

## **Learning to Love God By Understanding What Sin Is**

**I.** In Mark 12:30 we read, **AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'**

1. I believe that each of us here would say Amen to that.
2. But what if I were to ask you, Why is it that you love God?
3. What is the reason for you loving God with all your,  
**Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength**
4. Literally loving God with your **ALL!!**

**II.** Honestly many people do not love God in the manner described in Mark 12:30. It's not that they don't love God but rather their love is not as it should be.

**III.** This can be seen in the lives of those who claim to love God, John 14:15

**IV.** The more we love God the less likely we are to disobey Him by not keeping His commandments. The depth of our love will be seen in different areas.

language, recreational habits, attendance, evangelism, giving, prayer, study service, manner of dress, the company they keep, the jobs they have, etc...

**V.** In hopes of helping us to love God as He desires, I am going to spend the next few weeks going over those things which I believe will help us to achieve this goal.

**C.I. If we have a complete understanding of what sin is, then we will love God as we should.**

Once we understand what sin is and what it does our love for God will grow realizing what He did for us in sending His Son.

**Trans:** To start we must go back to the creation of man.

### **I. In The Beginning**

1. We must go back to the beginning and try to understand some things about God, before we can understand sin.

A. God is eternal, He is the only one who has always been.

**Deut. 33:27**

B. This eternal God created man in His image, **Genesis 1:26**

2. It is this image that we must understand.

A. God's image is one of light, all that is good, **1John 1:5**

B. God's image is one of purity, **1John 3:3**

C. God's image is one of Holiness, **Isa. 6:3**

D. God's image is one of righteousness, **Psalm 11:7**

**Appl:** As we see God is all good, holy, pure and right. This is the image that man was created in. Man being created in this image was also good, holy, pure and right, without sin. This was our original state "In the beginning," as is God's state always.

**Trans:** Having a better understanding of the image of God and the image of man in the beginning, we can now answer our question.

## **II. What is Sin?**

A. In the original Greek language the word sin (*harmartia*) means,

1. To miss the mark

2. Every departure from the way of righteousness.

3. Sin is a departure from the divine nature of God which takes place when we go contrary to His divine laws.

1 John 5:17

1 John 3:4

4. This is exactly what man did.

Gen. 3:6,7

Romans 5:12

5. When man broke God's law he sinned and departed from his original created state or image. He missed the mark of being what God created him to be.

B. What we see then is sin being a departure from the divine nature of God. That which is contrary to God's image.

1. God's image is one of light, Sin is darkness  
Prov. 2:11-15  
Rom. 13:12-15
2. God's image is one of purity, Sin is impure  
Eph. 5:3-5
3. God's image is one of Holiness, Sin in unholy  
1Tim. 1:8-10
4. God's image is one of righteousness, Sin is unrighteousness  
1Cor. 6:9,10

**Appl:** In the beginning man possessed the holy, righteous, pure and good image of God. Man was at peace with God possessing these qualities of God.

As long as man followed God's divine laws he would continue to possess his original image.

But man chose otherwise and broke God's law. In this He sinned. He went contrary to the image of His creator. He departed from righteousness and missed the mark of being what God created him to be.

So the question, What is sin?, is answered in this,

**Sin is a departure from the divine nature of God and is that which is contrary to the image of God.**

My Friends you and I need to understand this.

Why? If we have a complete understanding of what sin is, then we will love God as we should.

**Con:** At the beginning of this lesson I stated,

Ultimately, when we learn what sin is we come to understand the consequence that come with it. We learn how it effects our relationship with God. Once we understand this our love for Him will grow realizing what He did for us in sending Jesus to die for those sins.

Let me illustrate this by turning to the bible, in 2Cor. 6:14 Paul writes, “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?”