're a sinner. What is the glory of God? Let's define that first. The glory of God was seen in Jesus Christ full of grace and truth, John 1.14. That is the glory of God.

So put those two verses together, John 1.14 and Romans 3.23, and you get this definition of sin. Anything unlike Christ in your personality is sin. Anything unlike Christ in your personality is sin.

Who can say I'm free from sin? Anybody? Who can say I'll be free from sin on any day of his life on this earth? If you lower your definition of sin so low, then you may say, you know, you can lower past marks and say I passed. And that's what a lot of people do when they say I'm free from sin. They have lowered the past marks to less than one percent and they say I passed.

But past marks is 100 percent. And most of us are not even getting one percent. Past marks is 100 percent in God's kingdom.

Anything less than the glory of Christ, anything less than Christ-likeness is sin. All have sinned. But you say, well, I'm not such a bad sinner as the other person.

Do you feel like that? There are lots of born-again believers. See, I'm not such a bad sinner as that person. This is like if past marks in an exam in a class is 40 percent average and one student got 32, another got 20, another got 10, another got 5, another got zero.

Are they all sitting in the same class next year? Absolutely. The fellow who got 32 can go to the teacher and say, I'm 32 percent better than that fellow who got zero. Sorry, you also failed.

You're in the same class as that other person, even though you may be 32 times better than him. Makes no difference. You have failed, he has failed.

You know, we understand this in classrooms, but we don't understand that in our life. I've met multitudes of Christians. I believe as I diagnose them like a doctor, I believe their fundamental problem is they have never seen themselves as filthy, good-for-nothing sinners in God's eyes.

They are sinners, but they say I'm not so bad as the other person. As long as you say that, you'll never experience the full power of the Holy Spirit or a full salvation. Let me encourage you to recognize you know what sin is.

When we think of sin, please listen to this carefully. When man thinks of sin, he's always thinking of the punishment he'll get. When God thinks of sin, he's not thinking of the punishment you'll get.

He's thinking of the glory that you'll miss. You know, there's a lot of difference between thinking of the punishment you'll get and the glory that you'll miss. Don't think of the punishment that you'll get.

That's not the most serious part about sin. There is a glory that you're going to miss if you tolerate sin in your life. It's not a question of convincing other people that you're holy.

If there's the measure of sin that you tolerate in your life, that is the measure of glory you're going to miss. Because sin is falling short.

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