



Sin and Salvation

1. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23)
2. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)
3. *Out of His fullness we have received grace in place of grace already given.”* (John 1:16)

The Apostles’ Creed

Opening prayer: *“Dear Holy God, we know that You love us even though we sin. We know Lord that Your grace is there for us. Please help us to remember that. Keep us in Your word during this class and speak to our hearts. In Your name we pray, Amen.”*

- Share Joys and Concerns
- Complete and turn in Homework Log
- Review Scripture Memory Verse options from above

What is Evil?

Look at copies of the local paper and cut out things you would consider evil.

- *How did you decide what was evil?*
- *Which one of these worries or concerns you the most?*
- *How do you define evil?*

Evil is defined as: Something that brings sorrow, trouble or destruction, morally bad, intention to cause harm.

Who is Satan?

The great opposer, deceiver or adversary of God and humankind; the personal name of the devil. A fallen angel (Lucifer) who was thrust out of Heaven and became the archenemy of God (Luke 10:18). An active spirit whose mission is to oppose God by attacking the people of God – tempting them; confusing their minds & leading them into disbelief; and urging them to follow his evil ways.

What exactly is sin and why do we do it?

It is our inward desire to do what feels right despite the consequences. It happens when we put our trust in ourselves instead of in God. We don't make Him the center of our lives. We worry about popularity, money or what others might think of us instead. It's our "human condition"—which is love of self /selfishness, pleasure seeking, a false sense of self sufficiency / wanting to do things our own way, sinning.

Sin is about our broken relationship with God and others. Sins are the symptoms of this relationship—being unkind, hateful, neglectful, self-neglectful or self-centered. Sin is being disobedient to God, ignoring or dishonoring God. Sin separates us from a Holy God. (Isaiah 59:1-2)

Read Romans 3:23

- *What does it mean to "fall short of?"*
Read this verse again and fill in the blank with your name.

Read Romans 5:12-14

- *How did sin come into the world?*

The first people to sin: The story of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil explains how sin came into the world – the sin of disobeying God, of acting independently of God, or trying to be God. When Adam and Eve ate from the tree, they fell out of harmony with God (from whom they hid), with each other (their shame of nakedness) and with the world (their expulsion from the Garden).

The media definitely tempts us to do wrong things.

Think of TV shows you watch. How would God and the Bible look at the shows you are watching?

How do you fix this broken relationship with God?

– **God gave you a way to repent or confess of your sins through Jesus Christ.**

The consequence of sin is death. When a person sins against God, a death must take place to (cover or take away) that sin.

- The Old Testament way: Sacrificial System – the ritual through which people offered the blood or the flesh of an animal to God as a substitute payment for their sin.
- The New Testament way: God sent Jesus to sacrifice himself / die for the sins of humanity. We need to accept the gift of salvation, which is Jesus Christ.
 - 2 Corinthians 5: 21..."*Him who had no sin to be sin for us*"
 - Galatians 3: 13..."*Christ became the curse of death for us*"
 - 1 Peter 3: 18..."*once and for all to bring us to God*"

What is repentance? It's a turning away from sin, disobedience or rebellion and a turning back to God (Matthew 9:13; Luke 5:32). It's an act of confessing and turning around and going in the opposite direction. This type of repentance leads to a change in a person's relationship with God.

- Confess our sin to God. *"Dear, God, I sinned by lying to my Mom".*
- Ask for forgiveness. *"I'm sorry. Please forgive me."*
- Ask for help to do better. *"Please help me to be more honest with others".*
- Accept His forgiveness without hanging onto guilt. *"Thank you for forgiving me. I trust in your promise of forgiveness".*

The promise of forgiveness is Grace.

- *Have you ever forgiven someone for something bad they did against you? Why did you do it? How did it make you feel? How did it make them feel?*

What does each of these scriptures say about Grace?

- Romans 3: 23-24 _____
- Romans 11: 6 _____
- Titus 3: 4-7 _____
- Romans 10: 9-10 _____

Prevenient Grace is God’s grace that comes before we are aware of it. It is always with us. We are born with His grace and love. But, just as in any relationship we have to accept this love in order to be in right relationship with Him. That is where **Sanctification** comes into play. It is something we work on for the rest of our lives. Through the Holy Spirit we are taught ways to develop a closer relationship with God.

Justifying Grace is God’s continuing work to bring us to a realization that we have sinned and to a desire to turn away from sin, to be forgiven, and to experience a right relationship with Him—to change us to be right with God.

