

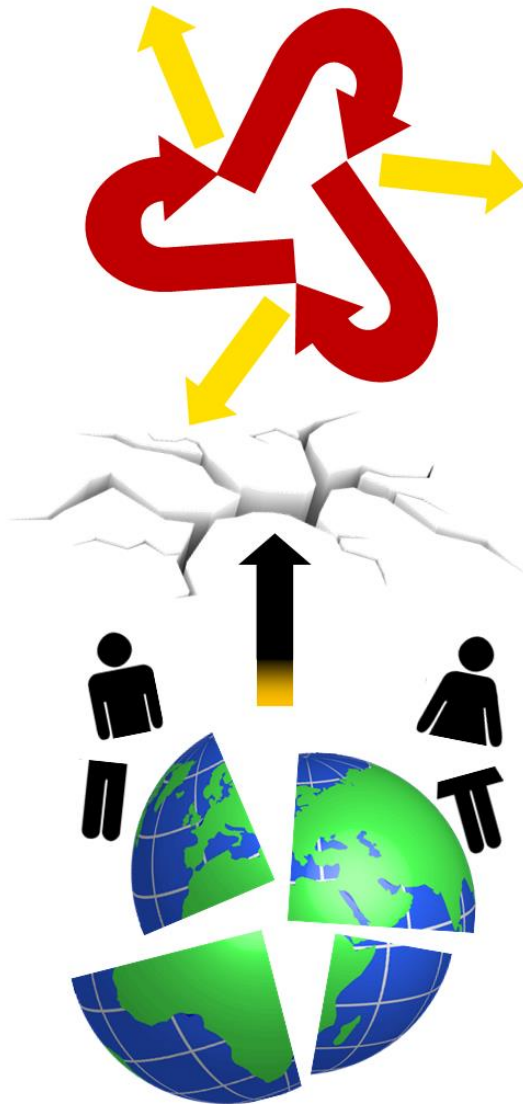
PICTURE THIS!

The Big Picture of Our Faith in Pictures!

*A study for all ages @ Gorrie Bible Fellowship!
September – December 2016*

Week #6 - Sin

Picture It!



Caption It!

Sin is any attitude or action that falls short of the glory of God's perfection. It is both a rebellious heart of self-reliance and a twisted selfish condition that opposes God and His ways. Sin both chooses and results in separation from God.

Save It!

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. Isaiah 64:6

Picture It!

1. The Source of Sin

- a. We need to understand sin against the backdrop of who God is and 'the dance' of His being. Within the Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit love and honor one another. They 'orbit' around one another rather than insisting on being the center. But sin rejects 'the dance' of God. It insists on being self-centered. Sin both worships and trusts self.
- b. God created Adam and Eve. He gave them life and put them in a beautiful garden where all their needs were met. But it wasn't enough. Adam and Eve selfishly wanted more than God had given them. They chose to trust their own judgment rather than God.
- c. This is the way all sin works. Sin flows from a heart that insists on being the center, that wants more than God has given and that trusts its own understanding rather than God's (James 1:14-15).

2. Sin is Failed Conduct

- a. There are two ways that the Bible uses the word 'sin.' The first way is the verb 'sin' that includes wrong attitudes or actions (Romans 3:23).
- b. In the Bible, the word 'sin' means to 'miss the mark,' like a marksman who misses the target. Sin is both passive; missing the mark, and active; purposely hitting the wrong target. It also means to 'cross the line,' like a thief who trespasses on someone else's property.
- c. Most importantly, to sin is to "fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). God made us in His image so that we, of all Creation, would be a reflection of who He is and participate in 'the dance.' But when we sin, we are not like God at all. We miss the mark of His glory. We fall far short of His character. This is why even 'good' people are still sinners (Isaiah 64:6). We might think that we are not nearly as sinful as many other people, but compared to God we completely miss the mark.
- d. We often think of sin as bad attitudes and behaviour, which it is, but sin also includes our failure to do the good that God wants us to do. When we selfishly withhold kindness we sin because we are not reflecting the character of God (James 4:17).

