SEMESTER 1 - WEEK 5

FIGHTING SIN

DEFINITION OF SIN

Sin is that vast moral disease which affects the whole human race…"a sin" consists in doing, saying, thinking, or imagining anything that is not in perfect conformity with the mind and law of God. "Sin," in short, as the Scripture saith, is "the transgression of the law" **[1 John 3:4].**
Holiness - J.C. Ryle

All sin, even sin that seems so minor in our eyes, is lawlessness. It is not just the breaking of a single command; it is a complete disregard for the law of God, a deliberate rejection of His moral will in favor of fulfilling one's own desires.
Respectable Sins - Jerry Bridges

RECOGNIZING SIN

Galatians 5:19-21
19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Proverbs 6:16-19; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; II Timothy 3:1-7

1 John 2:15-17
15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

We can do what we want (lust of the flesh)
We can have what we want (lust of the eyes)
We can be what we want (pride of life)

James 4:17
17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Eleven Truths About Sin

Scripture Explains the Nature, Origin, Effects, and Solution to the Problem of Sin (From ACBC 2026 Conference-Jim Newheiser)

1. Sin is vertical -- in relationship to God. (Ps. 51:4, 32:1, 5; Is. 53:5-6, Matt. 22:37, 2 Cor. 5:9, 1 Cor. 10:31)

2. Sin may be omission as well as commission. (1 Jn. 3:17-18)

3. The origin of sin is the fall of our representative Adam. (Gen. 3, Rom. 5:12, Prov. 3:5-6)

4. Sin has destructive consequences. (Gen. 3:17-23, Ps. 32:3, Rom. 8:20)

5. Sin has corrupted every aspect of human nature – total depravity. (Gen. 6:5, Ps. 51:5, Eph. 2:1-3)

   A. Our thinking. (Eph. 4:18, Rom. 1:21-22, 28, 1 Cor. 2:14, Prov. 26:12, 28:6)

   B. Our desires. (Mk. 7:20-23, Jas. 1:14-15, Prov. 14:12, Col. 3:5)

   C. Our will. (Rom. 8:7-8, Heb. 11:6)

6. There are degrees of the heinousness of sin – not all sin is the same. (Lk. 12:47-48, Gen. 6:5ff, 15:16, Matt. 5:21ff)

7. Sin is the cause of all suffering, but not all suffering is due to personal sin. (Jn. 9:1-3, Lk. 13:1-5, Job 1-2)

   A. We do not want to act like Job's friends.

   B. Some of our suffering is the result of our own sin.

   C. We suffer because of the sins of others.

   D. We suffer because we live in a dangerous fallen world.

8. Biblical counselors offer compassion to all those who suffer from the effects of sin. (Is. 55:6-7, Lk. 15:20, Matt. 9:36, 14:14, Rom. 12:15)

9. Sin is very deceitful. (Heb. 3:13, Prov. 14:12, Jer. 17:9)

   A. You cannot keep the monster of sin in a small cage – embryonic sinful desires lead to sinful acts and death. (Jas. 1:14-15)

   B. People do all they can to avoid taking responsibility for sin. (Gen. 3:12)

   C. Suffering does not excuse sin. (Gal. 5:16ff)

   D. Your body cannot cause you to sin.

   E. Others cannot make you sin.

   F. God won't put us in circumstances where we must sin. (1 Cor. 10:13, Gal. 5:16ff, Jas. 1:13)

10. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the one hope for sinners – Jesus conquers sin.

