

Implications of Sin

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Only a few decades ago, the majority of US citizens acknowledged the existence and consequences of an entity called *sin*. A vast number of our citizens now deny *sin*'s existence—by their deeds, if not by their words. But what if there is such a thing as *sin*? When one considers the implications of *sin*, he may discover why so many have denied its reality. *Sin* implies the following:

- **The existence of God.** The simplest definition of *sin* is disobedience of God, but if there is no *sin*, there is no God—just what many wish. The atheist has no objective basis for identifying any behavior as “moral,” “sinful,” or “righteous.”
- **The holiness of God.** He is the standard of purity, righteousness, and holiness, and *sin* contradicts and offends these absolutes of the Creator.
- **The law of God.** *Sin* does not exist in the absence of God's law: “But where there is no law, neither is there transgression” (Rom 4:15b). The existence of *sin* implies the existence of God's law, for “*sin* is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4, KJV). Those who insist upon an *all-grace/no-law* “gospel” err greatly, denying the existence of any law from God in the Christian Age. The New Testament explicitly calls itself “law” (Rom. 8:2; 1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2; Jam. 1:25).
- **The justice of God.** God has required man's obedience to His law from the beginning (Gen. 2:16–17). Perfect justice demands condemnation of and retribution for sinful behavior because it offends His absolute purity: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom. 1:18). “The wages of *sin* is death” (Rom. 6:23).
- **The mercy and grace of God.** God is rich in mercy and grace (Eph. 2:4, 7), through which He has provided for our redemption. Were it not so, all would be lost, “for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23).
- **The free will of men.** God did not create robots (who cannot *sin*), but men, who could choose to obey or disobey Him (i.e., *sin*). He did not prevent Eve or Adam from eating the forbidden fruit. He did not force Noah to build the ark. While God detests and despises *sin*, He will never force men to serve Him. Rather, He gently invites them through His Son (Mat. 11:28–31).
- **The accountability of men.** God allows men to reject His law and mercy, yet all will give an account to Jesus as **Judge** Whom they rejected as **Savior** (John 12:48; 2 Cor. 5:10).
- **The immortality of the soul.** That men must account for *sin* in the Judgment by Christ demands the existence of a soul that survives death and will never die—either with or apart from God forever.

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