

**Subject: *How to Deal with Sin***

**Scripture: *Proverbs 28:13***

We live in a sinful world. The Bible contains 1,189 chapters and only 4 chapters describe a world without sin (Gen. 1-2 and Rev. 21-22). As long as we are in this world we must deal with sin. The question is not whether or not we must deal with sin, but how we must deal with it. We must deal with sin Biblically, personally, honestly, seriously, and thoroughly.

A few years ago I had to deal with skin cancer, and it was a lot more serious than I ever imagined. The doctor first examined me and diagnosed the problem. Then he operated and removed it. It was a procedure that lasted all day. Each time he removed some of the cancer he examined the tissue to see if he got it all, then he numbed it again and cut some more, over and over until he removed it all. Then I went to another doctor and had radiation treatments to make sure it was fully contained and eliminated. We must treat sin like we treat cancer. It is a serious problem. There is a right way and a wrong way to deal with cancer, and there is a right way and a wrong way to deal with sin.

### **1. The wrong way to deal with sin**

He who covers his sins will not prosper. What are some of the ways we try to cover our sin?

- We deny our sin

King Saul denied his sin, and so did King David.

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

**1 John 1:10** *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

- We justify our sin

We say everybody else is doing it. We say it's not hurting anybody else but me.

- We excuse our sin

We have been making excuses for sin ever since Adam and Eve. When God asked Adam about his sin, Adam blamed Eve. Then Eve blamed the serpent, and the serpent had no one to blame. He didn't have a leg to stand on. In Exodus Aaron blamed the people for the golden calf. An excuse has been defined as the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie.

- We redefine our sin

God calls it wickedness and we call it weakness. God calls it abomination and we call it personal choice. God calls it sin and we call it something else.

**Isaiah 5:20** *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

- We make light of our sin

**Proverbs 14:9** *Fools make a mock at sin.*

Whoever covers his sins will not prosper, but he will suffer. He will suffer the consequences in this life and the life to come.

**Proverbs 13:15** *Good understanding giveth favor: but the way of transgressors is hard.*

**James 1:15** *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## **2. The right way to deal with sin**

Whoever confesses and forsakes his sin will have mercy. This describes true repentance.

- We must agree with God about our sin

To confess means to say the same thing. We have to agree with what God says about sin. What does God say about sin?

**1 John 3:4** *...sin is the transgression of the law.*

**1 John 5:17** *All unrighteousness is sin.*

**James 4:17** *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

**Proverbs 24:9** *The thought of foolishness is sin.*

We must confess sins of commission, sins of omission, and sins of disposition. Sin is any thought, word, deed, or attitude that is contrary to the character and will of God.

- We must be deeply sorry for our sin

We must have a broken heart. The Bible calls it “godly sorrow.”

**Psalms 51:1-4**<sup>1</sup> *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*<sup>2</sup> *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*<sup>3</sup> *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.*<sup>4</sup> *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

David knew his sins were offensive to a holy God. Suppose someone says, “Yes, I stole \$20 from you” (as a matter of fact). There is a big difference if that person says, “I’m so sorry, I stole \$20 from you, and that was so terrible of me, and I beg you to please forgive me.”

- We must turn from our sin

Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of action. John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles all preached repentance.

**2 Timothy 2:19** *Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

When Alexander the Great was at the height of his power one of his officers was accused of bad conduct. He asked the officer what his name was. He said, "Sir, my name is Alexander." Then Alexander the Great said, "Either change your ways or change your name."

- We must hate our sin

**Psalms 97:10** *Ye that love the LORD, hate evil.*

We hate sin for many reasons. We hate it for the consequences it brings on us and our world. We hate sin because the Lord hates it. But there is one reason why we should hate sin above all, and that is because Jesus suffered the wrath of God for sin.

If we confess and forsake our sins, God promises to show mercy and forgive our sins.

**Psalms 32:5** *I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*

**Isaiah 55:7** *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

**1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

We must confess and forsake our sins to be saved and we must keep on confessing and forsaking our sins after we are saved. This is how we begin the Christian life and this is how we live the Christian life. I can't confess your sins and you can't confess mine. We must deal with sin personally, seriously, honestly, Biblically, and thoroughly.