Accepting God’s grace allows us to be in relationship through Jesus Christ who died on the cross.

What does Salvation or “being saved” mean for me?

- *Have you ever heard someone say, “I’m saved,” “made new” or “born-again?” What does this mean to you? What does being saved mean?*

Salvation is not just about us getting to Heaven. It’s about getting in a right relationship with God right now.

- 2 Corinthians 5: 17....*“be a new creation!”*
- Romans 12: 2...*“be not conformed to this world”*

When we talk about our sins and doing things that are against what God commands it is important to look at The Ten Commandments. These are meant to guide us in our life and keep us on the path on which God intends us to be. Let’s look at them:

1. **No Other Gods- “You shall have no other gods before me”.** In the ancient world, they worshipped many gods. For Israel, however, there was only one God. Today, we worship other “gods”—reputation, success, wealth, possessions, power, the pursuit of pleasure. Make God your priority.
2. **Idols and Images – “You shall not make for yourself an idol...You shall not bow down to them or worship them.”** God spoke, but could not be seen. Therefore, no sculptured, carved or chiseled image could have been accurate or adequate. Today, we do have “idols”—many of which we worship and “idolize”: rock musicians, movie and television stars, fashion models, athletes. We are not to worship created beings—either ourselves or others. We are to worship God and only God.
3. **Name – “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.”** You shall not take the name of God in vain—which means to diminish God’s name—such as using God’s name in vain in speech, jokes, writings and graffiti. When we use profane language, or laugh at others who do, or use God’s name in promises (e.g., “I swear to God”), we take God’s name in vain.

4. Sabbath – “Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy...[On] the seventh day...you shall not do any work”. God rested on the seventh day so that He could enjoy His creation; Israel rested on the seventh day so that His people could enjoy God. In our world, this day has changed from being a holy day to: a day for shopping, entertainment, sports and the like. We honor the fourth commandment by spending time in prayer and study, by worshiping with other believers, and by doing acts of love for the sick and others who need a “God-touch” in their lives.
5. Father and Mother – “Honor your father and mother so that your days may be long,” the only commandment that comes to us with a promise. We are to respect them for taking care of us when we were not able to do so ourselves, for the sacrifices they made for us, and for loving us.
6. Murder – “You shall not murder”. This commandment is against the unauthorized, intentional killing of a fellow Israelite. This commandment did not prohibit the killing of enemies in battle, capital punishment (“an eye for an eye”), killing in self-defense, or the slaughter of animals for sacrifices in the temple. Today, this commandment has to do with the sanctity of life—defending the blessedness of life. The gift of life is a precious, inexpressible gift; and purposely ending one’s own life or another person’s life is an offense to God.
7. Adultery – “You shall not commit adultery”. This commandment protects the institution of marriage. It is against the infidelity (lack of loyalty or faithfulness) of married persons. Sex is one of God’s wonderful gifts, but it is to be with one’s own married partner.
8. Steal – “You shall not steal”. This commandment prohibited the stealing of another Israelite’s property—particularly the property of those who were poor and powerless. Today, the commandment has to do with the theft of property and property rights, the bribery of government and corporate officials, the manipulation of the economic system for person gain, and the falsification of reports and records.
9. False Witness – “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”. In ancient times, false witness against another was a serious offense because the accused was “guilty until proven innocent”—the opposite of our system today. This commandment has to do with “truthfulness” in all things. It has been enlarged to include perjury (giving false testimony), slander (false statement about others), and gossip; in fact, even remaining silent when the truth is known. We need to tell “the whole truth and nothing but the truth,” and also stand up for the truth.
10. Covet – “You shall not covet”. This is against desiring and lusting after things that do not belong to us. Today, coveting is one of the most common and destructive sins—and one of the “Seven Deadly Sins” (that of envy). We covet status and success, cars and other possessions, health and youthfulness, and pleasure without limits. The way to control our coveting – our desire for “forbidden fruit” – is to practice its opposite—which is being content with what we have.

