

SIN

Definitions for the word *sin* are

- 1) an offense against religious or moral law,
- 2) an often- serious shortcoming (fault),
- 3) a vitiated state of human nature in which the self is estranged from God,
- 4) transgression of the law of God, and
- 5) an action that is or is felt to be highly reprehensible (Merriam-Webster).

Some of these definitions start to address what sin is all about to some degree. The last definition is an interesting one as it describes the way many *perceive* sin in the world today, i.e., something they *feel* is reprehensible or wrong. This, of course, places the determination of sin under *human* control, giving us the option of deciding what is sin and what is not.

The biblical definition is the one requiring focus and reveals what *God* has declared sin to be. Sin is *lawlessness*, breaking the law God has given for human behavior (**1 John 3:4**). Even further, sin is *rebellion against God* (**Deuteronomy 9:7 and Joshua 1:18**). Where did it all begin?

Before the earth and its human inhabitants were made, God had already created **The Spirit World**, consisting of angels and other created beings. One of the angels identified in the Bible as Lucifer (**Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV**) and subsequently renamed Satan (**Revelation 20:1-3** is one citation), rebelled against God and His authority over all that exists. When God created people, their rebellion against God happened quickly. Ignited by the temptation of Satan, called the serpent, Adam and Eve failed to obey simple directives God had given them for their lives in His creation (**Genesis 3**). Sin, rebellion against God, picked up momentum.

This depravity is known by many as *inherited sin*. The apostle Paul stated it clearly, “**all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**” (**Romans 3:23**). Sin is part of the human condition. God gave humans a free will and, in that liberty, all choose to cave to temptation and enter into sin every day. Anyone who says they have no sin is lying

(1 John 1:8). It should be noted that we inherited our fallen condition as a member of the human race. That does not mean, however, that we are held accountable for the sins of our parents, grandparents, or anyone else to whom we are related in any generation **(Ezekiel 18:20).** Other identities are given to sin but, in the end, every transgression is *personal* sin for which each individual will be held accountable **(Revelation 20:11-15).** Here is a list of sins found in the Bible:

Violating any of the 10 commandments
Backbiters (those who speak evil of those who are absent)
Becoming a stumbling block to a weaker person (taking liberty to do things without thinking of the effect on a weaker person's conscience)
Bitterness (toward someone without reconciling with them)
Boasting (pride)
Brawling
Going to law against another believer (suing)
Calling someone a fool (ridiculing another)
Chambering (unmarried people living and sleeping together)
Corrupt communications (unprofitable or impure language)
Covenant breaking (lightly breaking a solemn or legal pact)
Deceit
Defiling the Body
Denying Christ
Doing things to gain praise.
Dishonesty (lying)
Divorce (for reasons other than adultery)
Drunkenness
Taking communion while living in sin
Effeminate (unmanly or womanish man)
Envy
Evil concupiscence (longing or desire for forbidden things)
Evil Thoughts (worthless, injurious, or depraved thoughts)
Extortion
Filthy lucre (receiving personal gain through unrighteousness)
Finding faults with others while having a greater fault ourself
Fornication
Giving offense (causing another to fall spiritually by our example)
Greediness
Guile (deceit)
Haters of God

Hatred of another
Having pleasure in them that do things worthy of death (enjoying the company of sinners)
Heresies (religious opinions/practices different from established Scripture)
Arrogance
Hypocrisy
Inordinate affection (unforgiven passion or lust)
Inventors of evil things (those who contrive evil ways to satisfy their carnal lusts)
Judging others
Knowing to do good, but not doing it
Lasciviousness (lustful, wanton, exciting lust)
Laying up treasures on earth (pursuing material success at the expense of spiritual things)
Lovers of self
Loving another person more than Jesus
Lusting after another who is not your spouse
Lying
Maliciousness
Murmuring (secretly complaining)
Pride
Railing (slander)
Reveling (overindulgence at feasts, merrymaking)
Rioting
Seditions (stirring up opposition against authority)
Speaking against or blaspheming the Holy Spirit
Sorcery (practicing magic with aid from evil spirits)
Strikers (ready to fight)
Traitors
Unbelief (lack of faith)
Unforgiving heart
Unmerciful
Strife
False humility
Wantonness (lustful, morally unrestrained)
Whisperers (secretly spreading false or slanderous information)
Whoremongers (associates with whores, a male prostitute)
Witchcraft
Wrath

The result of sin (rebellion against God) is **death**, not physical death (though all of us are destined for that) but *spiritual* death (**Romans 6:23**). Before we accept Jesus Christ into our lives, we are **dead** in our sins and trespasses (**Ephesians 2:1-10**) and separated from the presence of God (**2 Thessalonians 1:8-10**). The spirit part of our being that needs to be connected and related to God is dead in sin. In such a state, it can only be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul, when realizing the terrible condition of sin, cried out “**What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!**” (**Romans 7:24**). We must repent of our sins and find true life or be spiritually dead in them. God sent Jesus into this world to go to the Cross on Calvary and pay the death penalty for all of us (**John 3:16**). On the third day after being laid in a tomb, Jesus was resurrected from the dead. When we accept Jesus as our Savior by confessing our sins, by believing that Jesus was raised from the dead, by choosing to obey God’s Word, and by declaring ‘Jesus is Lord,’ we receive God’s pardon, the salvation of our soul. Immediately our spirit is made alive with Christ and will be forever (**Romans 10:9-10**). Our spirit is reconnected to God’s Holy Spirit. For more information, go to **Getting Started**.

This is an introduction to the subject of *Sin*. Here are a few other resources you may wish to explore on the subject:

<http://www.angelfire.com/empire2/psuclass0/sinlist.html>

[What is the definition of sin? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What is Sin? Biblical Meaning and Definition \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)

[What is Sin? Real Bible Meaning & Examples \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

[25 Important Bible Verses About Sin \(6 Powerful Truths To Know\) \(biblereasons.com\)](#)

[Billy Graham's Answer: What is Sin? Are All Sins Equal in God's Eyes?](#)