

Sin is ...

We sin when we do anything against God's law...

– **1 John 3:4** Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

...and, we also sin when we do NOT doing something that we SHOULD do.

– **James 4:17** To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Sin is a choice we make.

– **Genesis 4:6-7** The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

Sin comes from our own desires.

– **James 1:12-15** Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Sin separates us from God.

– **Isaiah 59:1-2** Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

In other words, sin brings spiritual death.

– **Ezekiel 18:4** “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

– **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

By living sinlessly, Jesus conquered sin.

– **1 Peter 2:21-24** To this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

By dying on the cross, He paid the penalty of sin that we deserve – death.

– **Romans 5:6-10** For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for

the ungodly.⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁸ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.⁹ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.¹⁰

– **Hebrews 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Jesus paid the price for sin.

When Jesus died, He satisfied God's justice. At the same time, He makes us right in God's sight ("justifies" us) when we trust and obey Him.

– **Romans 3:21-26** Now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

You can let His blood wash away your sins.

(Obviously, this happens in a figurative way – we do not physically touch His blood.)

In the Bible, animal sacrifices were used to pay for sin. They showed how ugly and serious sin was – Sin caused many bloody deaths. (If you find that distasteful, just realize that several cultures have used *human* sacrifice!) The blood was sometimes sprinkled on items that were to be ritually cleansed. In a similar way, Jesus' blood "washes away our sins." (**Hebrews 9: 11-29**) Jesus is He who "loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood." (**Revelation 1:5**)

– **Romans 6:3-4** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

– **Acts 22:16** 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'