

Reset Chapter 6 (Sin)

Questions for discussion

1. What do think are sins?

What I like to do or watch might be a sin to you. I might say “Over my dead body will I do what you are doing.” Why does the word “Sin” exist? It seems so archaic to use that word for anything. Ok, we can use a different word for what? If we do something wrong then what do we call it? Maybe we are being conditioned that nothing is really wrong anymore. What do you believe?

I had to laugh as I did a little research about sin. The word “Sin” is so old and controversial. In days, gone by, we kind of knew what sin was. Sin was bad, and sin was evil. Santa knew your sin and you received coal as a gift (Who did) when you were bad. The term “Wait till your father got home” was common at my home (And I was a good kid too). Preachers talked about sin and we all rolled our eyes because sin was part of us.

Sin has a very different look depending on who you are. I was flicking channels one night in Canada and I found an Italian soap opera. Well I didn’t understand a word but what the heck. What I didn’t expect is soft suggestive porn on my TV. This show was hot and I do mean steamy. The weird part was the intro. It was a song by a Christian artist in Spanish. That I didn’t understand. I thought porn was a sin? Chapter 6, p, 1

2. Is a “White lie” bad for the heart?

What is a lie? If I avoid the truth to keep the peace is that ok? If I chose to not be honest with a drunk and he kills someone while driving am I partly to blame? Do “White lies” cause trouble? Is avoiding trouble a good thing? I don’t have the answer but I do know that God looks at the heart in all we do. That includes the “White lie.”

This brings me to the “White lie.” During the 2008 presidential election my son said he would vote for Barak Obama. I asked him why and he said “Because he is black.” I said that is not a very good reason because he might make a bad president regardless of his color. He countered “I trust him because of his color more than the white guy.” Be careful when it comes to honesty. It has no racial and genital boundaries, and that goes for the White lie too. All lies are dangerous.

In the urban dictionary a White lie is “A lie with good intentions.” For example I might tell someone they look nice just to make them feel good, yet they really look like hell. In the Bible Rahab the Prostitute lied to help Gods spies escape. Did God sanction the lie? No, but it served the greater good against evil. White lies are in the gray area of sin (Did I just say that). It seems strange but honesty is not always the best policy. The “Why” is more important than the action sometimes. Chapter 6, p, 6

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3. We have freedom to choose right from wrong

If we were free to murder, I mean really free, would you? Why do we rate sin? Is something really right and wrong? God gives us the freedom to choose when he did not have to. In John 8 Jesus says we have been set free. In Gods world we are not only free to choose but free to make different choices. People who don't believe in God will never choose to do it his way. Choosing to believe in a God or not will help you to know: you are free to choose your destiny.

Within our freedom is the ability to choose. We love to do what we want. Just like the fruit in the Garden of Eden, our actions seem so small and innocent. What is the harm if it is good for me? There is a song that says "If it makes you happy it can't be that bad." We can tell a white lie to get out of a smaller one. Now you have two lies that seem bigger all of a sudden. We rob a store and by accident someone got killed. It was not planned but "Sin happens." In a perfect world Adam and Eve would still be in the garden. Some knuckle heads think that was Gods will to be in the garden forever. They believe that because God does not make sin. True, but he made creatures that were not God. Chapter 6, p, 8


4. Do you have one or two natures?

I have a bad boy nature I love to satisfy. I feel pulled to do what I don't want to do. Why would I not want to do what seems to come naturally? In Gods world, I have been given a second nature, and unfortunately it goes against my other nature. Why not just replace the old nature you had with a new one? I guess the first nature is written into our DNA. Humans were made to think "Self-preservation." The second nature does not think like that. There inlays the battle. The battle continues between right and wrong.

The tale of two natures is who we are: the good and the bad. We choose to do good or evil; to love or kill. Paul says in Romans 7:15 "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." Every person that is born has one nature: self-preservation: me, myself, and I. We would kill for food and water if pressed, I believe that. I love the Walking Dead TV show. It's not the zombies but the humanity. Ordinary people put into impossible odds. They have changed to survive, yes survive. Chapter 6, p, 9

5. We need to see life through fresh eyes

A reset helps us strip away what we once believed. I used to think swearing was natural, but now I don't. I thought being good for the sake of goodness was bad. Where is the fun in that? When life is not working we just might need fresh eyes. God asks us to unclutter our lives so we can gain focus on the real world we live in. A reset brings perspective. God sees life differently. Seeing what he sees is strange and amazing all at once.



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To have Jesus is to go from one nature to two. The first nature will fall. It always has and always will. The second is strong and safe. We still love our first nature but the difference is that we can choose to run to the second nature. Within Jesus, we can choose differently. Christians don't always make the right choices but we can fix mistakes with compassion and love. I did not care about my fate until mine was crushed in divorce. My fate has improved under Gods care. I have loved and been loved better since I became a Christian. Two natures are better than one. Chapter 6, p, 11

6. Is sin a judgment call?

Seeing our sin does not have to bring condemnation. We just learn that there are better ways of doing life. Once we know we were not perfect in our relationships we can change too. We stop judging ourselves and congruently stop judging others. Their sin is no better than ours. Perspective is everything. Being the cleanest in this dirty world is no great feat. A reset sees that for the first time.

I think judging and rating sin has bombed our belief. We use the word "Hypocrite" to stay away from church and God. We have good reasons but those hypocrites have good reasons to avoid you too. It's like Yertle the turtle in Dr. Seuss books. One king turtle wanted to be on top in the mud puddle. The weird part is that "On top" meant "King of the mud puddle." Biggest sinner or littlest sinner: who wins? To reset is to gain perspective. The boy in the parable of the lost son in Luke 15 is interesting. The boy leaves his home to conquer the world. In the end he lost it all. He comes home because he now sees what he could not see before. That boy reset. I love having some old music back but I needed a reset first. Chapter 6, p, 15