

4C MORE ON SIN

WHAT IS SIN?

Literally in the Greek HARMATIA translated as “sin” means “to miss the mark,” as in archery or target practice.

Biblically sin is -

- The transgression of the law (1 John 3:4)
- Deliberate disobedience (Ps. 78:10)
- Not doing what we know we should do (James 4:17)
- Not acting consistently with faith (going against our conscience) (Rom. 14:23, 1 John 3:21)

In his book *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be* Cornelius Plantinga explores the spectrum of sin. [1]

Sin is opposition to every good thing God makes.

Sin is-

- The vandalism of shalom (God's peace and blessing) (p.7)
- Corruption (sin distorts and corrupts our character, our convictions, and all of human excellence)(p.28)
- A parasite (a cancer that kills; pride and self-absorption, against God and righteousness) (p.78)
- A masquerade (deceiving and being deceived) (p.96)
- Folly (foolish, destructive and futile) (p.113)
- An attack (envy, hatred, lying about others, inflicting injury) (p.150)
- A flight from reality (evading responsibility, shutting eyes to injustice, self-protection) (p.173)

SIN AND THE LAW

(By Bill)

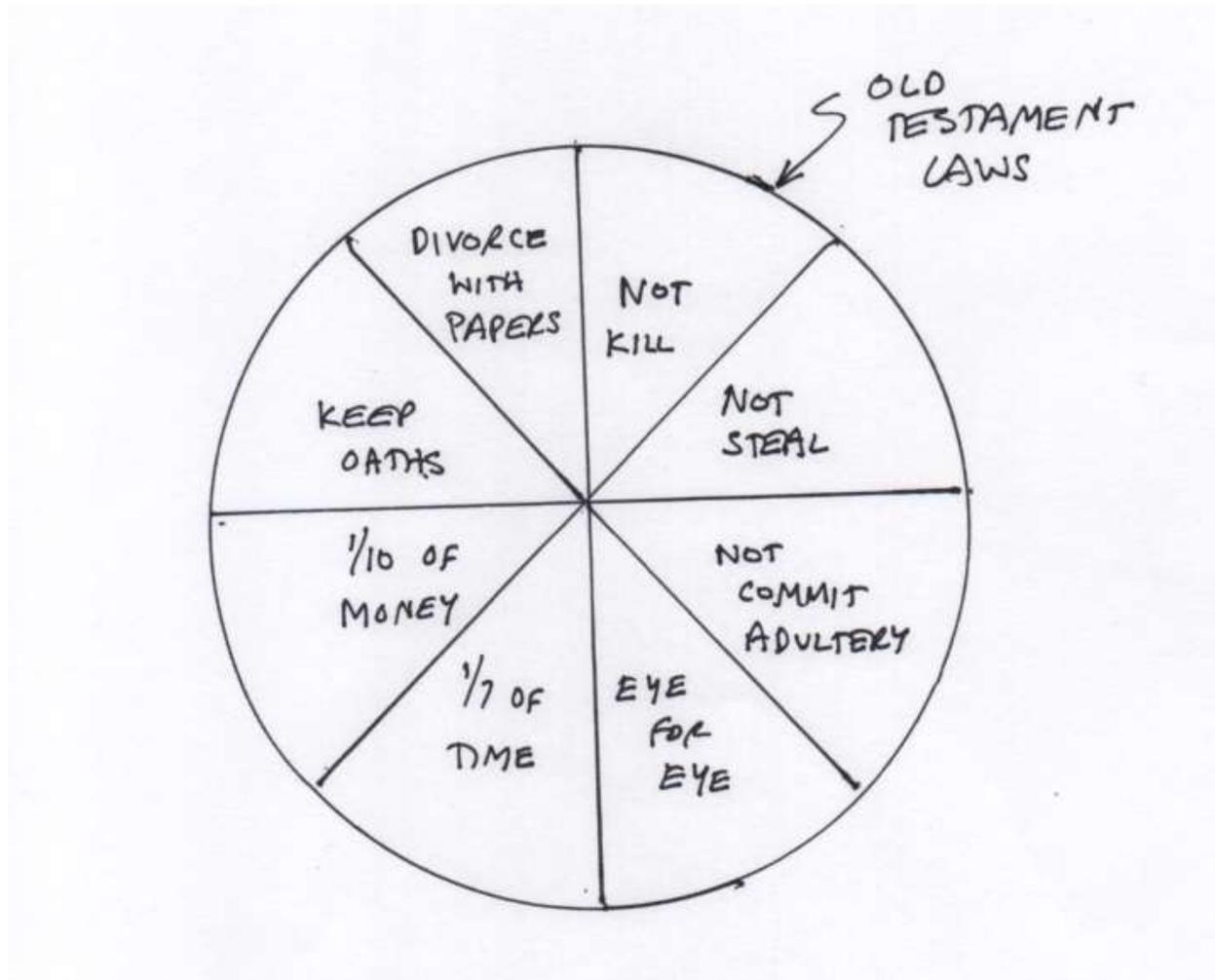
The Pharisees thought they would bring about righteousness by adding additional restrictions to God's Law, but Jesus pointed out their error and hypocrisy. According to Jesus, we need to be more righteous than the Pharisees.

