

### Fueling Station 3 Pitfall: All sins are equal



If you like most of us, discussing the topic of sin is not a comfortable topic. I don't believe it was meant to be comfortable because God granted us the internal mechanism to feel "guilty" by our conscience inside us. If we understand why He did this, we become truly thankful and wouldn't want it any other way. We would never want a society of people walking around never being self-conscious of breaking laws or hurting others. Ultimately when we understand that this is a very wanted and necessary part of love and a loving God, we can have confidence in how God chooses to handle it. Unfortunately our world knows all too well the lingering effects of sin no matter how much it tries to ignore it or pass more laws to prevent it. Thanks to God we have answers to the hardest questions that plague our hearts.

This is a good time to remember the "edge of the coin" analogy when it comes to discerning the topics God has spoken to in the scriptures. Basically we need to remember that interpreting the "head" side of the coin in dealing with the topic of sin would use the passages about God's wrath to condemn every person who has fallen short of the glory of God. On the other hand, the "tails" side of the coin would gather together all the passages about forgiveness based on the death of Jesus for sin on the cross. Both views have truth but don't complete the picture apart from one another in truly understanding the heart of God. The true "edge of the coin" perspective combines God's love and justice in a harmonious marriage that parades the very character and nature of God!

All sin breaks God's moral standard but not all sins are equal!

"And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."

(Exodus 34:6,7)

\*It is important to note all the different levels of consequences in The Law of Moses! Some sins required mouth confession, some required equal recompense, some required additional interest of payment, and some required physical death by stoning! Even though Gods standard and consequences are clearly seen in the old covenant, we seldom recognize them in the new covenant. Through the process of accountability called reaping and sowing the full process of reconciliation plays out over time and over the ages!

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in **any transgression**, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so **fulfill the law of Christ**. Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for **whatever one sows, that will he also reap**. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

Galatians 6:1-2, 6-8 ESV

“But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife’s knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And **great fear came upon all who heard of it**. After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” And **great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things**.”

Acts 5:1-3, 5, 7-9, 11 ESV

\*I believe the key to this example given to the church is the hope of establishing true Godly fear in Gods people in hopes they would respect Him and so live honorable lives in a corrupt world. This would allow His blessings to them and they would be the light of the world!

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. **And you are arrogant!** Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be **removed from among you**. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled **in the name of the Lord Jesus** and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to **deliver this man** to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **so that** his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 ESV

\*notice that the heart beat of this passage is the hope of delivering this man from the ultimate consequences of his sin, as well as protecting the church.( It is extremely important to note that a

“saved” member of the church is still hoping to be “saved” in the day of the Lord. This understanding is key to the “race to the kingdom”.

“If anyone sees **his brother** committing a **sin not leading to death**, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit **sins that do not lead to death**. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. **All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.**”

1 John 5:16-17 ESV

\*sin leading to death and sin not leading to death is proof of differing degrees of sin and consequence. Remember that “death” literally means “to separate”. The context of death will always determine just what “separation” is being referred to. In short, remember that most of the references to death in the NT refer to a separation of Gods promises to His faithful followers. These promises typically refer to having fellowship with God, having fellowship with Gods family, receiving the fruit of the Spirit in your life, and receiving the inheritance of Gods kingdom when Jesus returns which always consists of three things: intimacy, privilege, and land.

A good explanation to degrees of sin are found in the article from this link:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/iniquity-sin-transgression.html>

\*all sin is not transgression and all transgression is not iniquity but all iniquity and all transgression is sin!

Sin:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

punishment of sin, purification for sin, offering

Or chattach {khat-tawth'}; from chata'; an offence (sometimes habitual sinfulness), and its penalty, occasion, sacrifice, or expiation; also (concretely) an offender -- punishment (of sin), purifying(-fication for sin), sin(-ner, offering).

\*sin is a general understanding of missing the mark, and archery term in the greek for not hitting the bullseye. It's no different in the Hebrew as a general understanding of being an offender on occasion from Gods standard.

Transgression:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

rebellion, sin, transgression, trespass

From pasha'; a revolt (national, moral or religious) -- rebellion, sin, transgression, trespass.

\*transgression on the other hand is a revolt or rebellion against Gods standard. In the greek construction it would be call “high handed”. Picture willfully shaking your fist at God in defiance.

### Iniquity:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment of iniquity, sin

Or oavown (2 Kings 7:9; Psalm 51:5; Psalm 51:7) {aw-vone'}; from avah; perversity, i.e. (moral) evil -- fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment (of iniquity), sin.

\*iniquity is a transgression to an even higher degree. It includes mischief in the heart, a perversity that stems from a deeper rooted sickness of the soul.

### Example:

Growing up in sports a simple understanding of this comes to mind. As a tennis player you were required in competition to be a good sport and play by the rules and etiquette put forth by those in charge. So picture Joe walking out to the court to play his match after agreeing to the stipulations from the chairman and shaking hands with his opponent, he begins the match. Joe is required to make accurate line calls according to his eyesight and honest evaluation. The rules state that if a ball hits close to the line and you are not 100% sure it is out then you have to give your opponent the advantage and call it in. As the match progresses and the pressure mounts, Joe is overcome by the adrenaline of the match and goal of winning that he starts giving himself the benefit of the doubt in the close line calls and chooses to give himself the advantage instead without much thought at all to it.(This is sin: missing the bullseye) Then as the tournament progresses and there is more on riding on the outcome of the match, Joe during a very close battle after seeing the ball hit by his opponent clearly land in, he decides to willfully lie and call it out to gain the advantage(this progression of sin becomes a clear transgression of the rules and tournament etiquette). Then before the final match of the tournament Joe has already decided in his heart to manipulate the rules of the game in any way possible in order to gain the advantage and win the tournament.(This becomes the example of how sin progresses into its top form called iniquity)

### Questions for contemplation:

1. Looking at Joe's example should every infraction of ethical standards be treated the same? Why or why not?
2. Even though repentance brings forgiveness does it mitigate the consequences?
3. Identify each level of sin in your own life, have you dealt with it before God and those affected by it? If you weren't caught but choose to turn yourself in, will the prosecutor have more mercy? If you have chosen not to deal with it and sweep it under the rug of the blood of Jesus will you be angry if He brings it up again? Is God faithful to cleanse us from all unrighteousness? And can we call this Love?

4. Have you been wronged by others in all degrees of sin? How does it feel? Do you want revenge? Do you want God to take vengeance? Do you want them to get away with there wrong doing never learning from it and continuing to enact it upon others? Why or why not?
5. What is the heartbeat of God behind these verses:?

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 4-5 ESV

“Therefore, since we have these [great and wonderful] promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, completing holiness [living a consecrated life—a life set apart for God’s purpose] in the fear of God. For even though I did grieve you with my letter, I do not regret it [now]; though I did regret it—for I see that the letter hurt you, though only for a little while—yet I am glad now, not because you were hurt and made sorry, but because your sorrow led to repentance [and you turned back to God]; for you felt a grief such as God meant you to feel, so that you might not suffer loss in anything on our account. For [godly] sorrow that is in accord with the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but worldly sorrow [the hopeless sorrow of those who do not believe] produces death. For [you can look back and] see what an earnestness and authentic concern this godly sorrow has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves [against charges that you tolerate sin], what indignation [at sin], what fear [of offending God], what longing [for righteousness and justice], what passion [to do what is right], what readiness to punish [those who sin and those who tolerate sin]! At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in the matter.”

2 Corinthians 7:1, 8-11 AMP

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:9-10, 19-21 ESV

“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer,

until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.”

Revelation 6:9-11 ESV

“Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Revelation 7:13-14 ESV

\*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!