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## The Sin

John 16:8-9

"And He [Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; [9] concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

If we look at sins as the works or actions or thoughts that are opposing God, there are two statements that I will present.

- 1 There are no works or actions man can do to cause him to go to hell.

Likewise:

- 2 There are no works or actions man can do to cause him to go to heaven.

I bet I have caused some to rise up with a spirit of argument and disagreement with this. For most all mankind throughout all of our lives we have understood that it is our works and our good or evil ways that will cause us to be heaven or hell bound.

When we think of sins, there are a multitude of list that can be made directly from the Bible, the Word of God. Sins are those actions in our life that are opposing the ways of the Kingdom of God Almighty and His precepts and character. But what I hope to show is that your destiny is the results of the ONE sin, singular sin.

The best place to start is with the focal passage. Here Jesus in verse 9 very clearly defines the sin as 'not believing in Me'. I think I could stop here and for those that believe that the Word of God is true could meditate on this and agree. This is my position. God said it so it is. Yet let us expound on this and see just how important and precise this is to the whole of scripture and the life abundant and the liberty or freedom in Christ that I think this will expose today.

As my first statement declared - there is no sins (works) that man can do to cause him to go to hell. Jesus said this -

John 3:18 (NIV)

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only

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Son.

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Notice there is no list of works and actions that are declared here that causes one to be condemned. This condemnation is the judgement that brings death. Condemned Already! This is because this one sin is from the first Adam in the garden which brought condemnation and all mankind being born of water (natural birth). Condemnation has come and originates from the seed of the one man Adam and remains condemned. (This is seen in Romans 5:12-21). This is confirmed in John 3:18 which clearly says that all are condemned (judged) already. No action is necessary on their part. No works of good or evil is needed to be put in the condemned group.

Let us go to the beginning, the first Adam. We read in Genesis after God had done His great work and creation of man, God spoke a single command, one thing for man to do.

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; [17] but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

What do you see the ONE thing was? Sure there is the obvious that we always see and it is the 'do's and the don'ts' or the 'do not's'. Why? I can only say at this point it is because man was created to be a creature to 'work' and have 'dominion' over what God created. This in itself is a drive found in all men. So it is normal for us to see things as works to do and of course things not to do.

But really if we look closely at all that God has released in His word to direct us and set us free for this age as we wait for His return and the new age to come we can see some truth that can set us free.

Let the focal point guide you in your answer as you look again at the Genesis verse. In doing so let me carry you to the verse of the temptation from the serpent in the garden. What do you recall happened?

Genesis 3:1-4

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had

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made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

[2] The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, [3] but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

[4] "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.

I think temptation by Satan is not the do's and don'ts here but a single issue. Was Eve going to believe what God said or not believe what God said? You will die. Consider this - it was the consequences and therefore not seen and this requires faith. Sure the don't part was part of the command but the results was not believing in the unseen and this is what Satan focused on.

Remember these verses -

Life is associated with faith even in this simple verse.

2 Cor. 5:7

We live by faith, not by sight.

Here there must be a CERTAINTY in our hearts about what we do not see but what God has spoken. This is called faith.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV-NIV)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, and certain of what we do not see.

It is written

Romans 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.

Keep in mind that faith is the noun or substance (Heb 11:1) but believing is the action resulting in active faith. Therefore the extent to which you believe will determines the size of your faith. If I have a bag of beans (bag = faith) the size is only relevant to the number of beans (beans = what you believe) in the bag. What we believe from God's word shows the size of faith we have. The bag of beans is a bag of beans regardless of size so faith is faith. To say all this in hope to show the size of one's faith is directly related to the amount of God's word one believes. The more one believe of Gods word the bigger their faith is.

Just as Romans 12:3 declares in most translation 'THE' measure is only one, not 'a' measure which implies other measures of faith.

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Romans 12:3

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Well we can conclude that the faith that Eve had was too small because she did not believe what God said - 'you will surely die'. Although she confirmed that she could eat from all the other trees. Notice the core of Satan's temptation was not the 'do's and don'ts' but to get Eve to doubt God, and therefore not believe the Word of God.

But many would then refer to this verse

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

There is much in James to gain the understanding to this works that James speaks. In a very short direct way, it is the action of loving God and others as a result of the 'believing in the one God sent, Jesus'.

We see what Jesus said when the people ask him the question

John 6:28-29

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

[29] Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

This cycles us back to the focal scripture. But first notice the people were asking the plural, works (or the do's we are to do) yet Jesus again made it a single work. Just as the focal verse is a singular 'sin', so it is shown to be the same as the singular 'work' - to believe in Him.

Some may say - DUH... as though this is known by all. But even in the surface of knowing, the understanding and fullness of what can erupt with the wisdom of such can be liberating and POWERFUL to living in the Kingdom of God NOW.

Oh so much to release with such little time today.

Jesus from John 3, to John 6 and then in John 16 (and many other places) keeps the focus on one point - Will we believe in Him, the Word of God who was sent by God the Father.

For in Revelation we read -

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Rev. 19:13

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

As the time came for Jesus to leave this world in John 14 to 16 He makes it clear that we will not be left alone. Those that do believe in Him, will receive Him, another like Jesus, the Holy Spirit.

