

SEVEN FRUITS OF SIN

Let's take a look at the way the scripture describes God's immeasurable love for us. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; Wherein He has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence" (Eph 1:7-8).

Our Lord has lavished His love on us. Here is grace that goes above and beyond. It's over the top. It flows and flows and overflows. In light of that love, our hearts break when we remember the many times we have failed to do our King's good things, that God's law demands. Our hearts are crushed and broken when we think about the times we have committed sins God's law forbids!

God, who is rich in mercy, continues to lavish His love on us, knowing we are living in a **politically correct society**, where everyone is afraid to step on someone's toes.

Today, education is a massive system that has become bureaucratic, with more of a focus on the process rather than the result. What we're seeing today, in very large measure, is a system influenced by "**Thought leaders**" and individuals with more focus on **political correctness** controlling behavior through constructing norms in classrooms that may be, and very often are, contrary to the norms taught in the home or in the faith community.

Thinking on **political correctness**, not much is said about the many sins found written about in the Bible. Even many religious groups have shunned preaching against or taking a stand against many things which God condemns. They are afraid they might offend someone or run someone off.

The Bible has a great deal to say about sin. And for that reason we need to be constantly reminded about it. Sin literally means "**missing the mark.**"

There was a statement made by Christ in John 8:11, that should capture our attention. Our Lord was addressing the woman who was caught in adultery. Jesus said to her in verse 10, "Woman, where are those your accusers? Has no man condemned you? She said, no man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn you : go, and **sin no more.**"

That is what Christ told the man He healed at the pool of Bethesda. "Behold, you art made whole: "**sin no more**" (John 5: 14).

Sin no more will be the "S-P-S" for the article! "Specific Purpose Statement." There is a Hebrew word in Judges 20: verse 16, that has the same meaning as sin. "Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men left handed; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not **miss.**" "Miss" is Strong's number 2398.

This Hebrew word "**Miss**" is the same word that in nearly all of its more than 200 occurrences is translated "**To sin.**" Its basic meaning is **to miss the mark or he who wenders from God injures his own soul.**

When "**miss**" is used for the idea of "**Sin**", it describes the act as one of missing the divine mark, that God has for His people. The mark of perfection that is defined in the law of God!

God has set up His target, His guidelines and laws and whenever we miss His target or mark, we sin against Him. 1 John 3:4, give us the definition of sin. "**Sin is the transgression of the law of God.**"

Knowing this let's consider what sin is and does. We will begin by addressing 7 sinful fruits. 1. Sin is a divider; 2. Sin is a destroyer; 3. Sin undermines nations; 4. Sin is a shrewd deceiver; 5.

Sins pleasures are only temporary at best; 6. Sin enslaves and 7th Sin is a shameful disgrace.

We will start with **point one. Sin is a divider.** Isa. 59:1-2, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot Save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot Hear: but your iniquities [**your sins**] your **law breaking** have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear."

Sin divides, it breaks up our communication with God, Sin separated man from God in the garden of Eden. Sin separated the Israelites from God.

Even today, sin continues to separate men from their Creator. Sin not only separates man from God, it

also separates families. Think of what **“the sin of adultery”** has done to marriages. Think of what the sin of mind altering of drugs has done to destroy individuals and their families.

Sin also divides brethren. Listen to the Apostle Paul’s comments to the Corinthian church, in 1 Cor 3: 3, “For you are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are you not carnal, and walk as men?”

At the root of most church problems is sin. Concerning a church problem someone once said, “The wicked sin and the righteous suffer.” That is often true regarding church problems.

Point number two **“sin is a destroyer.”** We find that said in Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 6:23; James 1:15. Ezek 18:20 says “The soul that sins, it shall die.” Rom 6:23, “The wages of sin is death;” James 1:15 clearly tells us if we think about a forbidden act long enough we will eventually do it. James 1:15, spells that out for us “Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.”

The Bible speaks of two deaths, or two separations. (1) The first death is when the breath is separated from the Body. (2.) The second death is when the Holy Spirit is eternally separated from God’s people, meaning to have no future or eternal life in God’s kingdom. Both of these deaths are caused by sin.

