

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 NIV

# Over the Speed Limit

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# Sin from Webster's

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## Definition of *sin*

**1 a:** an offense against religious or moral law

**b:** an action that is or is felt to be highly reprehensible  
it's a *sin* to waste food

**c:** an often serious shortcoming : **FAULT**

**2a:** transgression of the law of God

**b:** a vitiated state of human nature in which the self is estranged from God

# Sin definition from Bible

Within its biblical contexts, SIN has three basic aspects:

- Disobedience to or breach of law
- Violation of relationships with people
- Rebellion against God, which is the most basic concept

In today's context, SIN is like a spiritual virus

The bottom line is:

- SIN separates us from God



# Sin separates us from God

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- ▶ Isaiah 59:2: “But your iniquities have separated you from your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear.”
- ▶ New Covenant was made to fix this separation:
- ▶ Ephesians 2:12-13, “remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”



# Other Results of Sin

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- ▶ Sin causes guilt and shame
- ▶ Sin hates rather than loves, it doubts or contradicts rather than trusts and affirms, it harms and abuses rather than helps and respects
- ▶ Sin is also a condition
- ▶ Sin can be proud, and cause people to resist God
- ▶ Sin harms our other relationships

# Old Testament

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- ▶ Sin started with Adam and Eve
- ▶ Every sin imaginable is in the OT
- ▶ We see sin develop in Genesis...
  - ▶ External forces (Satan) with Adam and Eve
  - ▶ From within (Cain)
    - ▶ Cain confesses nothing, refuses to repent, and chides God for the harshness of his punishments
- ▶ We see sin developing to be proud and deliberate

- ▶ Jesus sets a new standard - People sin by hating, despising, and lusting even if they never act on their desires. - “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” - Matthew 5:28
- ▶ Sin arises from the heart!

*“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.”  
(1 Corinthians 6:9-10)*

And now for the rest of the story....

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”And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” - 1 Corinthians 6:11

**I'm a Christian. I'm not perfect.  
I make mistakes I mess up.  
But God's grace is  
bigger than my sins.**

*Rashawn Copeland*

A silhouette of a person with their arms outstretched, standing against a bright sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, and the water below is dark with some reflections.



# Examples of Sins – Romans 1:29-32

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**29** They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

**30** slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

**31** they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

**32** Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

# Examples of Sins – Galatians 5:19-21

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“The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

# Healthy ways to View/Treat Sin

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- Acknowledge our sin - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” - Romans 3:23
- Be conscious of our sin – “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin” – Romans 3:20
- Accountability - “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” - 1 John 1:8
- Resist Sin - For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace - Romans 6:14
- A heart of repentance - “Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” – Luke 5:31-32
- Confess our sins to God and ask forgiveness

# Toxic ways to View Sin

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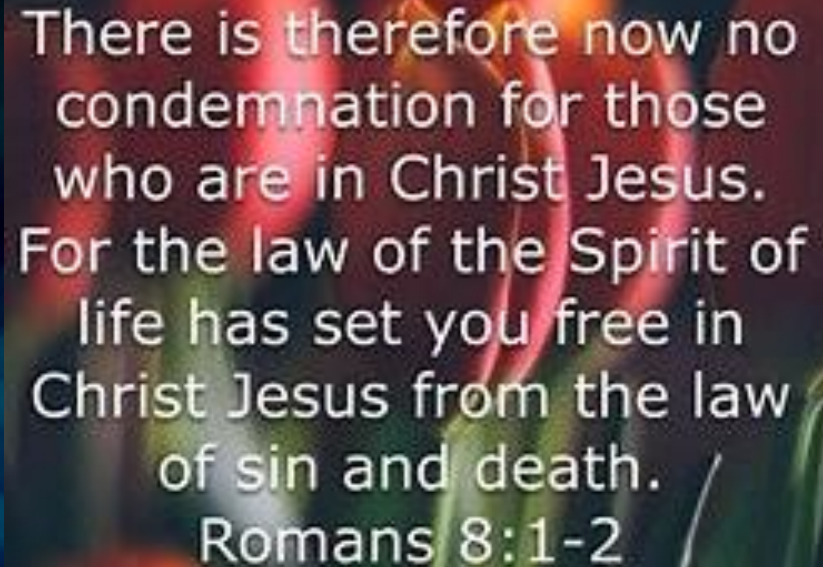
- Ignore it or deny it - “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” — 1 John 1:8
- Get out of Jail Free card - Romans 6:15 - What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!
- Comparison - Your sin is worse than mine! - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” — Romans 3:23
- Judgment - Romans 2:1&3 - You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things...So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment?



# How can we try to protect ourselves from sin?

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- ▶ Relationship with Jesus
- ▶ Life Groups and Bible Study
- ▶ Accountability Partner
- ▶ Come to Church – connection
- ▶ Choose proper relationships
- ▶ Avoid doing things that impair judgment – getting drunk, etc.
- ▶ Act with a pure heart



There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.  
Romans 8:1-2

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” – Matthew 5:8