

February 17, 2019

Sin: Not the Way It's Supposed to Be
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

What is described in Scripture as the basic sin, the sin of taking things into your own hands, being your own god, grabbing what is there while you can get it, is now described as basic wisdom.

Eugene Peterson
Presbyterian pastor and author

If
we say we
have no sin, we
deceive ourselves,
and the truth is
not in us.
1 John 1:8

The
next day he saw
Jesus coming toward
him, and said, "Behold,
the Lamb of God, who
takes away the sin of
the world!"
John 1:29

For
whoever keeps
the whole law but
fails in one point has
become guilty of
all of it.
James 2:10

The
LORD looks down
from heaven on the
children of man, to see if
there are any who understand,
who seek after God. They have
all turned aside; together they
have become corrupt; there
is none who does good,
not even one.
Psalms 14:2-3

The plain truth is that a right knowledge of sin lies at the root of all saving Christianity... If a man does not realize the dangerous nature of his soul's disease, you cannot wonder if he is content with false or imperfect remedies.

J.C. Ryle
19th century Anglican Bishop of Liverpool

The essence of sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us. We... put ourselves where only God deserves to be; God... puts himself where we deserve to be.

John Stott
British Anglican pastor and theologian

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:12-19

Nothing is quite so fallacious as to think of sin only in terms of actions; and as long as we think of sin only in terms of things actually done, we fail to understand it. The essence of the biblical teaching on sin is that it is essentially a disposition. It is a state of heart.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
20th century Welsh medical doctor,
pastor, and preacher

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!

People: **Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**

Revelation 1, 4, 11

Leader: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

People: **We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.**

We praise the great and awesome name of our holy God

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

1. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y! Ear - ly in the
2. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee, cast - ing down their
3. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of
4. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y! All thy works shall

morn - ing our song shall rise to thee. Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea; cher-u - bim and ser-a-phem
sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see, on - ly thou art ho - ly;
praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
fall - ing down be - fore thee, who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
there is none be - side thee per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
Mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

It is the joy of God's people to sing praises to him. There is none like him and one day his glory will be clearly seen and all people will come and worship him, acknowledging that he alone is God. Our worship this morning is a taste of that day.

“Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship”



1. Heaven-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship, "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly!" cry;
2. All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion join to sing the Sa-vior's worth;



"He who is, who was, and will be, God Al-migh-ty, Lord Most High.
Lamb of God whose blood has bought us, kings and priests to reign on Earth.



Praise and ho-nor, power and glo-ry be to him who reigns a-lone."
Wealth and wis-dom, power and glo-ry, ho-nor, might, do-min-ion, praise



We, with all his hands have fa-shioned fall be-fore the Fa-ther's throne.
now be his from all his crea-tures and to e-ver-last-ing days!

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

The Holy God declares we have profaned his name, we have defiled his holiness with our sin

Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them...

Ezekiel 36

Thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Isaiah 57

We sorrow over our sin and rest on his grace

"God, Be Merciful to Me"



1. God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on thy grace I
 2. My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my
 3. I am e - vil, born in sin; thou de - sir - est
 4. Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by thy wrath and
 5. Grac - ious God, my heart re - new, make my spi - rit
 6. Sin - ners then shall learn from me and re - turn, O



rest my plea; plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou,
 soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst thy grace
 truth with - in. Thou a - lone my Sav - iour art,
 judg - ment just, let my con - trite heart re - joice
 right and true; cast me not a - way from thee,
 God, to thee; Sav - iour all my guilt re - move,



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me
 and pro - voked thee to thy face; I con - fess thy
 teach thy wis - dom to my heart; make me pure, thy
 and in glad - ness hear thy voice; from my sins O
 let thy spi - rit dwell in me; thy sal - va - tion's
 and my tongue shall sing thy love; touch my si - lent



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
 judge - ment just, speech - less, I thy mer - cy trust.
 grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.
 hide thy face, blot them out in bound - less grace.
 joy im - part, stead - fast make my wil - ling heart.
 lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord.