The Old Testament gave us several commands:

1. We must not commit adultery.
2. Divorce must be handled with a “writ of divorcement.”

3. We must keep our oaths.
4. We must revenge no more than “an eye for an eye.”
5. We must not kill.
6. We must give a tenth (tithe) of our money.
7. We must give one day (1/7 of our week).

We could show it like this..

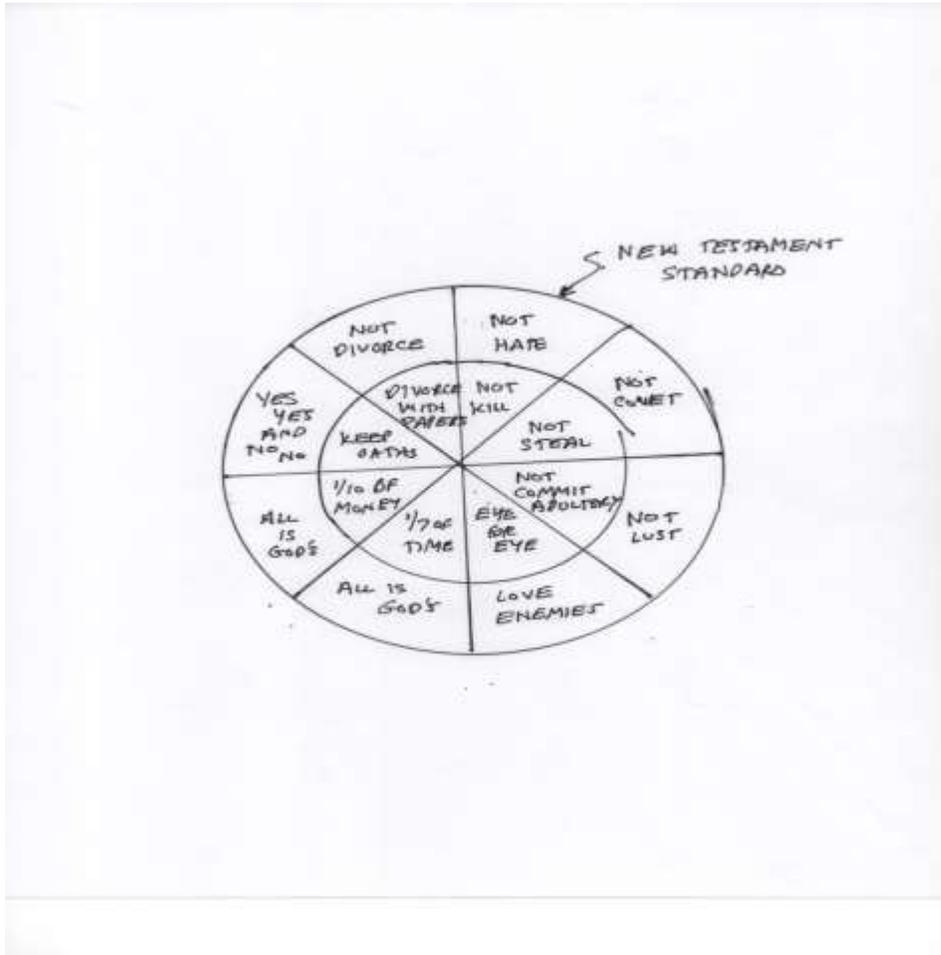


Many think, “I must be pretty good. I’ve never killed anybody or cheated on my wife.”

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus expanded on several of these commandments, making them a matter of the heart, telling His audience, “You’ve heard it said....but I say into you..”

1. Don’t even lust. (Mt. 5:27-28)
2. Don’t divorce at all. (Mt. 5:31-32)
3. Don’t make oaths –Let your yes be yes. (Mt. 5:33-37)

4. Love your enemies. (Mt. 5:38-48)
5. Don't even hate. (Mt. 5:21-22)
6. Give all your money. (1 Cor. 10:31, Col. 3:23)
7. Give all your time. (Heb. 3:15 ff., Rom. 14:6-8)



Suddenly we're not so righteous. The standard in Christ's system is perfection (Mt. 5:48). Anything less is sin.

