



What Is Sin?

By Rabbi Reuel Dillon

What is sin? There must be a clear definition somewhere in scripture to define what is right and what is wrong. It should not be up to a Synagogue or Church and the various denominations to make up what is right and wrong...the Bible should do this! The Word Of God should be our only authority...not futile men. Although, many rely on what their Rabbi or Pastor says is sin and fail to take into account what the Bibles actually teaches. One may think sin is whatever they feel the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) tells them is sin. But in reality, they do what is right in their own eyes (Deuteronomy12:8) and then blame it on the Spirit of God. Some would say that sin is not being in the will of God. This last answer is closer to the truth, but who defines what the will of the God is?? Does your Rabbi or Pastor define the will of the God or does God Himself, our Heavenly Father define the terms of sin? The answer seems obvious, yet it has escaped many of those whom identify themselves as believers in Messiah.

In Bereisheet (Genesis) 6:3a we read, "ADONAI said, "My Spirit will not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh...". One sentence later in Bereisheet 6:5 we see Adonai make the following observation, "ADONAI saw that the people on earth were very wicked, that all the imaginings of their hearts were always of evil only.". The word "imaginings" in our above passage here is the Hebrew word "yetzer", which can also mean "mind". In fact, Bereisheet (Gen.) 6:5 is where we get the Hebrew phrase, "yetzer hara" which is well know in Judaism to mean, "the evil inclination". Some may know it as, "the fallen nature", or "the sin nature". The concept is the same, the "yetzer hara" is our evil, wicked, and carnal nature that stems from our minds and the sinful things that proceed from it. It is this that Adonai cannot stand.

In 1Sh'mu'el (Samuel) 15:23 it states, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and iniquity. Because you have rejected the word of the ADONAI, he has also rejected you from being king.". In this last scripture passage we see that if we are rejecting the Word of God we are in rebellion know as "sin". In 2 Melachim (Kings) 10:31, Yehu (Jehu) is a good Biblical example of this. It states, "But Yehu took no heed to walk in the Torah of ADONAI the God of Israel with all his

heart: for he departed not from the sins of Yeroboam, which made Israel to sin.”. If you are not walking in God's Law (Torah) with all your heart, you are subject to sin. What did our Rabbi Yeshua (Jesus) say about this? In Yochanan (John) 8:34 it states, “Yeshua answered them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin.”.

Do not be fooled by those promising you liberty when it is connected to a life without Torah and by a life characterized by breaking God's commandments. For Tehillim (Psalms) 119:44-45 tells us the following about Biblical freedom, "So I will obey your Torah continually, forever and ever. I will walk in liberty, for I have sought your precepts." . Whoever states that Messiah came to set us free from Adonai's Torah is repeating a lie from HaSatan, The Enemy of our souls. From the very beginning we read in Bereisheet 4:7, “If you are doing what is good, shouldn't you hold your head high? And if you don't do what is good, sin is crouching at the door — it wants you, but you are to rule over it.”.

The carnal man is subject to sin and slave of it, but the true spiritual man is subject to the law of His God. Are you a carnal heathen or a true believer in God and His Messiah? Please consider Romans 8:5-8, “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”.

We are able to keep God's commandments with the aid of His Spirit moving through us, for we can do all things through Messiah whom strengthens us (Phillipians 4:13)! In fact, this is one of the covenant promises of the Brit Hadashah (New Covenant). Yechezk'el (Ezekiel) 36:26-27 states, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you; I will take the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit inside you and cause you to live by my laws, respect my rulings and obey them.”. Does this describe you?? If not, you may want to reconsider what kind of relationship you have with God.

In the end, many will think they have been walking with God when in fact they were deceived the whole time by lawless men and women. Our Master Yeshua states in Mattityahu (Matthew) 7:20-23, “Then surely from their fruits you shall know them. Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but the ones who do the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many works of power? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; "depart from Me, those working lawlessness!"”. And again, in Mattityahu 13:41-42 it states, “The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all the offenses, and those who practice lawlessness. And they will throw them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and gnashing of the teeth.”.

