

# Exploring Christianity Study 2

## What is sin?

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### Introduction

This study is the second of a short series in which we consider the basic facts of the Christian faith. Real Christianity is not a religion; it is a close relationship with the God of the Bible. In the previous study you discovered that the Lord Jesus Christ is very special—that He was man yet more than a man—indeed God Himself. Hopefully the last study also helped you to see that God is a Trinity.

The Bible teaches that all human problems, whether personal, family, social, racial, or international, come from the sinful heart of man. The purpose of this study is to help you understand the serious nature of sin. You are going to be faced with some uncomfortable facts in this study. Have you prayed first?

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### Section 1 — What Is the law of God?

The law of God is contained in the 10 Commandments. You will find the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20. Please read from verse 1 down to verse 17.

#### 1a Commandment No. 1. *Thou shalt have no other gods before me* (Exodus 20:3).

Nothing is to take the place of God. Nothing is to come before God in your life. Not even family, friends etc. are to come before God — see Luke 14:26.

*If any man come to me, and hate not his \_\_\_\_\_, and mother, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own \_\_\_\_\_ also, he cannot be my disciple* (Luke 14:26).

This is strong language designed to get our attention. In comparison to a person's love for God, other human relationships are to be like hatred.

Do you really love God that much?

#### 1b Commandment No. 2. *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God...* (Exodus 20:4-5).

This command forbids the making of statues for use in worship. This is known as idolatry and this is rife throughout the world. The Roman Catholic church used statues in worship. In order to cover up this embarrassing prohibition on idols, the Roman Catholic church has removed the second commandment from their list, and has split the last one into two in order to make up the number! There are other forms of idolatry. According to Colossians 3:5, what thing is also idolatry?

\_\_\_\_\_ is idolatry. See also Ephesians 5:5.

There can even be idols inside a person!

*And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their \_\_\_\_\_, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?* Ezekiel 14:2-3

Such internal idols could be relationships, career, academic success, and the like.

**1c Commandment No. 3.** *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain* (Exodus 20:7).

What are legitimate ways to use God's name? It is legitimate to use God's name for prayer, worship, prayer, preaching and the like. However anything else is using His name in vain. Using the Lord's name as a swear word is using God's name in vain. "Vain" means an empty, trivial use of His name. This is a very common sin in Ireland. Examples—"Oh God"; "by Jove"; "Jesus"; etc.

Who will the Lord not hold guiltless (without guilt)?

The Lord will hold guilty those who take his name in \_\_\_\_\_ .

For what will everyone give account—see Matthew 12:36?

*But I say unto you, That every idle \_\_\_\_\_ that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

**1d Commandment No. 4.** *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy* (v8)

This is a requirement to set aside one day per week to worship God. In the Old Testament, this was a Saturday. The Saturday Sabbath has been abolished (Colossians 2:16), but the practice of setting one day aside specially for God continues.

According to Hebrews 10:24-25, what are believers commanded not to forsake?

Believers are not to \_\_\_\_\_ the assembling of themselves together.

**1e Commandment No. 5.** *Honour thy father and thy mother* (Exodus 20:12).

God requires children to be respectful and obey their parents. Disrespect for parents is common today. Have you ever disobeyed or disrespected your parents when you were younger?

**1f Commandment No. 6.** *Thou shalt not kill* (Exodus 20:13).

This is dealing with murder. You will respond that you have never killed anyone, but you can break this by having bad feelings toward another person. What does God regard as murder? Fill in the blanks. See Matthew 5:21-22.

21 *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not \_\_\_\_\_; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:*

22 *But I say unto you, That whosoever is \_\_\_\_\_ with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca ("empty head"), shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou \_\_\_\_\_, shall be in danger of hell fire.* (Matthew 5).

Have you even had bad feelings toward another person? Have you ever insulted them and called them a fool? Then you have broken the spirit of commandment number 6.

**1g Commandment No. 7.** *Thou shalt not commit adultery* (Exodus 20:14).

This is having sex with someone with whom you are not married. If the persons involved are not married, the Bible calls it fornication.

What does 1 Corinthians 6:18 tell people to do from fornication?

1 Corinthians 6:18 commands people to \_\_\_\_\_ fornication.

If one of the persons are married, the Bible calls it adultery. Both situations are covered by this commandment.

This is sexual activity between persons not married to each other. The Bible also calls this fornication.

When a man looks lustfully at a woman, what is he committing in his heart (Read Matthew 5:27-28)?

He is committing \_\_\_\_\_ in his heart.

Can you really say that you are free of this sin?

**1h Commandment No. 8** *Thou shalt not steal* (Exodus 20:15).

This includes taking things from your work (even pens, etc.); illegally copying music or software. Most people will admit to having taken something that was not theirs at some time in their lives. How about you?

**1i Commandment No. 9.** *Thou shalt not bear false witness (lie) against thy neighbour* (Exodus 20:16).

This is dealing with falsehood. All lies (even white ones) are included.

What destination is there for all liars (Revelation 21:8)?

The fearful, and \_\_\_\_\_, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all \_\_\_\_\_ will have their part in the lake of fire.

**2j Commandment No. 10** *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.* (Exodus 20:17).

Covetousness is a very common sin. Gambling is based on breaking the 10th commandment. Can you think of occasions when you have coveted?

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## Section 2 — The Purpose of the Law

2a What does the law do (Romans 3:19)?

The law stops every \_\_\_\_\_ .

The law makes all the world \_\_\_\_\_ before God.

**2b** How many people will be justified (made right) before God by keeping the law of God (Romans 3:20)? Delete 2 of the following lines:

1. Those people who keep the law of God will be justified before God.
2. Nobody will be justified before God by the law of God.
3. Everybody will be justified before God by the law of God.

**2c** What else does the law do (Romans 3:20)?

The law brings the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

**2d** *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.* James 2:10

How much of the law does a person have to break in order to be guilty of all of it (James 2:10)? Delete one of the following:

1. In order to be guilty of all of the law, a person has to offend in every point.
2. In order to be guilty of all of the law, a person has to break just one point.
3. In order to be guilty of all of the law, a person has to be really bad.

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## Conclusion

The law of God makes everyone guilty. That includes you. Do you accept the fact that you have broken God's laws in many ways? Do you accept that you are guilty before a Holy God? In the next study, we will examine the serious consequences of breaking God's Law.

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