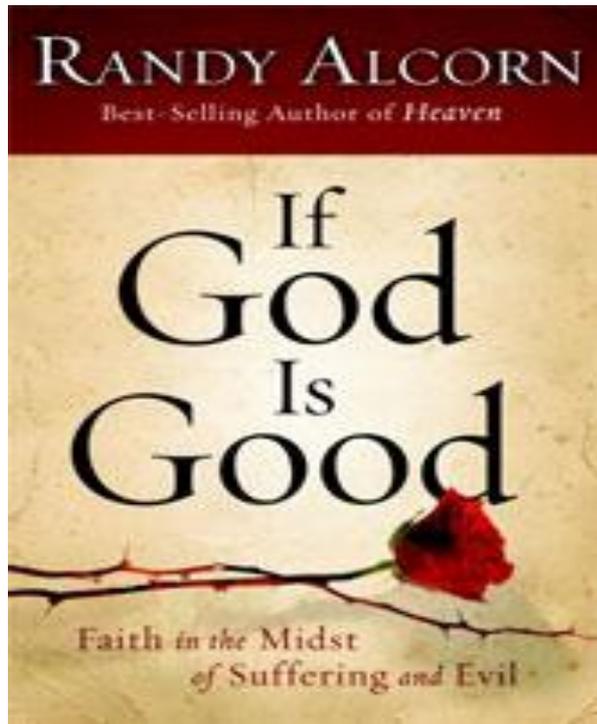




Love God. Love People. Change the World.



If God is Good.

Lesson #7

**Christian Life Assembly
Winter 2010 ABF
Jim Hoffman**

We Sin Because We are Sinners

- **“It is the high-minded unbeliever, desperately trying in the teeth of repeated delusions to retain his ‘faith in human nature’ who is really sad. We actually are, at present, creatures whose character must be, in some respects, a horror to God, as it is, when we really see it, a horror to ourselves. This I believe to be a fact: and I notice that the holier a man is, the more fully he is aware of that fact.” C. S. Lewis**

- **“We tend to minimize our sin because we do not see it’s real object – God, himself. We Imagine our sin has no effect on Him and we could not be more wrong.” Randy Alcorn**

We Sin Because We are Sinners

- **Ps 51:4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. NIV**
- **Uriah, Bathsheba, David's family, and the list goes on, but compared to the offense against God the others were not worthy of mention.**
- **"Repentance without recognizing our offense against God is not repentance." Randy Alcorn**

We Sin Because We are Sinners

- The clearest measure we have of evil's depth is found in what it cost to redeem us.
- History's greatest problem could not be solved by the love of God; it took nothing less than the death of God's son.
- The solution to sin and evil is so radical that it is unthinkable apart from God. No other father would do what ours did.

We Sin Because We are Sinners

- **Isa 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. NIV**
- **What is the extent of our sin? It has rendered us totally disabled spiritually. (Eph 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, NIV)**
- **It is not that we do no good (we feed the hungry, we clothe the naked, etc ...), but it's that we have nothing to offer to gain a right standing with God.**

We Sin Because We are Sinners

- “Dim or indistinct views of sin are the origin of most of the errors, heresies, and false doctrines of our day.”
J.C. Ryle
- A modern heretic says “the most serious sin is the one that causes me to say I am unworthy”. Robert Schuller
- So long as we view evil as coming from sources outside of myself I can play the role of victim. (we are not)

We Sin Because We are Sinners

- Some argue that believing in inherited sin is a license to hate and devalue others because we are worthless sinners – but that is nonsense.
- If God was willing to sacrifice his own son to pay for our sins that fact alone makes the case that we are of great value.
- We are not of great use until we are redeemed, but we have always been of great value.

Sins of Omission

- **Fathers and step-fathers abuse children while the mother stands by.**
- **The Nazis did not do their work in secret – it was quite obvious what was going on.**
- **Africans were abused and enslaved solely for profiteering while the church looked on.**
- **Anyone then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. James 4:17**

Sins of Omission

- Jer 22:2'Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, you who sit on David's throne — you, your officials and your people who come through these gates. 3 This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. 4 For if you are careful to carry out these commands, then kings who sit on David's throne will come through the gates of this palace, riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by their officials and their people. 5 But if you do not obey these commands, declares the Lord, I swear by myself that this palace will become a ruin.'" NIV

Sins of Omission

- “Apart from Christ, we are different from every ruthless dictator and notorious murderer only in degree.” Randy Alcorn
- The holocaust of the 1930’s and 40’s was orchestrated by a handful of ideological thugs, but was carried out by ordinary, everyday people.
- Edmund Burke said, “All that is necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing”.

The Problem of Sin

- **Randy Alcorn recounts this story:**
 - Child molester/murderer convicted and sentenced to death
 - His daughters pray for the man to be saved.
 - He prays along with them only because he knew he should.
 - The man gives testimony at his execution of finding Christ.
 - The onlookers are outraged that such a sinner can claim forgiveness.
- **We flatter ourselves when we look at evil acts and confidently say, “I would never do that”.**
- **Jer 4:22 "My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good." NIV**

The Problem of Sin

- “the only part of Christian dogma that can actually be proved is our sin nature” G.K. Chesterton

- “When the apostles preached, they could assume even in their Pagan hearers a real consciousness of deserving the Divine anger. The Pagan mysteries existed to allay this consciousness, and the Epicurean philosophy claimed to deliver men from the fear of eternal punishment. It was against this background that the Gospel appeared as good news. It brought good news of possible healing to men who knew that they were mortally ill. But all this has changed. Christianity now has to preach the diagnosis— in itself very bad news— before it can win a hearing for the cure.” C.S. Lewis

The Problem of Sin

- **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. **12** It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, NIV
- It is possible for us not to sin --- but it is also possible and anecdotally more likely that we will.
- **1 John 1:8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. NIV

The Problem of Sin

- **Three points of view:**

– **Posse Non Peccare – possible not to sin**

– **Non Posse Peccare – not possible to sin**

– **Non Posse Non Peccare – not possible to not sin.**

The Problem of Sin

- “I have great peace in knowing I am a great sinner. It helps deliver me from pretending I am better than I am.” Randy Alcorn
- Rom 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. NIV

The Problem of Sin

- “But this freedom from the dominion of sin is not the end of the struggle against sin. In fact, it is the beginning of a new conflict with it. For while we have died to sin, it has not died in us.” Sinclair Ferguson
- Many scriptures affirm that man will not always do right, but none affirm he can never do right.
- We are guilty of having a sin nature and we are also guilty of some sins – most us however can also claim to have some good deeds to our credit. – What no one has claim to, on their own, is righteousness.



Questions / Comments