

Harmartiology

Port Orange Christian Church
Wed. Night Adult Bible Study
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2 Basic Questions

- What do we as Christians need to know?
- What does our neighbor need to know to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ?

Definitions

- Sin is defined as a transgression of theological principles, a shameful offense, or estrangement from God.
- Sin is to knowingly do wrong, like a person committing a crime.

Definitions

- Hebrew (hata)/Greek (hamartanien): To miss the mark.
- Greek verb (parabasis): Overstepping the boundaries, a person going too far.
- Rebellion against God.

(Garrett, 456)

What is Sin?

- Hostility towards God:
- Romans 8:6-8:
 - *“The mind of the sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”*
- If we harbor sin in our lives, we become enemies of God!

Tough Questions

- How can a good and perfect God create sin?
 - He never “created” sin, He gave us free will.
 - God’s holiness makes it impossible for Him to “create” sin (Cottrell, 164).
 - Habakkuk 1:13a:
 - *“Your eyes are too pure to look on evil...”*

Tough Questions

- If God did not create sin, how did it enter the world?
 - Jesus testified that Satan fell from heaven (Luke 10:18)
 - Jesus said that Satan was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44)
 - Greek word for beginning is also used in 1 John 3:8, and it means “since the creation of humankind” (Berkof, 221).

Tough Questions

- If God hates sin, why doesn't He destroy it?
 - God will destroy sin! (Revelation 21:1-5)
 - Revelation 21:8 (Lake of Fire)
 - *“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”*

History of Sin

- Man was created pure
 - Man “felt no shame” (Genesis 2:25)
 - Man is being “renewed” (Colossians 3:10)
 - Man was in constant communion with God, and to have communion with God means that man had to possess holiness and righteousness (Hodge, 101).

History of Sin

- The concept of sin was introduced by Satan as he controlled the serpent.
- Genesis 3:1a
 - *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made...”*
- After sin was introduced, Adam and Eve felt guilt for the first time (Genesis 3:7)

History of Sin

- After Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, sin had increased in intensity with the next generation:
 - Cain and Abel
 - By the time of Noah's existence, sin ruled the earth so God decided to wipe out the human race and start over with Noah and his family (Genesis 6:5-8).

History of Sin

- After the flood, sin began to grow again so God established His covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17:1&2)
- Sin continued to grow as a result of Satan's reign on the earth so God's people have always struggled with following God.
- Jesus came to reconcile man to God, and now sin has been defeated (1 Cor. 15:56).

The Results of Sin

- The Serpent (Genesis 3:14):
 - Cursed above all livestock
 - Crawling on the belly (Disgrace)
- Satan (Genesis 3:15):
 - Total destruction

The Results of Sin

- The earth has been cursed (Genesis 3:17)
- Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:16-24):
 - Increased pains during childbirth
 - Slave to the earth for survival
 - Physical death
 - Separation from God

The Results of Sin

- Cain and Abel (Genesis 4):
 - Although separated from God, God kept communion through sacrificial system
 - Each son was held accountable
 - God warned Cain about sin
 - Cain gave in, and suffered a more intense separation from God

Reconciliation

- Our death sentence has been served.
 - We are still guilty of sin
 - Jesus took the penalty for us
- Jesus had to be without sin
 - A guilty man must be punished
 - If Jesus had guilt, He would die for Himself
 - Only an innocent man can take our place.

What about Original Sin?

- Man is still favored by God
 - God loves man (John 3:16)
 - Man cannot be inherently evil
- Accountability requires understanding
 - Sin is the result of temptation (James 1:13-18)
 - In order to be tempted to do wrong, man has to understand what is right.

What does my neighbor, who is lost, need to know?

- Man is naturally good, but capable of sin
 - Man has an inward desire to do right
 - Sin can corrupt this desire, and cause pain
- God loves man
 - He wants to save us from sin (Romans 6:23).
 - He wants to help us live (Matt. 6:25-34)
 - He wants to forgive our mistakes (Acts 2:38)

What does my neighbor, who is lost, need to know?

- By joining up with God, we get a new life:
 - Sin no longer controls us (Romans 6:1-14).
 - We have the power to say “no” to sin
 - We have life through Christ
 - We have a responsibility to stay away from sin
 - We have a purpose and a calling:
 - The Great Commission
 - Gifts and abilities (Ephesians 4:11-16)

What does my neighbor, who is lost, need to know?

- Tips for effective evangelism:
 - Remember who the judge is!
 - Be motivated by love
 - Don't assume they know anything
 - Don't assume they know nothing
 - Build relationships, not recruits
 - Enjoy witnessing!

Works Cited

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