



# DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST

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"LEAVING YOU AN EXAMPLE . . . TO FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS" (I Peter 2:21 NAS)

The most obvious pain in the heart of God today is the issue of SIN. It robbed Him of his priceless desire - ceaseless fellowship with man.

The source of all human problems and pains is sin. Sin brought corruption; and with corruption came sickness and disease into the world. (Rom. 7:22 - 24).

The reason for all human conflicts and confusions is Sin. (Rom. 7:14; 3:23).

The greatest weapon in the hands of Satan is Sin; or do we say that Satan is an agent of sin, having first been captured by sin? (I Jn. 3:8).

The only thing wrong with the flesh is sin (Rom. 7:9, 18-20; 8:3)

The basic problem of this world system is Sin. (Gal. 1:4; I John 2:15-17; 5:19).

Sin is alive and it is a personality. But the sap of its life is death. (Rom. 5:12, 21).

Sin is responsible for every human depravity. (Rom. 7:8; 19)

Sin is immoral and ambitious. Sin is spiritual, but it rules in the physical. It has the exceptional ability to manifest itself in the simplest, as well as in the most bizarre sophistry known to man. It is the great conqueror of both satan and man. But sin is not eternal.

It was sin that produced the cross of calvary, yet sin is not omniscience! It's power was broken by the cross.

Sin is subtle and cunning but possesses the most cruel weapon known to creation. It has the ability to completely transform its captives into its nature. When it takes charge, it entirely destroys the original nature and character of its victim, leaving in its place, an ugly and poisonous image of his own nature (Rom. 7: 17 - 20).

It was sin that changed Lucifer to satan; and made Adam and Eve fugitive from peace and rest, - represented by the Garden of Eden. Sin made Cain a fugitive to blood justice; and plucked the two eyes of mighty Samson. It was sin that hung Judas Iscariot and broke the heart of Simon Peter.

AND IS IT NOT SIN THAT HAVE KEPT YOU THE WAY YOU ARE?

If sin isn't your Master, then do not drop this paper yet. And if as it may be obvious, you are a captive to sin, then your deliverance can be a matter of minutes. Read on!

## WHAT IS SIN?

I am strongly convinced, the most pressing issue in the minds of both God and man today, is this unsettling question. "What is Sin?"

Far be it from me, to suggest that the Omnipotence God is not clear on His terms. He is in all respect and in every degree, plain as regards His creation and instructions. But the hazard and pain here, are the

multiple and insidious definitions that are daily pouring out from the mouth of those who claim to be His spokesmen and women, as to what God meant when He defined Sin in the Bible.

When we bother to open our Bibles, - the true word of God, a glance through its pages will reveal in the simplest and plainness of speech, God's very definition of Sin; and will unequivocally

show the present spokesmen of God to either be too timid to repeat after Him; or as it's already evident with some, to be captives to Sin itself. SO GOD IS WORRIED! (Ezk. 22:30).

As for Man, his problems are numerous! From the very beginning, he lost touch with reality. He has struggled to believe the truth of God ever since. The fanciful lies of the Devil, easily appeal more to him than the reality of his being - made in God's likeness.

Ever since man experimented with the devil, he has always been confused as to what Truth is. Even where Truth is plain as always in the Bible, Man has sought alternatives, for fear of encountering stress i.e. meeting with

## True Nature of Sin

sufferings. THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE FALL!

Therefore, clear as God's definitions of Sin might be, man cannot in all honesty, be expected to accept them without reservations. Thus, the various attempts by man to totally eliminate the term "Sin" from his vocabulary; ignore it; or where it must be mentioned, modify it to suit his taste. But sin is spiritual, and like all spiritual things, its existence is either ignored or misrepresented at great perils and disadvantages.



Consequently, to define Sin, we must go back to the original document from where we learnt of sin's existence and character. This is necessary because without serious

and subjective answers to this fundamental question: "What is Sin," many of us will live carelessly and in delusion, and realise much later, to our own shame and dismay, that we have wasted our lives and forfeited the joy that should have been ours by the communion of the Holy Spirit, through ignorance, pride and stubbornness. LET US PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY.

