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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- 1 Pastor Doug noted that sin is lethal (see **I.** in [Sermon Summary](#)).
Read Genesis 2:16–17. What did God promise would happen if Adam sinned? **When** would it happen?
Now read Genesis 5:3–5. **When** did Adam die? **Whoa**—how do we explain *that*!?
- 2 **Did** Adam die **that same day** that he ate of the fruit? Is it a contradiction? How do we explain this?
- 3 Maybe death has multiple dimensions. Read Romans 8:6. What might that mean?
- 4 Read Revelation 2:11b. What do you think is meant by "the **second** death"? (See 20:11–15.)
- 5 Pastor Doug explained that the "treatment" for sin is confession (see **II.** in [Sermon Summary](#)).
The Greek word for "confess" literally means **"to say the same thing that another [person] does"**.
Let's explore what **various people** say about sin:
 - 1 Psalm 36:1–4 shows us what the **ungodly** think about sin:
 - v. 1a gives us a "window" into the heart, the inner thoughts, of the wicked.
 - v. 1b What would a person think who **does** fear God?
 - v. 2a Look up "flatter" at Dictionary.com. What do you learn?
 - v. 2b Look up "hate" at Dictionary.com. What do you learn?
So, when an ungodly person's sin is discovered by someone who hates sin, the ungodly person feels "flattered"?! What are some thoughts you have about such a person?
Would you enjoy such people as houseguests? Why or why not?
 - 2 Psalm 5:4–6 shows us what **God** thinks about sin:
 - v. 4b Does God allow evildoers to be his houseguests? Why not (v. 5)?
 - v. 6a What does God do to those who tell lies?
 - 3 Psalm 97:10-12 shows us what **godly people** think about sin:
 - v. 10a Godly people hate one thing, and love something else. What are those two things?
 - v. 11-12 What emotions do godly people feel?

Continued

Questions for Reflection and Discussion (*continued*):

OK—time for "true confessions"! Whose attitudes about sin are most like yours— **1**, **2** or **3** ? (Question: Did you just lie?! ☹) Maybe it would be easier to put this on a continuum.

How do you typically view **your own** sin? Mark the following continuum with "**me**".

8 How do you typically view **others'** sin when it's **against you**? Mark the continuum with "**them**".



What conclusions can you draw about your view of sin? (Is it most like view number **1**, **2** or **3** ?)

9 1 John 1:9 promises that "**If we 'say the same thing about our sin that God says about it', then he will forgive and cleanse us.**" **So, do you** say about your sin what God says about it?

10 Pastor Doug noted that forgiveness is the ultimate cure for sin (see **III.** in [Sermon Summary](#)).

Review the "**if...then**" statement of 1 John 1:9. **Have** you experienced God's cure for your sin?

11 What if we say **less** about our sin than God says about it—calling them "mistakes" or making excuses?

12 What if we say **more** about our sin than God says about it ("**I'm too bad a sinner to be forgiven!**")?

13 Read Proverbs 28:13. In order to find compassion from God, we must "confess and _____".

13 { Look up "forsake" at Dictionary.com. What do you learn?

{ Tell about a sinful practice you've "*quit or left entirely; abandoned; deserted; renounced*".

14 Tell about the compassion you've experienced from God in that area.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

This week's reading explores what the Bible says about sin, God's solution for it, and how we should respond.

As you read, ask these questions: What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people (about myself)?

What do I learn about Jesus?

Are there commands to obey? Promises to believe? Actions to take? Sins to avoid?

