

IS ALL SIN EQUAL?

5/3/25

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
 - Title – “Is All Sin Equal?”
 - Comment – I gave a version of this message in Bible Study on 4/11/15 – and have occasionally given a version of this message as a traveling sermon since then
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- My opening comments in 2015 presentation – which still apply to us today
 - As you know, this congregation seeks to be a grace-based congregation
 - We seek to happily accept God’s grace
 - We seek to reflect God’s grace
 - Also as you know – this congregation seeks to love God’s law
 - We seek to please God by happily living our life according to God’s spiritual law
 - We seek to reflect the blessings of obedience to God’s law
 - Whenever we think about God’s grace & God’s law, we automatically think about sin
 - Therefore, I ask the question – “Is All Sin Equal?”
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- Consider the “ultimate” consequence of sin

James 2:10	whoever keep the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point = guilty of all
Rom. 5:12	sin & death entered the world through Adam – death spread to all people, because all have sinned
Rom. 6:23	the wages of sin is death

- Consider the “immediate” consequences of sin

James 2:11	we all don’t commit the same sin
1 John 5:16-17	sins unto death – sins not unto death
Exod. 21:12	murder = death
13	manslaughter = he may flee to a city of refuge
14	premeditated = death
Exod. 21:28	if an ox killed a person = the ox was killed, but the owner was acquitted
29	if the ox had a violent history and if the ox was permitted to roam = both the ox and owner were killed
Exod. 22:1	steal an ox = restore 5 oxen.....steal a sheep = restore 4 sheep
Deut. 22:22	adultery = both died
23-24	sexual assault – witnesses close = both died
25-27	sexual assault – isolated area = man died, woman lived

- At this time, I want to address the idea about a “test commandment”
I recommend – view all 10 commandments as a “test commandment”

Exod. 16:3	the people murmured
4-30	God tested the Israelites by their behavior on the Sabbath
2 Sam. 11:2-4	David committed adultery
14-15	David covered up his sin – with premeditated murder
Isaiah 1:12-15	they kept the assemblies – “your hands are full of blood”

- Some sins are worse than other sins – because of immediate consequences

Prov. 6:30-32	contrast of sin
30-31	stealing by a starving person – restore 7-fold
32	adultery – destroys his own soul
Luke 18:9-14	Pharisee or tax-collector – which behavior was worse?
	1. obedience with condemnation?
	2. mistakes with repentance?
John 8:1-9	obvious adulterous woman? – sneaky religious leaders?
	1. her adultery?
	2. their condemning attitude?

- Quick reminder – 3 Biblical definitions of sin

1 John 3:4	based on the law of God
James 4:17	based on what we know
Rom. 14:23	based on faith