Then, He, the Holy Spirit's first and foremost purpose is to carry out, in a divine way the purpose as set forth by God, the Father of Jesus, His only Son, the Christ to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement. V 9 -

John 16:9 [Jesus speaking]

in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;

Holy Spirit does this by teaching all truth and reminding us and confirming Jesus as the son of God in whom we, all men, must believe to have eternal life.

I want to take you to a few more scriptures to support the singular 'sin' issue.

John 15:22-24

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. [23] He who hates me hates my Father as well. [24] If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father....[26] "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

The sin is singular. Although there are times when in conversation it is understood that sin is representative of the do's and don'ts in our thinking, I have found in my studies that sin can almost always be seen as what we have already seen in scripture. It is simply -

John 16:9 (NIV)

in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;

John 16:9 (NASB)

concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

The second statement that was made in the beginning of this teaching was  
- 2 There are no works or actions man can do to get him into heaven.

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The same is true now for this statement. It is not works or actions on our part that gets us to heaven. It is simply 'believe in the one He sent'.

Ephes. 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast.

It becomes a choice - life or death.

To NOT believe - death and remain condemned.

To believe - life and live forever.

Deut. 30:19-20

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live [20] and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Now considering all that has already been said we can look at what would NOT be sin is simply BELIEVE in the one God has sent. As previously shown in the following verse.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

As we discovered in the Gen 2 & 3, the sin in the beginning was the same sin as when God Himself walked on earth 2000 years ago. They did not believe in Him, the Word of God.

Genesis 2:17

but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

But if we believe we will surely live and live with life eternal. WOW. Believe in Jesus, our Savior, God's word and we can live forever.

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

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This is why Jesus made it so clear as to the ONLY way to the Father

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Just for clarity, again the word 'the' is the singular to its meaning and not 'a' which would imply other means as a way, a truth and a life. This is supported also in this verse with the words - NO ONE and EXCEPT.

Guard your hearts from this deception that is being so aggressively preached throughout the world by the leading of the god of this world, Satan. To think or speak that there are many ways to God is a lie and a deception from Satan.

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Cor. 4:4

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

We must ask - Do we believe the Word of God (Rev 19:13). If there is any part that we do not believe then we sin. So this causes me to think - Maybe the unforgivable sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit that Jesus spoke of (Matt 12:31-32) and where John said there is a sin that leads to death (1 John 5:16) and the sin the Holy Spirit has come to convict the world of are all the same. Of course all I can do is reason with the knowledge of the Word of God and based on what we have seen thus far. This is the only sin that seems to fit these all together in such a simple form, particularly the link found in our focal verses - the Holy Spirit comes to convict. Of course simplicity eliminate the importance of theologians. Yet one more thought and Billy will cease his exposition. If this simple thought is true, then maybe the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit only can occur with those who have heard the good news and rejects it in spoken word or utterance. Adam did not believe what God said, Adam "you will surely die" if you do not trust Me and believe what I have said. Jesus has said over and over - believe in Him and live.

God's miracles established His words as truth and the greatest was His resurrection from the dead. Believe and be saved. Saved from death. IF one does not believe, he will surely die and death has its victory and he perishes.

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John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Since God, through His Only Son has sent us Holy Spirit, Jesus told us in

Matthew 12:31-32

And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. [32] Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

God desires that all honor and glory be given Him (Rev 11:4). When He does great and mighty things we must be very careful at what we might SAY and to whom we give credit for such miracles and such power.

Today is the same as past. Man is stubborn and contemptuous toward God's Word, even of His miracles.

Numbers 14:11

The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?"

John 15:24-25

If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. [25] But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

Matthew 13:58

And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

Even today there are many who say God can but will not believe He does miracles today. When they do hear of a miracle they become like the Pharisees and others and say it is a lie or contribute it to some other means because they themselves did not see. Just as Thomas, even though all the other Apostles said so, he did not believe. And a result of that Jesus prophesied and promised-

John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

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You who doubt, get your head out of the sand and simply believe and be blessed!

Are you guilty of the sin? -

John 16:9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;

When ever you consider the singular 'sin' because they did on believe in Jesus, the Son of God remember this.

God the Word = Jesus = Word of God = Truth = Holy Spirit = Jesus The Word of God = the way, the truth, the life as seen in these scriptures.

(John 1:1 = John 1:14 = Rev 19:13 = John 17:17 = John 14:16-17 = Rev 19:13 = John 14:6)

Do you believe the Word of God, the one sent by the Father?

How big is your bag of beans? And the real question that links to all this is -Do you Fear God? Do you reverent Him? Do you desire God's presence? Do you Fear God enough to believe Him. Do you believe His promises of blessing or curses even though they are unseen?

Proverbs 9:10

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Psalms 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.  
To him belongs eternal praise.

And as Paul prayed for the Ephesian -  
Ephes. 1:17

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Blessing to you and may the God of Creation and Holy Spirit teach you each time you visit Jesus, the Word of God so you may know Him better and believe.

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