



Introduction

Even though God has provided the means of escaping temptation, there will still be times of failure and yielding to temptation in your life. When you invited Jesus into your life, He forgave you and paid the penalty for all of your sins, past, present and future. But the sin nature is still present in our bodies and requires constant attention.

This study will discuss sin and how to avoid the consequence of continuing to sin after Jesus has come to live within you.

All Christians Sin

John talked about sin in his letter to the church:

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us... ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him [Jesus] out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

I John 1:8,10

- In verse 8 circle the word describing those who claim to be without sin.
- Frame the characteristic that is missing from our life if we claim to be without sin (verse 8)
- In verse 10 underline the effect of claiming to have no sin.
- These verses were written to Christians. So it is safe to say that all Christians have an ability and inclination to sin.

But this sin problem is different than the one we had before we became a Christian. Then, our sin condemned us and sentenced us to God's punishment. Now that Jesus has taken the penalty of our sin, the effect of sin has a different consequence.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:2

- Circle the effect that iniquity has on our relationship with God.
- *Iniquity is another word for sin.*
- Underline the action God takes as a result of our un-confessed sin.

The general result of sin for a Christian is broken fellowship with God. God does not leave us, but He chooses not to listen to us. The only way to restore fellowship is to confess the sin that is causing the separation.

Sin must be Confessed

The way to restore fellowship with God is by admitting the thing we did was sin. The tool God has provided for confession is prayer. Because God was the one offended by our sin, God is the one to whom confession must be made.

Past, present and future

When Jesus died on the cross almost 2000 years ago he paid for all of your sins. Not just those you committed up to the point in time when you invited Jesus into your life, but also sins you have not yet committed.

What is sin?

Look up these verses to get a broad definition of sin.

Isaiah 53:6
Romans 14:23
James 4:17

As you can see, sin has its roots in self-centered living. It is an attitude of trusting in myself rather than trusting in God.

He never leaves

Even when we sin, He promises to never leave us. Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**"

If we confess our sins, he [Jesus] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:9

- Circle the action we are to take with our sins.
- Underline the character qualities of the one who forgives.
- Draw a frame around the one who forgives.
- Draw a circle around the one who is forgiven
- Frame the word that describes how much of our unrighteousness is purified (forgiven).
- *This is a promise that is open to every Christian. The only condition to be met is that of confession.*

The Roman Catholic Church has incorporated confession to a priest as the means of forgiveness. While there are some situations where confession to another person may be beneficial, scripture does not require such a procedure. You have direct access to God because He lives within you! So sin can be confessed at any time, in any place by a simple, silent prayer.

Public sin should be confessed publicly

Private sin should be confessed privately

Often times we may sin against God and not know that our action was sinful. God will even help in those situations. Consider David's request concerning his sin nature.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 139:23-24

- Underline the two actions David is requesting God to perform in verse 23.
- Circle the two areas of his life that David wants God to know.
- *Inviting God to inspect your life presupposes that you are willing to have Him reveal to you what He finds! When He reveals wrongdoing, confession is the logical next step.*

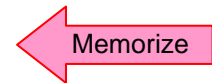
God Forgets

Once you have confessed your sin, it is completely removed from your account.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalms 103:11-12

- Circle the distance that reflects how far our sin is removed from us.
- Underline the phrase in verse 11 that explains why God would remove our sin.



Confession means to agree with God about your sin

- > **Agree that it is sin**
- > **Thank God that He has already provided forgiveness.**
- > **Change your wrong attitudes (repent)**
- > **Ask God to help you change your actions**
- > **Claim your forgiveness as an act of faith.**

Sin's consequences

While God always forgives us for any and every sin, there may be some actions that we have taken towards others that have consequences that will not be removed.

Stealing, murder and fornication are all acts that God will forgive. However, there may be penalties to be paid such as prison or an unplanned pregnancy.

¹⁶ "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."
¹⁷ Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

Hebrews 10:16-17

- Underline the thing God will put in our hearts.
- Circle the action God will take concerning our sins.

Forgiveness is Promised

The Bible continuously tells us that God's kindness finds its expression in His forgiveness of our sin. Forgiveness is never dependant upon how you feel. Rather, it depends upon God's integrity as a promise keeper.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Ephesians 1:7

- Underline the benefit we have as a result of God's grace.
- Circle the benefit we have because of Jesus' blood.

The promise of forgiveness is sure and certain. All that is needed is trust in the one who promised.

Application

Can you think of any sin you have committed for which you have not asked forgiveness?

- On a blank piece of paper write down those sins you have committed but not yet confessed.
- Agree with God that those things are sin.
- Claim God's forgiveness for those sins
- Thank Him for forgiving you.
- Rip up the paper and throw it away.

Write out 1 John 1:9 from memory

Does God forget?

God does not suffer from forgetfulness. He **chooses** not to remember our confessed sin because it has been fully paid for by His Son.

Grace

The word grace means **getting something we do not deserve. In this case, forgiveness is the thing we do not deserve, but God chooses to give it to us anyway.**

Confession: How often?

Because sin separates us from God's fellowship, you should confess sin just as soon as you are aware of the sin. It may be once a day or once a minute. God never tires of those who come to Him confessing their wrongdoing.