   A. Forgiveness. (2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Pet. 3:18, Is. 53:6-7, 1 Tim. 1:15)

   B. Imputation of Christ's righteousness. (Phil. 3:9)

   C. Sanctification. (Phil. 1:6, Heb. 10:14)

   D. Christ sets us free from slavery to sin. (Rom. 6:1ff, 2 Cor. 5:17)

   E. We are responsible to fight sin. (Matt. 5:29, Col. 3:5, Phil. 2:12-13)

11. When Christ returns, we will be completely free from sin. (Is. 25:8, Rev. 21:4, 1 Jn. 3:1-2 Phil. 3:20-21)

FIGHTING SIN

The Gospel - Romans 6:23, 8:1, 32; II Timothy 2:8-13; 1 John 4:10

The Means of Grace -

- Prayer - **Psalm 34; Proverbs 30:7-9; Matthew 6:9-13; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Peter 5:6-7**
- The Word of God - **Psalm 19; 119; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12-13**

1. The Church - **1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Colossians 3:16, II Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 10:24-25**

- Trials - **Romans 8:28-29; Hebrews 12:10; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-13**
- Serving Others - **Romans 12:1; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:12-16**

Fix your Gaze - Proverbs 4:20-27; Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:2; Hebrews 12:2

Research the Sin - Psalm 42:5; Lamentations 3:19-20; Galatians 5:17; II Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 2:11

- *In what ways are you choosing not to believe God when pursuing this sin?*
- *What are the promises in God's word you're choosing not to believe?*
- *What are the principles in God's word you're choosing to ignore?*
- *What are the commands in God's word you're choosing to disobey?*

Be Alert - Genesis 4:6-7; Proverbs 13:15, 16:17, 22:5, 28:26; Jeremiah 17:9; Luke 6:45; Galatians 5:17; Ephesians 5:15-16; Hebrews 12:1; James 4:1-4, 17; 1 Peter 5:8

Flee Temptation- Proverbs 1:10, 15, 4:27; Matthew 5:27-30; Romans 6:19; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

Fleeing Sin is not Complicated - 1 Corinthians 10:12-14; II Timothy 2:22

Replace Old Habits - Ephesians 4:25-32; Colossians 3:12-17

GLORIFY GOD! John 15:8; 1 Corinthians 6:20, 10:31; II Corinthians 5:9

When faced with a so-called "gray area" what questions can I ask myself to help determine what will most honor God through personal holiness?

Reference	Questions:
Heb 12:1	*Does this promote, hinder, or weigh-down my spiritual life?*
I Cor 6:12	*In what ways is this profitable?*
I Cor 6:12	*Can I be Spirit-controlled in this or might I be enslaved to it?*
Rom 14:13	*Might I cause a brother to stumble?*
Col 4:5	*Does it help spread the Gospel?*
I Cor 10:23-24	*Does it help other Christians?*
I Cor 10:31	*Does it glorify God?*
I John 2:6	*Can I imitate Christ in this?*
Matt 18:21-22	*Can I demonstrate forgiveness in this?*
Luke 12:37-48	*Would I be an unashamed steward if Christ returned while I am doing this?*
Rom 12:2	*Am I being conformed to the world in this?*
Rom 12:10	*Am I putting others before me in this?*
Rom 12:18	*Does this promote peace with others?*
Rom 13:1	*Am I demonstrating subjection to my authority in this?*
Gal 6:10	*Am I doing good to others in this?*
I Cor 6:19	*Does this harm God's temple in any way?*
II Cor 6:14	*Will this bind me to unbelievers?*
I Thess 5:22	*Am I free from evil appearance in this?*
II Tim 2:22	*Am I fleeing youthful lusts and pursuing righteousness in this?*

MINISTRY PASSAGES

DISCIPLINE 1 [THE HEART]

I John 3:4 — Definition of Sin

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin s lawlessness.

Galatians 5:19-21 — Deeds of the Flesh

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outburst of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,
21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 John 2:15-17 — Do Not Love the World

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Matthew 5:27-30 — Radical Amputation

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';
28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
29 "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
30 "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

Ephesians 5:15-16 — Be Careful How You Walk

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,
16 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

SEMESTER 1 - WEEK 5

DISCIPLINE 1 [THE HEART]

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- What was new, helpful, encouraging, discouraging or convicting from today's lesson?

- How are you currently doing at recognizing sin?

- How well are you currently fighting sin? Is there anything you need to change?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Books

Respectable Sins Jerry Bridges

Holiness J.C. Ryle

Understanding Temptation Mark Shaw

Links

Battle Plan Tim Challies

https://www.challies.com/resources/battle-plan/