

Eph 5:1-7 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person-- such a man is an idolater-- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

Our goal is to be imitators of God. Notice in the text the word "hint" and "any kind". These are obviously speaking of more than just the big ten (commandments).

Sin defined: Sin is not only the things you do against God's word, but also things you say, think, and don't do that are contrary to God's word.

I. Things you "Do" that are sin according to the Bible.

A. The 10 commandments

Ex 20:3-17 "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

B. Lists of sins that if you do these you will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. I Cor 6:9-10 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
2. Gal 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

C. Helping others to sin.

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

Don't help make a place for you or anyone else to sin. In other words don't help others sin. What could be some of the things that are accepted as OK today that actually make a provision for others or yourself to fulfill the lusts of the flesh?

Romans 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

II. Things you "Say" that are sin according to the Bible.

A. Ten commandments again.

- B. Eph 5:3-5 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person-- such a man is an idolater-- has any



inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

III. Things you "Think" that are sin according to the Bible.

- A. Matt 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- B. Matt 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

IV. Things you "Don't Do" that are sin according to the Bible.

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

At this point I would introduce the "6, 8, 10 Principle". This will help them use the Bible as their standard for living. This helps in all those "gray" areas that the Bible doesn't directly speak to.

Others scriptures that speak about sins:

I Jn 3:4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

I Jn 5:17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

(This passage makes reference to the unforgivable sin of Blaspheming the Holy Spirit. This may not be a discussion you want to get into.)

Rom 14:23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

I think this speaks directly to suicide. Taking your life is giving up all hope and no hope is no faith and "whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Having wrong influences in your life (friends).

Ps 1:1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

II Cor 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Eph 5:11-12 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

I Thes 5:22 Avoid every kind of evil.

I Thes 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Rom 14:13 rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Matt 18:5-7 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!