

## Broken World

Romans 3:20-23

March 26, 2023

**Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—**

When you say, the world is broken because of sin.. What do you mean by that?

What is sin? NEW CITY CATECHISM:

**FULL VERSION: *Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.***

Sin by biblical definition is not simply wronging another person. It is first and foremost wronging God. Sin, by definition, is a vertical problem. But this makes sense.

What is the greatest commandment? Love the Lord your God. and the second? Love your neighbor.

The same can be said of sin. The core of sin a violation against God.

What makes sin sin, is that it is against God Himself.

We sin, first and foremost against God. Even though we may wrong another person in our rebellion against God, our higher problem is that our sin is against God Himself.

Joseph, when tempted by Potiphar's wife:

No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and **sin against God?**" - Joseph Genesis 39:9

David when he murdered Uriah, and raped Bathsheba:

2 Samuel 12:13

Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

David in the Psalms - Psalm 51: **For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.**

"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;"

From John Piper's article entitled "How could David say to God-Against you and You only have I sinned":

Sin is a vertical phenomenon.

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And we can't blame sin itself for our wrongs. It isn't that sin **MAKES** you do these rebellious works against God. We bring forth sin from within our own hearts.

SINFUL DESIRES:

**James 1:**

**13** When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14** but **each person is tempted** when they are dragged away by **their own evil desire** and enticed. **15** Then, after **desire has conceived**, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Mark 7:20-23

Jesus said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person"

What is our problem? We are! It is our own evil desires. It is us! We are evil!

And I know what you're thinking right now: Pastor, that is a strong thing to say. I might not be perfect, but I'm not evil. May I ask you a question? By what standard do you decide what is evil? By what standard are you coming to the conclusion that you are not evil? Who defines what is evil?!

**It is God who defines what is right and wrong. It is God who defines what is good and what is evil. It is God who defines what is sin.**

"Good teacher... Luke 18:18 "Then a certain ruler asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. NO ONE IS GOOD - except God alone.

### **ROMANS 3:10 Psalm 15, and Psalm 53**

As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

You are not a good person, I am not a good person. No one here is good.

#### **IMAGE OF APPLE DRAWING**

You might think you are good. But you are not. So here is our great dilemma: God is good, and we are not. We do not do good. That means we are evil.

What does a good God do with evil people?

### **Seriousness of sin**

The slaughter of an animal doesn't even come close to matching the impact of our sin. Adam and Eve's ONE SIN broke ALL of Creation. The seriousness of sin we cannot miss here because if we miss the disgustingness of our sin, the wickedness of our own hearts, we will never grasp the unspeakable beauty and grace that Jesus showed us at Easter. So we have a Good God, who must punish evil. And we know the seriousness of our sins deserves death and even more, the wrath of Almighty God. Where do we go?

I know. We simply plead for mercy from the judge. A good judge upholds justice.

Deep down, we know that it is true. God is a fair and just judge. And yet, when we imagine ourselves standing before the judge, we wish that He would be someone else because we know what it means if He is a fair judge. You and I don't want to get what we really deserve.

So how can a judge be just, and yet show mercy? Is there anything that could change our situation so that we could not receive our just punishment, and yet God could remain just? Is there ANY way to make us right, in right standing, before the judge?

Someone would have to pay our debt. Because we cannot. The penalty is death. Someone would have to face the wrath of God for us in our place. Someone would have to take our place. And not just anyone, but someone who hadn't committed those same crimes. I can't stand in your place, and you can't stand in for mine. None of us can help anyone else. We're all guilty. We're all standing before the judge. We're all broken.

But God so loved the world, that he gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

How can we be made righteous, or right with God? And how can God maintain being right, and fair and just (the righteousness of God)?

Romans 3.

**21** But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

God gave the law so that we could see our unrighteousness. So that we could see a need for a Savior. Because the only way to be right with God was to be perfect by the law.

**ROMANS 7:7-8**

**What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."**

You don't know how impatient you are, until you're forced to wait.  
You don't know wicked your heart really is, until you're told you can't do something.

That was the purpose of the law, that the righteousness, perfection, holiness of God would be seen and that our unrighteousness would be seen and we would see our **BROKEN** state.  
But now, something has come that has allowed us to be right with God that no longer depends on the law. It no longer depends on what we can do. It depends on **FAITH** in the one that **DID** the impossible for you.

**22** This righteousness is given **through faith** in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

All are justified - declared not guilty. Freely - you can't pay it By his grace - it is a gift  
Through the redemption - the purchasing, the paying of a debt. That came by Jesus Christ - He's the answer.

**25** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—**to be received by faith**.

Some translations - propitiation. = averting the wrath of God by the offering of a gift. A sacrifice that took **OUR** place.

He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

God, in his forbearance, his patience, left all the sins before this moment, unpunished. What amazing patience our God has! God will judge in His time.

**26** he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

He would be just - God is perfectly just. That every sin would be punished to the fullest extent. It was poured out fully on Jesus. God remained just.

God would be the justifier - God would be the one who made it right himself. He would be the Hero. He would be the one who pays our debt.

THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS.

CLOSING:

We need to bring God back into our response when confronted with our sin. Because sin is first and foremost against God Himself.

For the truly repentant sinner that comes in full open confession before God and admits their sin and asks for mercy, you can receive that mercy, but only because your debt was paid on the cross.

Third, For those of us that say "I am saved." My question to you is:

What are you saved from? Answer: We have been saved from the wrath of God.

John 3:36 says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on Him."

For those who **do not** receive Jesus' sacrifice and payment through faith in Him:  
Romans 2:5-6 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for **yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.**  
6 He will render to each one according to his works:

**In summary, we should walk away today knowing about sin and salvation:**

We are broken. We are not good. We are evil and we will stand before a good judge. But the world has hope.

You have been saved from God, by God, for God.

Saved from the wrath of God, saved BY the atoning sacrifice of Jesus (God), for the glory of God.

Romans 5:8-9

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved **by him from the wrath of God.**

**1 Peter 2:24** "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and **live for righteousness**; "by his wounds you have been healed."

We have been saved from God, by God, for God.

**Praise God for his righteousness. He was fair in all his judgments and yet saved me, the sinner that I am.**

**Romans 7:24** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

*Guilty, vile, and helpless, we, Spotless Lamb of God was He; Full redemption—can it be? Hallelujah! what a Savior!*