*A serious look at the Holy Scriptures will reveal that:*

- i. Sin is rebellion against God's authority. Gen. 3:1-6; I Sam. 15
- ii. Sin is Lawlessness. I Jn. 3:4
- iii. Sin is tampering with God's Word. Prov. 30 : 5,6
- iv. Sin is slandering of God; and in a lesser degree man i.e. your neighbour. Jude 8-10,15
- v. Self-will and self - Love is sin! Perhaps the root of it.
- vi. Sin is "Alliance with evil." It is charging the God of Truth with error!
- vii. Every unrighteousness is sin . I John 5:17
- viii. Hypocrisy is sin and woeful. Matt. 23.
- ix. Inactivity/indolence is sin. Jer. 48:10; Jas. 4:17; Rev. 3 15, 16
- x. Deception is sin. Rom. 16:18; Eph. 4:14; Col. 2:4; I Cor. 3:18.

Now let us pause and examine some of these facts in details using the very dialogue that brought sin into the world - the conversation between Eve and the Devil . (Gen.3:1-6)

## 1. REBELLION (GEN. 3:1-6)

The whole rebellion of Adam's race against God was led by Mrs. Adam (Eve), with this simple phrase "*Lest ye die*" instead of "*ye must surely die*" (Gen. 3:3cf 2 :16-17). Eve's fundamental sin was the belittling of God's Word. And the Devil struck with a categorical statement "*ye must not surely die*," Which was counter - productive but with much effect on Eve who has already weakened her armour - the sword of the spirit (Eph. 6:17). How often have you been tampering with God's Word? And how many Pastor's wives have destroyed the Church the same way?

Sin is rebellion against God's authority; and every rebellion

to the Sovereign of the Universe must be crushed "The soul that sinneth, it shall die Ezk. 18:4." The sin of rebellion is closely related to "ambition" and has its root in self-will and self- Love.

Ambition is aiming at or striving for anything outside God's ideals for you. The devil is the "setter-forth" of every ambition. But ambition is not the same thing as Vision or Zeal.

It is, again, Man's attempt to be like God outside God's will, and under the supervision of the Avenger. So the Scriptures warns "*Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not...*"

## 2. SELF -WILL AND SELF- LOVE (GEN. 3:5)

*"You shall be as God..." (What a feat!)*

- a. You as equal with God, will no longer be subject to His laws but will be a Law unto yourself. (Please review every desire for personal liberty).
- b. You will no longer be subservient to Him for you will be a sovereign in your own right, (Check every quest for autonomy and power. Take note of your inability to submit to authority).
- c. You have the capacity to share in the government of the Universe - even the very throne itself. THAT LYING DEVIL! (Check every desire to seek what God has not appointed you. The gifts and calling of God is never a right, but a privilege. The Church does not belong to any man, she is Christ: body. The Church is God's heritage!) ALL THESE WERE SATAN'S OFFER FOR SIN.

Self- will involved primarily a complete break from the Sovereignty; the authority; and the government of God. (Therefore Matt. 11:29). This would allow Eve to do as she pleased, to gratify and glorify self. There would be no need for obedience to God or dependence upon Him. She would not be bound by a single restriction. She will be free to do her own will; to go her own way; to live wholly unto herself. What a freedom for Eve? (Even as many are told today by their own prophets that "Olive Oil or is it anointing oil is all they need to go through in life! Once they have a bottle of Olive oil and a bottle of the blood of Jesus, they are free to run riot, for they "shall be as God" - invincible, all powerful and independent) BUT. HEAR THE CRY OF THE MASTER: Matt. 26:39,42; Luke 14:25-27,33; Jn.5:30; 6:38, 15:5-8.)