A full prayer of confession acknowledges that our sin is more than an isolated example of bad judgment; it is a way of life. Sin is our response to God—fleeing from him and running to other things. We confess that we are sinful people, and we live in need of a Savior.

This morning we use King David's cry for mercy in Psalm 51 as our cry for mercy.

Our merciful God declares our sins are blotted out in his boundless grace

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

Colossians 1

The joy of faith in Jesus Christ is that we can cry "It is well with my soul" with perfect assurance, knowing that it is only because of his life and death that it can be well with our souls no matter the circumstances of life.

We rejoice that we have peace with God through Jesus Christ

"It is Well with My Soul"

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
 3. My sin— O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!—
 4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,

when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my my sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul;

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.
¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,
"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
 but he shall rule over you."

Genesis 3:1-24

justification

made right

adoption

beloved children

sanctification

making the holy holy

perseverance

held secure

glorification

the full enjoyment of
God

advent

coming

Immanuel

God with us

incarnation

veiled in flesh the
Godhead see

Messiah/Christ

appointed,
empowered, sent

Savior

the great rescuer

epiphany

God revealed

love

Christ died for us

hope

assured confidence

grace

love undeserved

¹⁷And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²²Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Sermon

Sin: Not the Way It's Supposed to Be

50¢ Words: The Vocabulary of Faith

Rev. Per Almquist

What is sin?
Sin is any want of
conformity unto, or
transgression of,
the Law of God.
Westminster Shorter
Catechism 14

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper for in it we know our sin, we see what it requires, and have the immeasurable riches of God's grace in Jesus Christ sealed to us

We celebrate God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ by observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized followers of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to one of the elders after the service.

"Rock of Ages"

Unison *Bm⁷* *A*

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my -
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fil thy
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids

D *Bm* *C#m⁷* *F#m* *Bm⁷* *E⁷* *C#m⁷* *F#m*

self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en
 law's de-mands; could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for -
 cross I cling; na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to
 close in death, when I soar to worlds un-known, see thee on thy

Bm⁷ *E⁷* *C#m⁷* *F#m* *Bm* *A* *D* *C#m⁷* *F#m*

side which flowed, be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its
 ev - er flow, all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and
 thee for grace; foul, I to the Foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior,
 judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my -

Bm⁷ *D/E* *E⁷* *A* *E* *D/E* *A* *Fine*

guilt and pow'r.
 thou a - lone.
 or I die.
 self in thee.

Clothed with our
 flesh he
 vanquished death
 and sin together
 that the victory and
 triumph might be
 ours.
 John Calvin

"Jesus, I Come"

A recovery of the old sense of sin is essential to Christianity. Christ takes it for granted that men are bad. Until we really feel this assumption of His to be true, though we are part of the world He came to save, we are not part of the audience to whom His words are addressed. We lack the first condition for understanding what He is talking about.
C.S. Lewis

1. Out of my bon - dage, sor - row, and night, Je - sus, I come;
 2. Out of my shame - ful fail - ure and loss, Je - sus, I come;
 3. Out of un - rest and ar - ro - gant pride, Je - sus, I come;
 4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je - sus, I come;

7
 Je - sus, I come. In - to thy free - dom, glad - ness, and light,
 Je - sus, I come. In - to the glo - rious gain of thy cross,
 Je - sus, I come. In - to thy bless - ed will to a - bide,
 Je - sus, I come. In - to the joy and light of thy home,

13
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.

17
 Out of my sick - ness in - to thy health,
 Out of earth's sor - rows in - to thy balm,
 Out of my - self to dwell in thy love,
 Out of the depths of ru - in un - told,

21
 out of my want - ing and in - to thy wealth,
 out of life's storms and in - to thy calm,
 out of de - spair, in - to rap - tures a - bove,
 in - to the peace of thy shel - ter - ing fold,

25
 out of my sin and in - to thy self,
 out of dis - tress in - to jub - i - lant psalm,
 up - ward for - ev - er on wings like a dove,
 ev - er thy glo - - - rious face to be - hold,

29
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.

We confess our sin and rest in his grace as we give our tithes and offerings

We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith, putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim, that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.