Are you one that thinks they know God, but has been deceived? Don't think that because you and others have been walking the same way for 5, 10, 20, 40, 50, or even 80 years as a “Christian” that you haven't been greatly deceived. It is time for some soul searching. Whom do you fear more, God or man? Would you be willing to change your

life if it was truly God's will or are you content to make excuses and justify the way you have lived and are living before the Creator of Heaven and Earth? Will you continue to rationalize, minimize, and justify your sin? Are you just learning about what the Bible says, or do you consider yourself to be a teacher in the congregation of Messiah? Either way, an honest and serious student and/or teacher of the scriptures will know the definition of sin. This is important because if we are truly trying to serve God...we should out of love and respect for Him make an attempt to avoid sin in our lives. The following passages will clearly pinpoint the definition of sin for us.

Romans 3:20 says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.". Here we see that we do not gain our salvation by keeping the Father's law, but the verse says that we know what sin is by knowing God's law. Romans 7:7 states, "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Let it not be! I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.". And, 1Yochanan (John) 3:4 is a key verse in the Apostolic writings that clearly define sin for us, "Whosoever commits sin transgress also the law (Torah): for sin is the transgression of the law (Torah)". Can it get any clearer than that?

One must keep in mind that when this scripture was given the only Bible or Scriptures the Disciples of Messiah had was the TeNaKh (Torah, Prophets, and Writings). The Apostolic writings were not canonized and ready to read as a unit until about three hundreds years after the death and resurrection of Messiah. Therefore, this verse in 1Yochanan (John) 3:4 can only refer to God's law given at Mount Sinai. God only has one law and one instruction for both the Jew and the Gentile, and another will not be given. We see this taught to us in the next three scripture passages.

"One Torah shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourns among you." - Shemot (Exodus) 12:49

"One ordinance shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourns with you, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as you are, so shall the stranger be before ADONAI. One Torah and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourns with you." - B'midbar (Numbers) 15:15-16

"You shall have one manner of Torah, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am ADONAI your God." - Vayikra (Leviticus) 24:22

One of the common responses I get from those whom reject what I am teaching here is, "But, we are not saved by keeping the Law!". And, of course I always say, "Amein! But, can we move on from there?". Through proper handling and interpretation of the scriptures we can see that sin is breaking God's commandments (His Torah). The Emissary Sha'ul (Paul) makes it clear that just because we don't earn our salvation by keeping the law (Torah) it doesn't mean it is acceptable to break these same commandments. In Romans 6:15 we read, "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid!". And, Sha'ul makes this abundantly clear in Romans 3:31, "Do we then make void The Law (Torah) through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish The Law.".

It is through faith that true obedience is established. And, Biblical obedience is not “legalism” (in the negative sense). Sha’ul (Paul) sums up much of what he is desperately trying to communicate throughout much of his writings in our last passage (Romans 3:31). This is the very message he tries to get across to people in many of his letters. But, until we have done much study and have understood the Hebraic context in which Sha’ul writes, we will misunderstand much of what he writes and even twist it to our own destruction. You may not agree with me, but please hear it from Kefa (Peter), the contemporary of Sha’ul (Paul). 2Kefa (Peter) 3:14-16 states, “Because of this, beloved, looking for these things, be diligent, spotless, and without blemish, to be found in peace by Him. And think of the long-suffering of our Lord as salvation, as also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to him; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them concerning these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the unlearned and unsettled pervert, as also they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. Then beloved, you knowing beforehand, watch lest being led away by the error of the lawless you fall from your own steadfastness.”.

It is through faith and God’s Spirit dwelling through us that true obedience is established. And, a Biblical faith manifests itself in keeping the commandments as found in Torah (God’s Law). Don’t be deceived by someone who preaches that God’s Law is not for you to follow. Messiah himself says such people are least in His Kingdom (Mattityahu/Matthew 5:16-19), and therefore they shouldn’t even be Teachers in the Messianic community. The Good News is simple; repent of your sin, accept the gift of salvation given by Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah through His sacrifice, and then through the power of God’s Spirit live a life of love and obedience to the will of God, which is reflected in His Torah (instruction / Law).

Now that you know the definition of sin...will you continue to be a willing slave to it?

Choose life!

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