

# SHUNNING SIN

That you may give the rest of your lives in the flesh to the purpose of God



Sin is deadly. What the world glamorizes as good is often toxic, but as deadly as sin is, men still run headlong after it. The Bible, in Proverbs 7:21-23, graphically describes the alluring call of sin:

“With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, . . . he goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.”

**IF MEN REALLY UNDERSTOOD HOW DEADLY SIN IS, THEY WOULD AVOID IT LIKE THE PLAGUE**

The book of James also reminds us “when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” Furthermore, before we came to Christ we “were dead in trespasses and sins” (*Ephesians 2:1*). Scripture makes it clear that, “sin is the transgression of the law” (*1 John 3:4*) “and He that committeth sin is of the devil” (*1 John 3:8*). By definition, “all unrighteousness is sin” (*1 John 5:17*) and “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (*Romans 3:23*).

Therefore, apart from Christ “we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (*Isaiah 64:6*). The truth is, sins separates the unredeemed from God, and because of this “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness” (*Romans 1:18*).

Peter’s purpose is to remind these 1st Century Christians of the deadly effects of sin. We are to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (*Ephesians 5:11*), . . . “for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness” (*2 Corinthians 6:14*)? Even though Christians are delivered from the wrath of God, they can still break fellowship with God by continually sinning and thereby miss many of the blessings God has in store. “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth” (*1 John 1:6*).

Our passage examines three effects of sin. Peter uses this sobering realization to encourage believers in their efforts to shun sin. If we do not see how deadly sin is, we will not avoid it.

1. Even though Jesus never sinned, he suffered the wages of sin for us. In other words, our sin resulted in Jesus’ death on the cross. Our sin is costly! Discuss how costly our sin nature and our personal sins were to Jesus . . . (and would have been to us), if we had not placed our faith in Him — 1 Peter 2:24, 4:1a; and 2 Corinthians 5:21.
  - a. Our sin killed Christ! Not that Jesus sinned. He never sinned. “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin,” (*Hebrews 4:15*). “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (*2 Corinthians 5:21*).
  - c. This is how Peter begins Chapter 4:1, “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh.” Our sin is the reason Jesus was nailed to the cross for us. Sin is deadly and when we look at the cross we can see the wages. There, God poured out his wrath that was due us on Christ. For it says, “who his own self **bare** our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” 1Pet. 2:24. Sin is deadly. It is costly. It has temporal and eternal consequences.
2. Discuss how sin can keep the believer from becoming all he should be for Christ? - 1 Peter 4:1b; 1Corinthian 3:14; Colossians 2:18; Revelation 22:12
  - a. Therefore, we are to “arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin” - 1 Peter 4:1b

- b. For example, because of sin many in the Corinthian assembly fell short of what they should have been for Christ. They sued each other, they followed men rather than Christ, they tolerated sin and allowed incest into their congregation and much more. They missed the blessings of peace. They brought reproach to God's name, and most likely missed a number of eternal rewards.
  - c. 1Corinthian 3:14 - "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."
  - d. Colossians 2:18 - "Let no man beguile you of your reward"
  - e. Revelation 22:12 - "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."
3. Discuss how sin opposes God's holy will? - 1 Peter 4:2; James 4:1-4; James 5:1-6
- "That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God" - 1 Peter 4:2
- We should no longer act like the rest of the world. Think of all the ways sin is in conflict with God's will.
4. Discuss how sin affects our culture, our society and us personally. We need to remember how devastating sin has been on lost humanity.
- a. Think of it this way. Remember what sin has done to lost humanity.
    - i. Drug addiction
    - ii. Broken Homes
    - iii. Violence
    - iv. The breakdown of society
    - v. Greed, Materialism, Covetous, etc.

James 4:1-4 says, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not . . . know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 5:1f goes on to say, "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. <sup>2</sup> Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. <sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. <sup>4</sup> Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. <sup>5</sup> Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have

nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. 6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.”

5. What is Peter telling his audience to remember in 1 Peter 4:3? What do the following terms mean? How are they practiced today?
- Lasciviousness
  - Lusts
  - Excess wine
  - Drunkenness
  - Reveling
  - Banqueting
  - Abdominal idolatry

**Answer:**

- Lasciviousness means “sexually promiscuous behavior and lewdness” “to engage in immoral sexual excess” “unbridled lust, wantonness”
  - Lusts - “means “evil desires and passions” “a longing for that which is forbidden”
  - Excess wine - “Drunkenness “implying the consumption of a large quantities of alcohol`
  - Reveling - “Noisy partying or merrymaking” and “carousing” which means drinking or using illicit drugs with others in a loud and lively way.
  - Banqueting - “drinking parties involving unrestrained indulgence in alcoholic beverages and accompanying immoral behavior”
  - Abdominal idolatry - usually associated with pagan rituals, man and female prostitution and much more.
6. Why do the unredeemed become so aggravated when we do not participate in their unbiblical practices? - 1 Peter 4:4
- “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you”
7. What does Peter remind his audience of in 1 Peter 4:5?
- 1 Peter 4:5 – “Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.”
8. What is Peter saying in 1 Peter 4:6? How does this help his readers?
- “For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead (*Martyrs*), that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.