Sin is not just a moral or even a spiritual problem; it is also a relational problem, a physical problem, an emotional problem, a societal problem, and more. Sin impacts every aspect of life. Many struggle with these consequences: sickness, poverty, death, etc. The Deacons Fund allows us to come alongside people broken by sin and assist them with material needs.

We come to God and pray for his glory to be seen in the midst of this sinful world

*During this time we live in faith, trusting in the power of his grace, placing our lives and our church in his hands.
We ask that he would work in us and through us for his glory.*

And this is one of the most crucial definitions for the whole of Christianity; that the opposite of sin is not virtue but faith.
Søren Kierkegaard

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We rejoice that our sins are many but his mercy is more

“His Mercy is More”

You cannot sin so much as God can forgive. If it comes to a pitched battle between sin and grace, you shall not be so bad as God shall be good. I will prove it to you. You can only sin as a man, but God can forgive as a God. You sin as a finite creature, but the Lord forgives as the infinite Creator
Charles Spurgeon

1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam?
3. What rich - es of kind - ness He lav - ished on us.

Om - nis - cient, all - know - ing, He counts not their sum.
What Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home?
His blood was the pay - ment, His life was the cost.

Thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore.
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor.
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford.

Our sins, they are man-y—His mer-cy is more. Praise the Lord,

His mer-cy is more. Strong-er than dark - ness,
 new eve-ry morn; our sins, they are man - y—His mer-cy is more.

We go out in God's grace for our sin

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

People: Amen

Galatians 1

50¢ WORDS

THE VOCABULARY OF FAITH

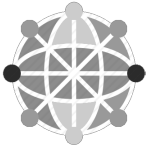
revelation God spoke	predestination the love before time	advent coming
inspiration God-breathed	calling lovingly summoned	Immanuel God with us
trinity 3-1-1	regeneration made alive with Christ	incarnation veiled in flesh the Godhead see
holiness separation	repentance turning	Messiah/Christ appointed, empowered, sent
righteousness the way it should be	faith confident trust	Savior the great rescuer
sovereignty ultimate kingship	justification made right	epiphany God revealed
providence kingship in action	adoption beloved children	love Christ died for us
kingdom living the reign	sanctification making the holy holy	hope assured confidence
salvation ultimate rescue	perseverance held secure	grace love undeserved
election God's choosing	glorification the full enjoyment of God	



Welcome to Free Grace

We are a broken church full of broken people. We know we need God's free grace. Some of us have accepted this grace, some are exploring what it's all about. All of us are still trying to understand it. We are a church that seeks to proclaim this free grace of God with both our words and our lives. Not satisfied with simply talking about it, we want to live it out. We invite you to come, explore, and live God's free grace with us.

Our Connections



Free Grace is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a family of churches that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Our Leadership

Free Grace is lead by her elders, men called by God and set apart by the church to care and lead her as individual members, families, and as a whole. Our elders are:

Rev. Per Almquist (pastor)
Kevin Kidd
Ken Morris



Credits

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Connor Crawford, *voice*; Meredith Stephens, *voice*; Shane Stephens, *percussion*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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Paradise Lost

John Milton

Earth trembled from her entrails, as again
In pangs, and nature gave a second groan;
Sky loured, and muttering thunder, some sad drops
Wept at completing of the mortal sin
Original...

The Agony

George Herbert

Philosophers have measur'd mountains,
Fathom'd the depths of the seas, of states, and kings,
Walk'd with a staff to heav'n, and traced fountains:
But there are two vast, spacious things,
The which to measure it doth more behove:
Yet few there are that sound them; Sin and Love.

Who would know Sin, let him repair
Unto mount Olivet; there shall he see
A man so wrung with pains, that all his hair,
His skin, his garments bloody be.
Sin is that press and vice, which forceth pain
To hunt his cruel food through ev'ry vein.

Who knows not Love, let him assay
And taste that juice, which on the cross a pike
Did set again abroach, then let him say
If ever he did taste the like.
Love is that liquor sweet and most divine,
Which my God feels as blood; but I, as wine.

The Dream of Gerontius

John Henry Newman

Oh, loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came!

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory