

Session 7 The Sin of the World (Jn. 15:18)

“Let me drink from the river of Your pleasures as I delight in Your beauty” (Ps. 36:8; 37:4)

I. OVERVIEW

- A. In John 13-17, one of Jesus’ aims is to equip the heart to stay steady under pressure. Jesus exhorted the disciples two days earlier that the church was to not be troubled in light of unfolding global eschatological pressures that point towards the end of the age drawing near.

⁶“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” (Mt. 24:5-6)

- B. A troubled heart weighed down with worry and anxiety is a serious matter. It hinders the growth of **joy** and **peace** in our hearts. Worry preoccupies us with managing our emotions, making it difficult to step out of our feelings and narratives to fully **love** others in truth.

- C. Worry is simply rooted in pride. It exists because we have bought into an exaggerated sense of confidence in our human **abilities**, **assessment** and **narratives**, thus not living in truth—reality. Anxiety gets stirred up when our human limitations are exposed and our assessment and narratives or our mindsets (strongholds) in which we find safety get challenged.

⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds... (2 Cor. 10:4)

- D. Over the last several decades there has been an increasing and growing presence of another gospel in the Body of Christ. It centers specifically around the nature of God as a righteous Judge as well as the nature of sinful humanity as rebellious children of wrath.

⁴For if he who comes preaches another Jesus ... or a different gospel which you have not accepted. (2 Cor. 11:4)

- E. In John 16:1, Jesus states that the reason why He taught His disciples John 15:18-27 was to help them make sense of the true condition of the world and context in which they would witness. Not agreeing with heaven’s perspective concerning the condition of the world will be a source of stumbling for many. Presently, there are growing seeds of this in this generation.

¹“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.” (Jn. 16:1)

³...for that Day (2nd Coming) will not come unless the falling away comes first. (2 Th. 2:3)

- F. I have observed a subtle but increased breaking of agreement with the Lord’s primary assessment of the human race as sinful. I have seen this through the increased emphasis of our brokenness instead of our sinfulness, as well as brokenness, as the reason for sinful behavior. This has resulted in a growing presence of a ‘therapeutic gospel’ instead of the gospel of grace.

¹⁸“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹... the world would love its own ... you are not of the world... I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (Jn. 15:18–19)

II. UNDERSTANDING THE USAGE OF THE WORD “WORLD” IN JOHN’S GOSPEL

- A. In John 15:18-27, Jesus gives us critically important instruction concerning the condition of the world and our need for the engagement and activity of the Spirit to break through. The world is under the influence of deep darkness and deception. Paul makes it clear that there is a demonic veil on the minds of humans for the purpose hindering the perception of the gospel.
- ⁴whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Cor. 4:4)*
- ²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (Jn. 15:26)*
- B. Jesus taught His disciples that the Spirit comes and speaks of Him and thus they are to do the same. Paul speaks of this to the Corinthians, explaining to them that our witness and proclaiming of Jesus is the only way the light of God will come and break through dark minds.
- ²⁷ “And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.” (Jn. 15:27)*
- ⁵For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord ... ⁶For it is the God ... who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4:5–6)*
- C. Whereas most of the New Testament speaks more in terms of the condition and culture of this age or era, John refers to the ‘world’, the cosmos, in a specific way. The world is the realm that was invaded by the power of evil, inhabited by humans who are in enmity with God and under the influence of Satan, the prince and power of the air or the god of this age (era).
- ¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned... (Rom. 5:12)*
- D. The influence of evil in the world is such that we are not merely broken but rather slaves of evil. It required Jesus to come and give His life as a ransom, which is required to free captives. The Bible paints a dire present picture of the condition of the world. If it was not for the intervention of Jesus on the cross and His return, humans would utterly be destroyed.
- ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. (Mt. 24:22)*
- E. The situation and direction of the world due to sin and evil is hopeless and insurmountable. Yet, the scripture also promised great hope and that God would triumph over evil. We see that God would triumph over evil in the most surprising way, which is the 2nd Person of the Trinity, the Son, becomes a Man to lay down His life to make payment for the sin dilemma in the world.
- F. Jesus as a Man (Jn. 1:14) confronts the dilemma of the whole of creation (Isa. 53:4-5) by paying for our judgment (Rom. 3:25), triumphing over and confronting evil (Col. 2:14-15; Rev. 5:4-7).
- ²⁹“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (Jn. 1:29)*

III. SIN: THE WILLFULL INSISTANCE TO GO OUR OWN WAY

³*But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord. (2 Cor. 4:3–5)*

- A. The general human perspective is rooted in the idea of the good of humanity and that we are positioned to fix the things that are wrong. This is not consistent with the gospel, which suggests otherwise. As humans we have no **ability** to save ourselves, our **assessment** of the human condition is flawed and our **narrative** about the eternal destiny of the wicked is off. The gospel declares there is only one Man, Jesus, who is fully God, who can save the world.

¹²*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)*

- B. The study of sin is called hamartiology which wrestles with the origins and nature of sin. There’s an often-asked philosophical question, “*If God created everything, yet he did not create evil, then where did sin come from?*” Where we land on the answer to this is critical.
- C. Sin is the willful insistence of humans to follow their own ways and rules. Sin came into operation when Lucifer chose himself over God’s leadership, and it entered the world when Adam and Eve chose to do the same. Sin has to do with the exaltation of the self-life over God.
- D. Sin is the denying of God and the choosing of anything other than Him and His ways. Sin entered Satan when he chose himself as supreme. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve responded to Satan’s temptation, and they chose themselves supreme above God. The problem of sin is self. It is for this reason that Jesus declares such a fierce war on our egotism.

²⁴*Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Mt. 16:24)*

- E. Another way to say egotism is unbelief, which is when we cling more to our own **assessments**, **narratives**, and **abilities** as the means of our happiness and pleasure. The problem with sin is unbelief – it was denying the existence of the true God. In many ways, sin entered the world once Adam and Eve began to believe the word of the serpent over the word of God.

⁹... *God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. (Gen 2:9)*

⁶*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. (Gen. 3:6)*

- F. God did not create sin, however, He gave humanity the dignity of choice, as love cannot exist without the glorious operation and dignity of choice. God gave humanity the choice to either follow Him in love or to choose ourselves above Him and His ways. Pride is a serious issue.

¹³*“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. (Jer. 2:13)*

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT AS HELPER COMES AND TESTIFIES TO THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH

²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (Jn. 15:26)

- A. To possess life means having the ability and capacity to function, change, sustain, grow, and produce. It is experienced in our physical life, but we are designed to also experience it in our spiritual and emotional life. However, due to sin in the world, humans are inwardly dead.

⁴“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses...” (Eph. 2:4)

- B. The most often neglected and one of the least emphasized and expounded upon truths is the subject of our spiritual union with the Trinity through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As born-again believers we have become the temple of God who dwells in us—the Holy of Holies.

⁹... Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared ... ¹⁰“But God has revealed them ... through His Spirit... yes, the deep things of God...we have received... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” (1 Cor. 2:9-12)

⁷“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us ...” (2 Cor. 4:7)

- C. As the Holy Spirit lives in the born-again believer, He is available to bring us into the power of the divine life which comes through the knowledge of God. The Holy Spirit’s primary job is to inwardly help us by testifying—speaking—in us about Jesus and to form Christ in our soul.

¹⁴“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” ¹⁵“All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.” (Jn. 16:14–15)

- D. Understanding our union with the Trinitarian Fellowship is the greatest key to understanding the realm of God’s love (Jn. 15:9, 17:23), grace (Jn. 14:6, Col. 3:4) and power (Jn. 14:12). In it we understand that it is the power of God and the life of God given to us to live out His ways.

²⁰“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” (Jn. 14:20)

³... as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him. (2 Pet. 1:2–3)

- E. The Spirit also testifies to the world, confronting the veil of darkness by releasing the light of God in the heart and minds of the world, giving them opportunity to respond to the gospel.

⁸... He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰of righteousness ... ¹¹of judgment ... (Jn. 16:8-11)

²⁵“Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid ...” (Acts 24:25)