

Crossover Ministries Scriptures from 5/6/07 Sermon

“Facing the Giant Named SIN” (part 1) Dealing with Sin in a Sinless Society

What Ever Happened to Sin?

- **Why is nothing wrong anymore**
- **Am I a sinner or a victim**
- **Are words sin and sinner even relevant today**
- **Sin is fun, isn't it**
- **What is Sin**

Nugget: A right understanding of Sin lies at the root of saving Christianity in America. By that I mean a person who wants to be saved or even a person who considers himself to be saved, must first come to Christ as a sinner

Nugget: We don't take Sin seriously, therefore we can't take the atoning work of Christ seriously and appropriate it in our life!

Transition: Consider this morning the meaning of Sin—if it is as deadly as the Gospel says, then it is a giant we must face and deal with if we are to live free from him and with Christ.

All Have Sinned!

Romans 3:23 (New International Version)

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 5:12 (New Living Translation)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

1. Dealing with Sin!

To deal, we must define

Nugget: Sins are the sinful acts we have committed

Nugget: Sin is the evil power or evil nature that cause us to commit sins

No word in the Christian vocabulary is so badly understood both in the world and in the churches as the word Sin. Christians have allowed this profoundly biblical conception, which refers to broken relationships, to be reduced to sins—moral misdemeanors and guilty thoughts, words, and deeds, especially of the sexual variety, that could be listed and confessed and absolved.¹

¹ Douglass J. Hall, "The Cross in Our Context"—as quoted in *Atonement for a Sinless Society* by Alan Mann, Paternoster Press, 2005

Transition: With this understanding we begin to generate a sinless society absent of God and we miss the atoning work of Christ . (When we minimize Sin to sins we throw away the gift that was given to us to Combat Sin)

Isaiah 53:5 (New Living Translation)

5But He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we are healed.

Verse 10 (New Living Translation)

10But it was the Lord's good plan to crush Him and fill Him with grief. Yet when His life is made an offering for sin, He will have a multitude of children, many heirs. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's plan will prosper in His hands.

Transition: This is the only work that deals with sin (it is nothing we can do of our own nature and ability) and until that evil power is dealt with in our life—our deliverance is not complete. (We move from sin to shame)

2. We Must Face Shame

Genesis 3:6-8 (New Living Translation)

6The woman was convinced. The fruit looked so fresh and delicious, and it would make her so wise! So she ate some of the fruit. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. Then he ate it, too. 7At that moment, their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they strung fig leaves together around their hips to cover themselves.

8Toward evening they heard the Lord God walking about in the garden, so they hid themselves among the trees.

Nugget: Shame is self-related, not object related (like guilt). Indeed, one of the effects of shame is to exclude the outside world, people and God in fear of being found out that you are not what you seemed to be.

3. We Must Face the Real, If We Want to Be the Ideal

Matthew 23:28 (New International Version)

28In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Romans 12:2 (New Living Translation)

2Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.

Nugget: The real you will never become the ideal you, if you are to ashamed to put God first!

4. We must Face Our Responsibility Instead of Fleeing from It

Genesis 3:9-13 (New King James Version)

9Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

10So he said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

12Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

13And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”
The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

5. We Must Face Christ on the Cross and Embrace Him

Psalm 130:7-8 (New International Version)

7O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing Love and with Him is full redemption.

8He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Luke 23:39-43 (New Living Translation)

39One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

40But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you are dying? 41We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

43And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

6. Confessing the Exchange, Faces the Giant Named Sin and Deals with it

Revelation 12:11 (New King James Version)

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

Nuggett: Until the evil power is dealt with in our life, our deliverance is not complete—Jesus is the only one who can complete our deliverance!