



The **CANCER** of **SIN**

Cornerstone Bible Church

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INTRODUCTION: Personal sin is a deadly spiritual cancer which must be eradicated from our lives.

A. TAKING THE DISEASE SERIOUSLY

- **The Disease** (Romans 3:23)
- **The Cost** (Romans 6:23)
- **Word Group:**

Coming short of the mark	Rebelling against God	Lawlessness	Breaking the moral law
Blindness to the truth	Failing to listen to God	To be Defeated or overcome	
Unrighteousness	Falling	Utter corruption, depravity, iniquity	
- **The Seriousness It Deserves** (Matthew 5:29; 18:8)

B. COMING TO GRIPS WITH OUR OWN SIN

“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:5-10)

“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners, of whom I am the foremost.**” - The Apostle Paul (from 1 Timothy 1:15)

“Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: **I am a great sinner** and Christ is a great Savior.” - John Newton (Former slave ship captain, pastor, composer of “Amazing Grace”)

C. MEASURING OUR TRUE CONDITION

- Luke 18:9-14 **Self-Righteous people measure themselves against others.**
- Isaiah 6:1-7 **We must measure yourself against God's holiness.**
- 1 Peter 1:15-16 **God's Command: You also be holy in all your conduct. Be holy as I am holy.**

D. USELESS STRATEGIES

1. DENYING/IGNORING our sin.
2. CASTING BLAME on others for our sin.
3. DEFLECTING SIN away by comparing ourselves to worse sin.

E. PERSONAL HOLINESS AT THE CROSSROADS

- ABUSE Grace: Romans 6:1-2; 7:14ff. **Shall we sin that grace may abound? May it never be!**
- APPRECIATE Grace: Genesis 39:9 **There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?**

TREATMENT PLAN: “DOCTOR, WHAT MUST I DO?!”

1. Confess personal sin to become clean before God.
2. Supplement your spiritual condition with a correct view of God’s grace.
3. Empower your Christian walk through God’s Holy Spirit.
4. Analyze your personal tendencies toward particular sins.
5. Strategize how to avoid putting yourself in tempting situations.
6. Seek counsel and accountability to overcome temptation and sin.

PERSONAL APPLICATION: “SINNER, KNOW THYSELF!”

1. By whom will you measure your personal holiness; the sinful world or our Holy God?
2. What besetting sins block your fellowship with the Lord and divert you from glorifying Him?
3. Under what conditions do you find yourself most yielding to sin? How can you avoid those temptations?
4. To what extent do you abuse or appreciate God’s grace and salvation?
5. Who can assist you with counsel and/or accountability in your pursuit of personal holiness?

RECOMMENDED READING RESOURCES

- **THE DISCIPLINE OF GRACE: God’s Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness** by Dr. Jerry Bridges (NavPress)
- **RESPECTABLE SINS: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate** by Dr. Jerry Bridges (NavPress)

SUMMARY...

Sin is a deadly, spiritual cancer. Jesus regards sin and its consequences very seriously (Matthew 5:29; 18:8). Our culture however, and even our contemporary, Christian community regards it very lightly (Romans 6:1-2). We must measure ourselves against the holiness of God (Isaiah 6:1-7) rather than on others and their greater sin (Luke 18:9-14). We must take personal responsibility to rid ourselves of personal sin in order to live out our calling to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16) and bring Him glory (1 Corinthians 6:20).