THE SIN-NOT SIN CHART

(By Bill)

Some things are clearly sin according to Scripture. There are some things I may be unaware or unsure of. However, if God says it's sin, it's sin.

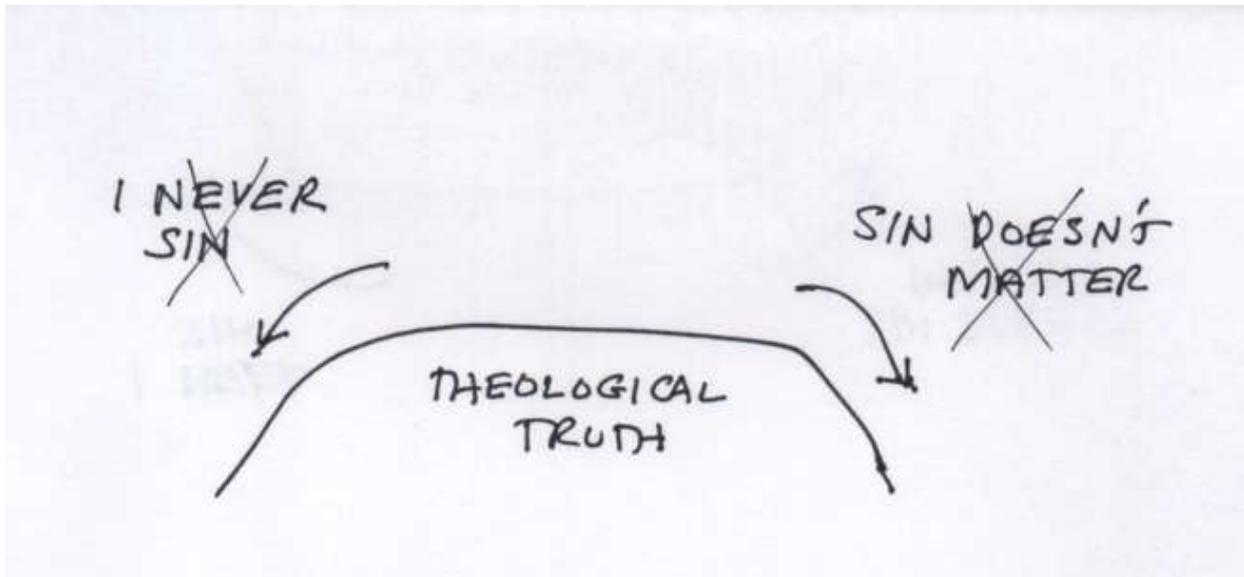
If God says something is sin and I agree that it's sin but then do it, it's sin. If I think it's not sin and I do it, it's sin.

Lev. 5:17 says ignorance is no excuse for sin.

God says an action is	SIN	SIN	NOT SIN	NOT SIN
I think it's	SIN	NOT SIN	SIN	NOT SIN
If I do it, it counts as	SIN	SIN	SIN *	NOT SIN

(*Violating our conscience, acting in disobedience and disbelief...is sin.)

Be careful not to fall off the cliff on either side-



AVOIDING SIN

(By Paul)

Can we ever keep from sin 100% of the time? No one does, but keeping from sin should be our goal. (I John 1). What actions can we take to keep from sin? We need both to recognize our position in Christ and to take reasonable and Biblical steps.

- Identification with the cross of Christ-seeing ourselves as dead to our former manner of life (Gal.2:20).
- Identification of ourselves as sons and daughters of the Lord, raised to new life (vss).
- Filling our minds with scripture (Ps. 119).
- Knowing what the scripture says about certain sins.
- Consciously surrendering our lives to God.
- Growing in love for God and for His ways.
- Asking for God's Spirit to direct us; walking in the Spirit (ref).
- Praying for wisdom and the ability to please God.
- Recognizing recurring temptations; having a plan beforehand.
- Responding to the Spirit's prompting.
- Avoiding certain places and activities.
- Being involved in serving and loving activities.
- Thinking on things that are pure, good, lovely,...(Phil. 4:8).
- Being in fellowship with others, especially strong believers who would hold us accountable.
- Confessing our sins and failures.
- Replacing sinful habits with righteous habits.

References

1. Plantinga, C., *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be*, Eerdmans, 2010.