

Week 3 – God’s View of Sin

When God created the world and everything in it, everything was created perfectly. God Himself is perfect and all of His creation reflected His perfection perfectly. God created man in His own image to represent God’s goodness, but the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God and failed in representing Him.

Because God is perfect and just, He cannot tolerate sin. He cannot be around it. Anything that we do wrong offends God’s character. Because God is just, He punishes sin. And the punishment for sin, according to the Bible, is death. (Romans 6:23) The punishment is that severe because God hates all sin that much.

God created us to be in a relationship with Him, but this special relationship was broken. When sin came into the world through Adam and Eve, it came to all people. Every person born since then has been born with a nature that is automatically selfish and does not want a relationship with God. When we are selfish, we are choosing to worship ourselves and not worship God.

Think about it: Did someone have to teach you how to do something wrong before you did it? Did someone teach you how to lie? Did someone teach you to be selfish? These things come naturally because we all have a sin nature. Everyone has a sin nature. The Bible says “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) God can’t stand sin, and none of us can live up to the standard of perfection that God has.

None of us are perfect; none of us are without sin. And the biggest problem is that we can’t get rid of our sin! Even when we do good things, it does not get rid of the bad things that we have done. That sin stays with us and God demands that it needs to be punished. It keeps us from having a relationship with Him.

Because of our sin, we have no way to reach out and have a relationship with God. We have no power to do anything to make that happen. But God did something amazing to give us another opportunity. Long ago, God did something special to solve our sin problem so that we could once again have a relationship with Him. We’ll talk more about that next week.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have any questions about this lesson?
2. What does it mean that God is just?
3. What keeps us from being able to have a relationship with God?