Closing prayer

Homework

Pick one of the following Scriptures to memorize for next week's lesson, write it on a note card and put it somewhere you can see it and reflect on it daily:

1. *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Matthew 11:29)
2. *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourself."* (Philippians 2:3)
3. *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well."* (Psalm 139:14)

Journaling:

Read The Ten Commandments in your Bible (Exodus 20: 1-17)

In your journal think about and answer these questions:

1. *Look over The Ten Commandments. Pick commandments this week that you struggle with following and really concentrate on obeying God's commands.*
2. *Knowing what you know about sin, what does it mean to you that we call Jesus our "Savior"?*
3. *Look on page 53 of your student guide. What is grace? Think of a time you received grace. How did it make you feel?*
4. *Look at the Seven Deadly Sins on page 59 of your student guide. Which sin is the one that is most tempting for you? What can you do to help yourself avoid this temptation?*
5. *Remember a sin that you committed this week and practice repenting or asking forgiveness for that sin.*

The Journey continues IN TWO WEEKS: Lesson 7—What is a Christian?

In preparation for the next lesson, read the Beatitudes on page 67.

Family Homework:

1. Discuss *"The Amazing Softball Story"* we watched together at the end of confirmation this week.
 - *Why do you think as a family this video shows what a Christian should be like?*
 - *How are their actions & decisions an example of Jesus Christ in our world today?*
 - *What are some reasons you might choose not to live out your Christian faith?*(If you didn't get to watch the video at church, you can go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)—in the search box, type *"Amazing Softball Story"*.)
2. Have each family member share things that tempt them. How can you support each other to not give into your temptations?
3. Establish a "Grace Jar" at home. Take a plain jar or cup and on slips of paper write consequences for actions such as, "no TV for a day", "clean bathroom", "no computer for a day", etc. Then also insert a few "Grace" slips. When you or your student or their siblings do something that requires a consequence, ask them to pull a slip from the jar. They either follow the consequence on the slip or they could receive a "Grace" slip. Discuss that they were given grace—something they were not expecting or deserving to receive—just like God's grace for us.

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Homework Log

Fill out and turn into your instructors each week



Confirmation Homework Log for: _____
(Student Name)

Lesson # _____ Date: _____

1. Name one thing you learned from this past week's Lesson:
2. How will you make changes in your life since you learned this?
3. What is one question you still have from last week's lesson?

Each day, write if you did any of the following and explain:

- homework
- attended a Reynoldsburg UMC student activity this week. . . Which one?
- provided community service. . . What did you do?

Sunday:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Circle which worship service you attended (or will attend) this week:

Saturday: 6:00 pm **Sunday:** 8:00am 9:15am

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Seven Deadly Sins

Obstacles to growth. They are the cause or source of other sins.

Pride – Pride is self-love. It is going our own way and doing our own thing—as Adam and Eve did in eating from the forbidden fruit. It is “my will be done,” not “Thy will be done.” We need to practice pride’s opposite virtue—that of “humility”. Once we recognize the need for humility and for God in our lives, the work of the Spirit can begin.

Envy – Envy often leads to the hatred of others and, sometimes, even the hatred of God. Envying something in another person—such as his or her intelligence or good looks or athletic or artistic abilities—does nothing to produce those qualities in ourselves. The result of envy is a poisoning of the soul and bitterness, loneliness and isolation. We overcome envy by practicing its opposite virtue—which is contentment. When we realize that God loves us for who we are, and we love Him and others in return, our inner life in Christ will begin to grow.

Anger – Jesus is recorded as being angry—as when He drove the moneychangers out of the temple. Anger becomes sinful when it is willfully and wrongfully directed or projected onto someone else in the form of hurtful speech or acts. One way to deal with anger is to allow it to come out into the open—with a pastor, family member or close friend—so it can be safely released.

Sloth – Sloth—or apathy—is the sin of laziness and neglect, the sin of not seeking God or caring about one’s neighbors—which robs us of the opportunity for spiritual growth. One way to overcome sloth and apathy is to be born “anew” in Christ.

Greed – Greed is the manipulation of people and circumstances to acquire possessions and power—which become “gods” in which we place our hope and trust. Greed often creates the desire for more and more until, finally, one is caught. Unfortunately, it often seems that things must come to such a place before there can be a new beginning.

Gluttony – The most prevalent of the seven deadly sins among Christians is in those areas of the world where the emphasis is on satisfying one’s appetites—which for all too many become addictions. We need to discipline the physical side of our nature—feeding not our appetites, but our souls.

Lust – Lust is the desire to gratify the flesh—which expresses itself in sexual sins. Practice the virtue of temperance (the control of circumstances and thoughts that give rise to lustful desires) and to understand that God’s will is for us to be “pure in heart”. (Matthew 5:8)