

# Understanding Sin — From Brokenness to Redemption

---

## Series Introduction

Sin. It's a word that can stir up shame, confusion, or even resistance. For many, it conjures images of judgment, guilt, or religious legalism. But what if we've misunderstood it? What if the biblical picture of sin is less about rule-breaking and more about relationship-breaking? Less about condemnation and more about invitation—an invitation to wholeness, healing, and redemption?

This series, "Understanding Sin — From Brokenness to Redemption," is not a finger-pointing exercise. It's a journey. Together, we'll explore what sin really is, where it comes from, and what it does to us—and more importantly, how God responds to it. We'll look beyond surface behavior to uncover the deeper story: the rupture sin causes in our relationship with God, with others, and within ourselves. But we won't stop there. We'll also discover the incredible grace of a God who doesn't leave us in our brokenness, but offers us the cross, repentance, and a life of freedom.

This six-part study is designed to be honest, scriptural, and hopeful. Whether you've been walking with the Lord for years or you're just beginning to ask questions about faith, we pray this series will bring clarity, conviction, and comfort.

Because in understanding sin, we begin to understand just how amazing grace truly is.

## Part 1: What Is Sin? — More Than Just Bad Behavior

*Focus: Sin as missing the mark, rebellion, and relational rupture.*

---

Sin is not just bad behavior. It is a deep rupture in our relationship with God. The Bible defines sin as lawlessness (1 John 3:4) and as falling short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). The story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 shows that sin began with distrust and disobedience. Sin separates us from God, others, and even from ourselves.

### Key Scriptures

- Romans 3:23 – All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- 1 John 3:4 – Sin is lawlessness.
- Genesis 3 – The Fall of man.

### Reflection Questions

1. How have you understood sin in the past?
1. What does it mean to 'miss the mark' in your own life?
1. Why is it important to define sin relationally, not just legally?

### Prayer:

Father, open my eyes to see sin as You see it—not just as disobedience, but as a rupture in our relationship. Help me to understand the seriousness of sin without falling into shame. Thank You that in Christ, even my deepest failures are met with grace. Amen.

## Part 2: The Origin of Sin — From Eden to Us

*Focus: The fall in Genesis, human choice, and the consequences of disobedience.*

---

Sin entered through one act of disobedience, but it didn't end there. Adam and Eve chose to distrust God, and in doing so, sin entered the world. Romans 5 explains that through one man sin came, and through one Man — Jesus — righteousness is offered. This is not just ancient history. It's our spiritual inheritance, and our daily reality.

### Key Scriptures

- Genesis 3 – The story of the Fall.
- Romans 5:12–19 – Sin entered through Adam; righteousness through Christ.

### Reflection Questions

1. What does the story of the Fall reveal about human nature?
1. How does understanding sin's origin help you understand its power?
1. What hope does Romans 5 give you in the face of inherited sin?

### Prayer:

Lord, I acknowledge that sin didn't begin with me, but I have added to its weight. Thank You for Your plan of redemption that began long before I knew I needed saving. Teach me to walk in humility, trusting not in my own strength, but in Your mercy. Amen.

## Part 3: The Effects of Sin — Separation, Shame, and Death

*Focus: What sin does to our hearts, our relationships, and the world.*

---

Sin causes separation from God (Isaiah 59:2), shame and guilt, and ultimately death (Romans 6:23). It infects every relationship and distorts everything it touches. But recognizing this prepares our hearts to receive the remedy God provides.

### Key Scriptures

- • Isaiah 59:2 – Sin separates us from God.
- • Romans 6:23 – The wages of sin is death.
- • James 1:14–15 – Sin grows and gives birth to death.

### Reflection Questions

7. 1. Where have you seen sin's effects most clearly in your life or the world?
8. 1. How do shame and guilt influence your spiritual walk?
9. 1. Why is it necessary to understand the depth of sin before embracing grace?

### Prayer:

God, I see the damage that sin causes—in me, in others, and in the world around me. But I thank You that even in the depths of separation, You never stop reaching out. Heal what has been broken in me. Replace shame with grace and death with life. Amen.

## Part 4: Sin and the Law — Why Rules Couldn't Save Us

*Focus: The role of the Law in exposing sin but not curing it.*

---

The Law was good, but it couldn't save us — it could only show us our need for a Savior. Romans 7 reveals our inner struggle with sin, and Galatians 3 says the Law was a guardian meant to lead us to Christ. We obey now, not to earn righteousness, but because we've been made righteous.

### Key Scriptures

- Romans 7:7–25 – The Law reveals sin but can't rescue us.
- Galatians 3:19–24 – The Law was our tutor to lead us to Christ.
- Romans 8:3 – What the Law could not do, God did through Jesus.

### Reflection Questions

10. 1. Have you tried to earn God's favor through rules?
11. 1. What does it mean that the Law is a mirror, not a cure?
12. 1. How does grace reshape your view of obedience?

### Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the Law that revealed my need—and for Jesus, who fulfilled it. I confess that I have tried to be “good enough” on my own. Today, I choose to rest in the righteousness You provide, and to live not by rule-keeping but by Your Spirit. Amen.

## Part 5: The Remedy for Sin — The Cross and Repentance

*Focus: Jesus' atonement, substitution, and the invitation to repentance.*

---

Jesus is the remedy for sin. He bore our sin, died in our place, and offers us righteousness. We respond through repentance — turning from sin to God. The cross fully satisfies God's justice and extends His mercy. Forgiveness is not achieved, it's received.

### Key Scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – He became sin so we could become righteous.
- 1 Peter 2:24 – He bore our sins in His body.
- Acts 3:19 – Repent, and your sins will be wiped out.

### Reflection Questions

13. 1. What does the cross reveal about God's love and justice?
14. 1. How has repentance played a role in your own walk with Christ?
15. 1. Do you truly believe you are forgiven? Why or why not?

### Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for the cross—where justice was satisfied and mercy poured out. I turn from my sin and turn to You, not just in words but with my whole heart. Teach me to walk in repentance, trusting that Your grace is enough. Amen.

## Part 6: Living Free — Walking in Victory Over Sin

*Focus: Sanctification, Spirit-led living, and ongoing confession.*

---

Salvation is the beginning, not the end. We are called to live in freedom—not perfection, but Spirit-led transformation. Romans 8 and Galatians 5 remind us that we walk in victory not by our willpower, but by God's indwelling presence. We are no longer slaves to sin.

### Key Scriptures

- Romans 8:1–4 – No condemnation; freedom through the Spirit.
- 1 John 1:9 – Confession and forgiveness.
- Galatians 5:16–25 – The fruit of the Spirit vs. the flesh.

### Reflection Questions

16. 1. How do you define spiritual freedom?
17. 1. Where are you still fighting for victory over sin?
18. 1. What does it mean to walk by the Spirit in your daily life?

### Prayer:

Holy Spirit, help me to walk in freedom. I know the battle with sin is not over, but I believe Your power is greater than my weakness. Fill me daily, lead me gently, and produce in me the fruit that reflects Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.