3. Sin is Fallen Condition

- a. The Bible also describes sin as a noun. In this sense it describes the human condition of sin. We are naturally sinful, selfish and self-reliant. We are naturally rebellious toward God. We love what He hates and we hate what He loves (Mark 7:21-23, Romans 3:10-18).
- b. This is why the people in this week's picture are broken. The sinful condition afflicts every human being on the planet.
- c. The sinful condition began with Adam and Eve after they chose to sin. It was a condition that they chose because they stepped out of communion with God. Now this condition has been passed on to all human offspring (Romans 5:12). But we must remember, we too, have chosen to sin against God. We have insisted on being the center. We have wanted more than God has given us. We have chosen to trust ourselves rather than God. We can't blame Adam and Eve for our condition! We made the same choice that they made!

4. The Consequences of Sin

- a. Sin is viral. The more a person surrenders to sin in their lives, the more sin grows and spreads and the more power it has over them. God pointed this out to one of the first sinners, Cain, when He said, *"if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you..."* (Genesis 4:7). The Bible also describes that sin makes slaves out of us (Romans 6:16).
- b. Sin separates. If you think about it, to sin is to insist on being the center and to trust yourself rather than God. Naturally, sin separates us from God because it removes us from 'the dance' of God's being. But sin separates us from others as well (James 4:1). The more we insist on being the center, the more we isolate ourselves from other human beings.
- c. Sin is destructive. God's commandments are not meant to ruin our lives but cause us to flourish and thrive. When we disobey God we step outside of safe boundaries and find ourselves in all kinds of misery and pain. On a large scale, sin causes destruction not just in the lives of individuals but in cultures around the globe. Consider the injustices of slavery, corrupt governments, genocide and terrorism to name just a few.

- d. Sin grieves God. Because God is a person, He cares about all that He has made. Nothing grieves God more than the sin of people and the destructive consequences that it brings into their lives (Ephesians 4:30).
- e. Sin calls for the judgment of God. Because He is righteous and just, God must judge sin (1 Thessalonians 4:6).

Panorama!

God has invited us to share in His glory and in 'the dance of His being. In our sin, we have rejected God's invitation, choosing instead to be the center, and to trust ourselves rather than God. The result is that we are sinners by conduct and by condition. We are broken and we face the judgment of God for our rejection of Him and His ways.

Selfie!

I was made in the image of God to reflect His glory, but I have fallen short of that glory because of I have chosen to sin and because I sin by nature. The more ground I give to sin in my life the more it controls me and destroys me (Romans 6:16, 20). I need to be rescued from the power of sin in my life. I rejected God and now I am a slave to sin.

Instagram!

As we consider humanity we see glimpses of good in people due to their being made in the image of God, but more often we see selfishness and pride. We see attitudes and behaviours that are destructive and when we look close, even good choices are often tainted with selfish motives.

Key Story!

The temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden – Genesis 3:1-7

- Satan convinced Eve to doubt God and His Word.
- Satan convinced Eve to trust him and her own judgment rather than God.
- Satan convinced Eve to be discontent with all that God had provided her.
- Satan convinced Eve to step out of 'the dance' by selfishly pursuing her desires.

Key Questions:

1. Why are the people in this week's picture broken? Why is the world broken?
2. Why does the black arrow in the picture have a little bit of gold at the bottom?
3. What does it mean to "fall short of the glory of God?"
4. What is the difference between sin as a verb and sin as a noun?
5. How is it helpful to understand sin against the backdrop of 'the dance' of God's being? How does sin demonstrate who we trust and what we worship?
6. What is different about Adam and Eve's initial sin and our struggle with sin? What is the same about it?
7. Read Romans 1:21. How does a lack of thankfulness demonstrate a sinful heart?
8. Read Luke 5:29-32 and Luke 6:45. What do these verses teach about the fallen condition of sin? Who is a good person or a righteous person?
9. Besides our sinful condition (sometimes called 'the flesh' in the Bible), what other influences are at work to produce sin in our lives?