

Sin

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." -- Paul (Romans 3:23)

Sin = **Hamartia** (Greek) = "to miss the mark" (Vine's)

James 1:13-15

Mark 7:21-23

Romans 1:18-32

1 Corinthians 4:4

James 4:17

Romans 6:19-23

Challenge:

The questions on the following page are designed to help you take stock of the impact sin has had on your life, past and present. Consider these things and record your answers in a journal or on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Read Mark 7:21-23, Galatians 5:19-21, and Romans 1:29-31. How have these been present in your life? Be prepared to share a few of these.
2. Sin is usually the result of us trying to meet healthy wants and needs in unhealthy ways. What legitimate needs are you trying to meet through sin?
3. Review 1 Corinthians 4:4. Knowing that you can't always trust your feelings, is there anything in your life that you aren't sure whether it's sinful or not?
4. Who have you hurt because of your sin? (yourself, God, friends, family, roommates, others--be specific) How has each been hurt?
5. In his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul says that true repentance includes a desire to see justice done and an eagerness to clear things up. (2 Corinthians 7:11) What steps do you need to take to make things right? (return things you've stolen, ask for forgiveness, etc.)

"The Bible presents sin by way of major concepts, principally lawlessness and faithlessness, expressed in an array of images: sin is the missing of a target, a wandering from the path, a straying from the fold. Sin is a hard heart and a stiff neck. Sin is blindness and deafness. It is both the overstepping of a line and the failure to reach it--both transgression and shortcoming. Sin is a beast crouching at the door. In sin, people attack or evade or neglect their divine calling. These and other images suggest deviance: even when it is familiar, sin is never normal. Sin is disruption of created harmony and then resistance to divine restoration of that harmony. Above all, sin disrupts and resists the vital human relation to God Sinful life, as Geoffrey Bromily observes, is a partly depressing, partly ludicrous caricature of genuine human life."

-- Cornelius Platinga Jr., Not the Way It's Supposed to Be