Monday – Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3

Tuesday – Exodus 20:1-17; Revelation 20:11-15

Wednesday – 1 John 1; Romans 5:12-21

Thursday – Leviticus 4:27-35; John 1:29-34; Hebrews 10:1-10

Friday – Isaiah 53; Hebrews 10:11-17

Saturday – Psalm 51; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9

- 1 Note to Leader: I've answered items 1 2 3 together here, but discuss them sequentially.
God promised that **on the same day** that they sinned, they would die. Adam lived to 930 years old!
- 2 Death is multi-faceted—spiritual, relational, emotional, physical. In the same day that Adam sinned, he died spiritually (kicked out of God's presence), relationally (he blamed Eve for his sin), emotionally (he became fearful and ashamed). Physical death was set in motion that day, and occurred later. Genesis 3 tells of all these "deaths". Romans 8:6 is further indication of emotional/psychological death.
- 3
- 4 The "second death" is eternal death (the opposite of eternal life) in hell/the lake of fire
- 5 v. 1b **God is watching—I'd better be obedient!**
v. 2a **they are pleased and feel complimented when people observe their wicked actions**
v. 2b **to dislike intensely or passionately; feel extreme aversion for or extreme hostility toward something**
No godly person would enjoy—or even permit—such a person to be their houseguest!
v. 3-4 **they plan this wickedness; they muse about it; they don't despise it.**
- 6 v. 4b **No. Because he hates people who do do iniquity (note: God hates not only the sin, but also the person)**
v. 6a **He destroys them.**
- 7 v. 10a **Godly people hate evil and love Yahweh.**
v. 11-12 **Gladness and gratitude.**
- 8 Help group members honestly compare their attitudes about sin to those of the wicked, God and the righteous. A key issue is how they view **their own** sin (typically we minimize and justify it) as compared to how they feel when **others** sin **against them**.
- 9 Review what God (6) and godly people (7) say about sin. Truth is, very few people see sin as God does. We take an "oops!" view of sin, or we think "it's God's job to forgive me". Honesty is needed here.
- 10 The answer to this question relies on whether they view sin the way God does. See 9 above.
- 11 That does not qualify as "saying about our sin what God says about it". It remains unforgiven.
- 12 That does not qualify as "saying about our sin what God says about it". God says that his grace is more powerful than our sin (Romans 5:20b). We are saying that God's grace is insufficient. If we don't say about our sin what God says about it, then it is not true confession. Our sin remains unforgiven.
- 13 **To forsake is to "quit or leave entirely; abandon; desert; renounce".**
You likely will need to "prime the pump", so be prepared with your own answer to this question. But wait for others to think and answer.
- 14 Ditto. You likely will need to "prime the pump", so be prepared with your own answer.


Sermon Summary (Key Text: Psalm 32)

The best way to learn to pray is to read the prayers of the Bible. By examining the prayers of the Bible, we will grow in our understanding of practical theology. Psalm 32 is a penitential psalm or a psalm of confession. It gets right to the root of sin. Truth and morality are God-given. Morality is objective not subjective. There's nothing more important for practical living than for us to **understand the biblical concept of sin**: (1) its deadly nature, (2) its proper treatment, and (3) its ultimate cure.

I. Sin's deadly nature: (v. 1) Transgression means rebellion. Ultimately, our rebellion is against God and his laws. Sin often has a relational component—not just with God, but with our neighbor as well. Sin involves an active inclination to break the rules! There is something deep inside us that is broken and likes to break things, rules, laws, promises, relationships. Sin means “to miss the mark” or to “go off the path.” If you go off the path, you will end up somewhere that you didn't intend to go. Because this is a moral universe, created and ruled by a moral God, there are consequences to our rebellion. Our sin destroys trust. It undermines our relationships, and it upsets the social order. And this is where verse one becomes very good news for us. We need a covering.

II. Sin's treatment (confession): (v. 5) When we confess our sins to God, we are agreeing with what God says. Confession says, “God, I'm not just sorry for what I've done; I want to change. Help me.” The clear standard is what God thinks; you can't completely trust your conscience. You must take full responsibility for what you've done wrong, not blame shifting. You need to distinguish true confession from mere sorrow that you got caught. Sorrow only because of the consequences brings neither God's forgiveness nor a changed heart.

III. Sin's ultimate cure (v. 1-2) Our sins are covered because God does not hold them against us. It's all because of what Jesus did on the cross. Jesus was uncovered so that our sins could be covered! He paid the price, so that when you say, “Father, accept me because of what Jesus did,” He does! That's the gospel! If you have placed your trust in him as your sin bearer, you are no longer the person you used to be. You have received a brand new identity. You are now a forgiven, righteous and beloved child of God! (1 John 1:9) The Christian can say, “In Jesus, I'm freely forgiven. No more making light of my sin, no more hiding it. No more beating myself up for my sin. Jesus has forgiven it! How can I continue sinning, when I know what it cost Jesus to purchase my salvation?”



**Too often we think, "I'd better not admit to my kids that I ever...
(insert a sin of your youth—"did drugs", "had premarital sex", "got arrested")!"**

We think that they'll take that as license to sin too—don't we?!

(News Flash: They already sin. And, they already know that we sin too!)

The gospel says "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God".

In fact, forgiveness is *only* available to sinners!

Do you want your kids saved?

I know you do! So tell them your gospel story, warts and all!