*"...Your eyes shall be opened... knowing good and evil"* (Gen. 3:5). What an offer for rebelling against God! This is the most dangerous of all, for it is a half- truth and a half- lie. Even the small measure of apparent truth is really a lie, for it is told with the definite purpose of deception. (Check every desire to receive extra light apart from the revealed WORD. Every presumptions for wisdoms and knowledge not expressed in the Bible, come from the Deceiver. The so-called mysteries; great revelations and powers for making money may be a trap of the enemy. (2 Pt. 2 vs 18-19).

# TEST YOURSELF

1. What is your own definition of Sin? (Give Scriptural references)
2. What sins according to the Bible do you think have been ignored or modified today; even by some preachers? (Mention 3 Only).
3. What sins have you completely dealt with in your life?
4. In all honesty, are you presently pursuing your own ambition, though you may be a preacher, or are you doing God's will for your life?
5. What do you think is the danger of a half-truth and a half- lie? Is your present character free of it?

#### SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER READING:

Gen. 3:1-6; Ezk. 28:11-19; Isa. 14:12-15; Jer. 45:5; I Jn. 2:15-17; Jas. 4:4; 2 Pet. 1-22; Rom 7:1-24; 6:14; Col. 2:1-10; Jas. 4:11.

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Look! **Their eyes were opened**, but to what? Was it not to their own folly, sin, and shame? They did know good and evil but to what end? They did know good but had no power to do it. They knew evil, but had no power to resist it. (Rom. 7:13-20, 24). But worse still was the fact that there was no way out of this condition for they have been plunged into the midnight darkness of satandom and the prince of darkness would blind their minds against the light of God (2Cor. 4:4; Rom. 7:24). Have you seen the end of worldly wisdom and carnality? A NEW REVELATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT GOD IS BEHIND THE SEER.

### 3. SLANDER (GEN. 3:5)

*"For God doth know..."*

The devil is the slanderer or God. He accused God of deliberately withholding something from Adam and Eve that would immediately improve their condition. This is grievous for the Avenger has sown mistrust between the God of Love and His object of affection - you and me. And this is the greatest weapon of occultism; and spiritism; and every man-made religion. They acknowledge the Bible quite alright; they go a bit further to say that each of us has a little bit of God and a measure of light and that we are all making progress; and then they strike with this poisonous phrase "but there are mysteries of God which God knows that you need to be complete, which you cannot understand until..." (2 Pet. 2:17-19).

### 4. ALLIANCE WITH EVIL (GEN. 3:6)

But the choice belonged to man; (just as it belongs to you and me today) for neither God nor the devil can Lord it over the will of man. As a moral being, he must make his own choice, either to remain under the care of his Maker, with eternal joy, or to rebel with full implications.

The climax has been reached! And the beguiler now concentrated on that principal channel of all evil - physical senses.

*"And when the woman saw... and desired.. she took (decision). and did eat (action)." Every decision translates into energy.*

No one, just suddenly commits fornication or adultery (2 Pet. 2:14). There has to be an enticement, a desire and a

decision, and of course sin is cheap! So when you see all these promotions of raw flesh, though, they be in the Church or in your fellowships, flee for your doom is near (2 Pet. 2:13-15).

Satan was in the Garden of Eden to gain subjects for his kingdom - a world system based upon the principles of "the lust of the flesh," "the lust of the eyes," and "the pride of life" (I Jn. 2:16).

*But Eve did not eat alone. "She gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat"*

Mark the Word "also". Sin is never single. It breeds like guinea pig. It always seeks company. The sinner invariably invites another to sin with him. WHO IS YOUR SIN PARTNER? Watch your life. Never keep silent in the face of error or gross injustice and ungodliness. The hazard or punishment for speaking out may be more tolerable than the consequences of keeping silent in the face of evil. If Adam had rebuked Eve, the story would have been different. But he kept quiet and watched unconcerned while Eve dangled in error until he himself became confused and fell. AND SO, MAN HAS FALLEN!

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: Moreover, the law entered, that the offence might abound. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*

*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 5:12,20; 7:8,11,24).*

### BUT GOD BE PRAISED!

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, Zealous of good works." (Titus 2:11-14).*

*ANNO PRAISE*

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