

Biblical Foundations for Ministry

The Nature of Sin

1. Nature of sin

- a. Disobedience
 - 1) To act contrary to God's moral standard
 - a) Hebrew word: missing the mark (Judges 20:16)
 - b) "Falling short" (Rom. 3:23)
 - c) Disobeying a rule you could have (and should have) obeyed
 - 2) Lawlessness (1 John 3:4)
 - a) A defiant spirit that needs to be challenged
 - b) The responsibility of parents, teachers, leaders
- b. Pride
 - 1) The motive behind acts of sin
 - 2) To do what we want (regardless of what God wants)
 - a) No regard for God at that moment (Psalm 10:4)
 - b) A spirit of presumption (Psalm 36:1-3)
 - c) A selfish ambition that disobeys the truth (Rom. 2:8)

2. Consequences of sin

- a. Guilt
 - 1) Deserving of penalty for wrongdoing
 - a) Every act of sin makes a sinner guilty (Rom. 2:2; Heb. 2:2; James 2:10)
 - b) Even if you don't feel guilty (conscience)
 - 2) Personal accountability
 - a) Temporal penalties can impact innocent people
 - b) Eternal judgment is focused upon the sinner
 - 1- Each person's wrong deeds (Exod. 32:31-34; Jer. 17:10)
 - 2- No inherited guilt (Ezek. 18:1-4, 20, 25, 30)
- b. Sinfulness
 - 1) A weakening of our spirit
 - 2) A desire to do more sinful things
 - a) A lust for more (Eph. 2:1-3; 4:22)
 - b) A "bent to sinning" (Love Divine)
 - 3) A lowering our moral inhibitions
 - a) Making us prey to temptation (James 1:14-15)
 - b) And vulnerable for other kinds of sin (Mark 7:20-23; Rom. 7:8)
 - 4) A weakening of moral willpower
 - a) Harder to resist temptation, harder to break bad habits
 - b) Setting up an internal conflict (Rom. 7:14-24)

