

LESSON 2: OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM

How would you define “sin”?

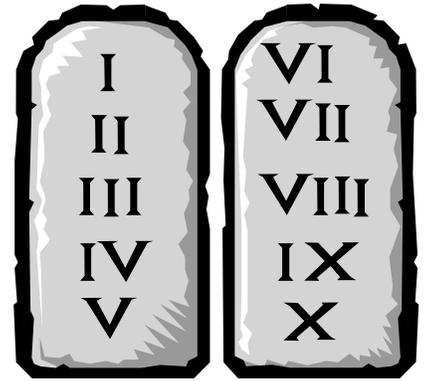
- 1 John 3:4, “Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”

Where did sin come from?

Read **Genesis 3:1-19** - The Fall into Sin

Note the early results of sin:

- Murder in the first family (Cain kills his brother Abel--Genesis 4)
- World-wide wickedness and God’s judgment (The deluge, Noah and the Ark--Genesis 6-9)
- Human arrogance and the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)



The natural tendency of every human being is to rebel. This is called _____ sin.

How can anyone know for sure what is a sin and what isn’t?

- Romans 2:14-15, “When Gentiles (non-Jews, without the Scriptures)...do by nature the things required by the law...they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts.”
(“_____ Law”)
- Romans 7:7, “I would not have known what it was to covet if the law had not said, ‘Do not covet.’”
(“_____ Law”)

What is that Law?

The best snap-shot summary of God’s moral will for all mankind of all times is in the Ten Commandments as given through Moses, the great prophet and leader of the nation of Israel. Here they are, along with a brief explanation of each provided by Dr. Martin Luther in 1529:

LOVE _____ ABOVE ALL

The First Commandment: You shall _____

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Second Commandment: You shall not _____

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft; but call upon God’s name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment: Remember the _____

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

LOVE YOUR _____ AS YOURSELF

The Fourth Commandment: _____ that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy a long life on the earth.

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not _____

We should fear and love God that we do hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not _____

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in word and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not _____

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not _____

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not _____

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by false claims, but do all we can to help him keep it.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not _____ or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away from our neighbor his wife, workers, or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

The Conclusion to the Ten Commandments: *What does God say about all these commandments?*
He says, **"I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."** *What does this mean?*

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands. But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust in him, and gladly obey what he commands.

What is the big message I learn from the law of God?

- Romans 3:19, "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

I HAVE _____

What do I merit because of my sins?

- Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death." [Note difference between spiritual death; temporal death; eternal death]

I DESERVE GOD'S _____

What's my only hope, in view of my sins?

- Psalm 103:10, "[The LORD] does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities."

I NEED GOD'S _____

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- Do I understand how perfectly God demands me to obey his law...or do I brush it aside?
- Am I willing to let that law accuse me and condemn me...or do I think, "At least I'm not as bad as some people"?
- Am I truly sorry for my sins because they defile God's holiness...or only because I feel bad or got caught?
- Do I believe I deserve God's eternal punishment...or do I think, "He wouldn't send anyone to hell?"

FOR NEXT TIME: Complete Lesson 2 Worksheet **NEXT LESSON:** _____