In the garden of Eden, God said, if man eats from the tree which was in the midst of the garden, he would die. Gen. 2: 17, for reference tells us that they would die physically in that their bodies, from that point on, they began to die. They died spiritually in that their relationship was broken away from God. **Rom. 5: 18**, “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the Free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”

The offense of Adam brought condemnation to all men but the righteous act of Christ brought justification of life.

The third area of sin is “Sin undermines nations.” Notice two verses, Proverbs 14: 34; and Psalm 9:17. Proverbs 14: 34, “Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Nations are given a period of probation time to see whether they will fulfill God’s divine purpose or not.

When they reject God’s principles they invite ruin. David in the Psalms 9: 17 speaks with stronger words. “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” Sins of a people will break down, destroy, and undermined any nation.

We all remember reading of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. They were destroyed because of sin. Gen.18:20 tells us, **“Their sin was very grievous.”**

Sin undermined those societies to the point that God saw fit to miraculously intervene and destroy them with fire and brimstone from heaven. Jude mentions Sodom and Gomorrah in Jude 7, “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

America was at one time a God-fearing nation, built and based upon God's principles. But this nation the United States of America is now quickly becoming a nation that has forgotten God, and has put sin in His place.

Isaiah draws a picture of ancient Judah, a nation condemned by God, for replacing God with sinning! “Ah a sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward” (Isa 1:4).

We do not exactly know what God has in store for our nation Manasseh and Ephraim, but we do know that He has never been pleased with a nation that is laden with iniquity, weighed down in sin.

Fourth point, “Sin is a shrewd deceiver” Heb. 3:13. Sin **never** comes with a badge which says, “Beware, I am sin.” Sin makes itself lustful and attractive. Someone once said, “The devil is an artist who paints sin in very attractive colors.” Satan uses trickery, shrewd and deceitful devices. As God’s called, we need to beware of them, alert and awake. The Apostle Paul recognized man’s weaknesses. he said in 2 Cor. 2:11, “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” Satan is constantly seeking to injure and destroy the souls of men.

That brings us to our **fifth point. “Sins pleasures are only temporary at best.** See Heb.11: 24-26, “By

faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”

Sin is pleasurable, that's why people desire it so much. But, it is pleasurable only for a season. Sin often promises great things, just like that fruit in the garden of Eden. But sin does not fulfill it's promises; instead, it brings discomfort, destruction and death.

One may enjoy sin now, but one day he will give account to his Maker, and he will reap eternal death. “For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teaches in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap corruption; but he that sows to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting.”

The sixth point, “Sin enslaves.” Look at Christ’s words. John 8:34, “Jesus answered them, verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin.” And in **Rom 6:16**, “Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin Unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

We may get accustomed to a lot of things in this life, but sin is one thing which we must never ever get accustomed too. A lot of people do, they begin by committing so-called “little sins” and before long, they are justifying bigger sins, and before you know it, they are engulfed in sin and sometimes even trying to justify it.

Someone once said, “One reason sin flourishes is that it's treated like a cream puff instead of a rattlesnake.” Sometimes people become so engulfed in sin and error, they will never work to pull themselves up out of it. They have become a slave to sin.

Consider what the Hebrew writer mentioned in Heb 12: 1.”Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the Sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

No sin is small. All sin is against the infinite, almighty God and sinners will have severe consequences. We need on our knees before God to look that seemingly insignificant sin in the face and boldly say, “I’m going to beat you! I will not become your slave.”

Looking at the seventh point which is “**Sin is a shameful disgrace.**” Notice Phil. 3:19, “Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.” Many people glory in things they should be ashamed of.

Look in the Old Testament at Jer 6:15, “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: Therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord.” And Prov 10:23 tells us, “It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of Understanding has wisdom.”

Instead of glorying over our sins we should weep and mourn over our weaknesses that submit to sins. James 4: 8 - 9 tells us to draw near to God. “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.”

