



TWISTED PEOPLE

Study 10 Sin

Man is made in the image of God. We are designed to think, and act, and be, the way God is. The things which make God "tick" (his moral attributes) are supposed to motivate us too. After all, we are his offspring; so being like God ought to come naturally. What is so strange however, and so sad, is that people do not act like their creator at all. Write Deuteronomy 32: 5.

It simply isn't normal! Look at Ecclesiastes 9: 3. God says "madness" is in our hearts because, acting differently to the way he made us is abnormal moral behaviour. God calls it **SIN**. However everyone behaves like this! The abnormal seems natural, and what is right seems impossible to do. (See Romans 7: 15-20)

WHY DOES GOD'S CREATION SIN?

It is because all people have been twisted deep within. The 'heart' (the inner man including soul and spirit) is incurably warped, which causes us to act all crazy - the opposite to the way we've been designed to do. Write down Jeremiah 17: 9.

Someone once said, "*the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart,*" and that is very true. Jesus said in Mark 7: 14-23 that from the 'heart' is where all evil comes; it is why God's creation sins.

WHAT IS THE WARP THAT TWISTS THE HEART?

The warp is a '**self principle**' which the Bible calls the 'old self,' or 'iniquity.' It corrupts our mind to think opposite to God. It twists the heart to operate from a point of view of, "what's in it for me"? "I want it my way"! etc. It can even make us do good deeds with the false motive of making our 'selves' feel good. The 'self principle' is not the actual **act** of wrongdoing. It is the warp which **causes** it. There is a difference. We sin when we act differently to the way God meant us to. The Amplified version of the Bible defines sin clearly and simply. It is, "*the breaking, violating, of God's law by transgression or neglect.*" (1 John 3: 4 Amp.)

However 'self' is the underlying way of thinking which makes us act the way we do before we've even done it. So 'self' is the **cause**, and sin is the **result**. Notice the order as you fill in the words from James 1: 14-15.

"Each each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, _____
_____, and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death."

Study James 4: 1-3.

What causes all the evils mentioned in these verses? _____

Isaiah puts his finger on the problem of the "old self" in Isaiah 53:6. Finish this famous scripture below and learn it off by heart.

"*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, _____
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*" (Isaiah 53: 6)

WHO BENT THE TWISTED SELF?

Satan did! He introduced 'self' and sin before the human race began. Think as you read about it in Isaiah 14: 12-19 (KJV) His sin was pride. That's obvious. However the motivation behind it was 'self.'

Put a circle around the middle letters of these two words:

P R I D E S I N

Count the times in the above scripture that Satan said "I" in his heart.

_____ times

When God created man, Satan introduced his crooked nature to them. This is recorded in Genesis chapter three. Notice in verses 5 and 6 how Satan's strategy was to try to twist them into seeing things from the viewpoint of 'self.' See how attractive his thinking appeared to be ... and it worked! Adam and Eve swallowed Satan's lie, and people's hearts have been twisted ever since. Study Psalm 51:5, Psalm 58:3, Ephesians 2:3. Write out Romans 5:12.

WHERE DOES SIN AND SELF FINALLY END?

Sin is deadly to our system. Therefore the practice of sin, and the distortion of 'self' results in destruction. Complete the first part of Galatians 6: 8.

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. _____"

It cannot be overemphasised how dreadful this destruction is. It means death to be sure, but it means much more than physical death. Man is a spiritual being, and spirit cannot die, at least not in the sense of just "ceasing to exist." Spiritual death is to be **permanently separated** (cut off/ lost/ shut out) from God, and nothing can reverse it. Remember we were created to be "one" with God. Therefore eternal separation is the worst thing that could possibly happen to anyone.

This is where it all finally ends: (Link each statement to the correct verse.)

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|-------------|----------------------|
| Death | 1 Corinth. 3: 16-17 |
| Destruction | Romans 6: 23 |
| Separation | Matthew 13: 41-42 |
| Hell | 2 Thessalonians 1: 9 |

CAN WE EVER BE SET FREE FROM THE POWER OF SIN?

Yes we can! Jesus said,

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8: 32)

In the next two studies you will see just how much Jesus Christ sets us free from Satan, and from sin, and from the power of the twisted 'self.'

More studies (and answers) here:
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