**Sojourn Church – Basics of the Faith**

Week 3: What is Sin?

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If we took a survey of everything on the earth--we could find nothing so vile as sin. The basest and most contemptible thing in this world, has some degree of worth in it, as being the workmanship of God. But sin and its foul streams have not the least part of worth in them. Sin is *wholly evil* without the least mixture of good--it is *vileness in the abstract.* – A.W. Pink

The first and great work of a Christian is about his heart. There it is that God dwells by his Spirit, in his saints; and there it is that sin and Satan reign, in the ungodly. The great duties and the great sins are those of the heart. There is the root of good and evil: the tongue and life are but the fruits and expressions of that which dwells within. – Richard Baxter

1. **Introduction and Definitions**
   1. Relationship with God: the Bible routinely speaks of a two-way relationship with God, where God gives the entirety of himself to us, and in return we give the entirety of ourselves to him in an intimate relationship where God knows us and we know him.
   2. Righteousness: upholding our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to his law that comes from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to give him glory and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for who he is.

So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (Romans 7:12)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (Romans 14:23b)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2**And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3**If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

* 1. Sin: anything that we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more than God that works itself out in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:22-23)

Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. **10**Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. **11**But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (1 John 2:9-11)

1. **The Source of the Problem**
   1. Where does sin come from?
      1. The heart: our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ center where our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ come from.
   2. How do we know?
2. **Larry and Barry**

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| Larry | Barry |
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1. **The Prodigal Son**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. **2**And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

**11**And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. **12**And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. **13**Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14**And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15**So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16**And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

**17**“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18**I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19**I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” ’ **20**And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21**And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22**But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23**And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24**For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

**25**“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26**And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27**And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ **28**But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, **29**but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. **30**But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ **31**And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32**It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ” (Luke 15: 1-2, 11-32)

* 1. What is a better name for this parable? Why?
  2. What does this parable tell us?

1. **Final Thoughts**
   1. Can we work our way to God? Why or why not?
   2. How do we know God’s great love for us?

“None is righteous, no, not one;

**11** no one understands;

no one seeks for God. (Romans 3:10b-11)

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7**For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8**but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)