Paul constantly grieved over his past sins. He called himself the chief of sinners. In 1 Tim. 1:15, “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; **of whom I am Chief.**”

David begged forgiveness for his sins. In **Psa 51:1-4**, “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness: according unto the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight.”

Someone wrote: “Sin has ruined men, ruined women, and ruined angels. Sin has occasioned every tear of sorrow, every sigh of grief, and every pang of agony. Sin has withered everything that is fair, blasted everything that is good, made bitter everything that is sweet, dried up springs of comfort, and rolled far and wide tides of sorrow. Sin has dug every grave, built every coffin, woven every shroud, and enlarged every Cemetery.” End of saying.

Indeed, sin is gross, and disgusting it's not to be gloried in or bragged about. This, of course, is by no means an exhaustive list of the things the Bible says about sin. But these should be enough to cause all of us to look at sin very seriously. Sin must be avoided at all cost, because it's hurtful to us, and to those around us, and most of all, because it is against God.

People's willingness to sin should not surprise us. People love their sin. By doing so they deny God as their creator. It's a small step to deny Him as their judge and without a righteous judge, they can go on sinning without guilt or fear of any consequences. The impact of that kind of thinking has been devastating.

Remove a society's fear of God and guilt over sin you take away its restraint. Not only is sin accepted today it's paraded and applauded. I can't think of a more accurate description of the world today. Obviously, sin has plagued mankind since the fall of Adam and Eve. But has there ever been a time in history when our approval and celebration of sin has been so brazen? That the breaking of God's laws and the impact of sin has had on the world saddens me as much as it does you.

The United States has a written law called a "**eviction notice.**" This eviction notice is given when a tenant is renting a house or apartment and falls behind on his or her rent or violates their rental agreement. The law requires the landlord to follow several steps in order to remove that tenant from their rental unit. The land lord must first give the tenant a thirty day notice to vacate the property. If the tenant still does not pay his rent or leave, a landlord must take several more steps to evict the tenant from possession of his rental unit.

God has given us a warning notice that sinning can evict us of our future place in God's New Jerusalem. That is if His called were to continue to violate His commands! God knows that some of us will violate His word and lose the reward of everlasting life.

Notice the parable in Matthew 13: verses 40 - 43, "As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire: So shall it be in the end of this world. The son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Who has ears to hear, let him hear."

God has already put us on notice.. We know what will happen to us if we violate His commands and neglect to follow His word. His word which is truth!

Unlike a landlord who enters into a rental agreement, believing that the tenant will uphold all of the agreed upon provisions, God knew that several of His children would be disobedient. Therefore, He has issued a forewarning to all of us. In Matthew 18:7-9, "Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence come ! Wherefore if your hand or your foot offend you, cut them off, and cast them from you: it is better for you to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be Cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend you, pluck it out, and cast it from you: it is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."

The Bible puts us on notice of what will happen to us if we disobey His laws. Fellowship with God requires that we acknowledge the truth concerning ourselves. For instance, to deny that we have a sinful nature, means self-deception and untruthfulness. Notice that in 1 John 1 verses 8 - 9, makes a distinction between sin in verse 8, and sins [plural] in verse 9. 1 John 1:8-10, "If we say that we have **no sin**, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us. If we confess our **sins**, [plural] He is faithful and just to Forgive us our **sins**, and to cleanse from out sins.

Sin refers to our corrupt evil nature and sins [plural] refers to evils that we have done in the past. **Verse 10** continues to say, "If we say that we have **not sinned**, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us."

God will not give us each an individual warning when we do wrong. He has already given us a collective warning that we must heed in order to maintain our place with Him, into his kingdom of life everlasting. **Observe I John 2: 3 - 5, 15,** "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His Commandments. He that saith, I know him, and **keeps not** His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keeps His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him." **Verse 15,** "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

We have seen that sin is a divider and a destroyer. Sin debilitates nations. Sin is a shrewd deceiver. Sin's

pleasures are only temporary. Sin enslaves and is disgraceful.

We have been put on notice. Let us obey God's word and avoid a judgment of eviction from eternal life. 📖

James Russell