



8 Questions in a Questionable World

Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

January 26

What Is Sin?

Welcome to the Winter 2025 season of GLCs. Our present sermon series is based on the questions submitted by the congregation a couple of months back, and will focus on providing a biblical answer to some of them. A different style of preaching (and an adjusted study guide) lends itself better to this series than what we are used to. We will still keep in mind our study outline (exploring, digging, growing, and going) although we may not always follow it as closely.

exploring

We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.

exploring

1. Let's read together the texts used in the sermon that narrate how sin started.
 - a. Genesis 2:15-17
 - b. Genesis 3:1-19
2. Pastor Paul defined sin as disobeying or rebelling against God's instruction, His law, His Word. Eating the fruit was the obvious act of rebellion in the garden.
 - a. List any other sins that you see in the text committed by any of the characters including the serpent (see 1 John 3:8 as well).
3. What do these passages indicate about God's relationship with Adam and Eve before their sin?
4. How did the relationship between God and the first humans change as a result of their sin?
5. How was the relationship between Adam and Eve affected by the entrance of sin into their lives?

digging

Let's take the time to read the other main passage that shows how sin is going.

- Ephesians 2:1-9

Pastor Paul showed how sin continued to affect every person subsequent to Adam and Eve, giving numerous examples of atrocities beginning with Cain, including "heroes" of righteousness and God's people. We all inherited a sin nature and as a result we sin. Our nature, our will, and our actions are sinful.

- How does the Ephesians passage describe the predicament humanity is in?
- According to the passage, why do we need someone outside of ourselves to save us?

How it's going with sin depends on where I stand with Jesus. The world continues on in sin.

The questions for each person individually are:

- Have I been saved by Jesus?
- How do I know?

growing

Sin is not a popular concept in our culture. According to the author Jerry Bridges in “Respectable Sins”, the concept of sin has virtually disappeared from our culture at large.

1. What about in our churches?

- How has the idea of sin been deflected to those outside of our circles?
 - Consider the attitude of the Pharisee in Luke 18:9-12
- What “obvious sins” or so called “big sins” do we easily condemn in others?
- Consider Jeremiah 17:9-10, Psalm 139:23-24, Gal. 5:22-23, James 4:17
 - What sins of the heart have we softened and accepted in our lives and our church?

Hebrews 9:26a-28 clearly depicts the way that sin will be brought to an end, either in judgement or in salvation. Open your Bibles and read it together.

1. Is there anything in my life that prevents me from eagerly waiting for Christ’s coming?

going

Is there someone I know that needs me to help them understand the universality and the consequences of sin and the gift of grace in the light of these scriptures?