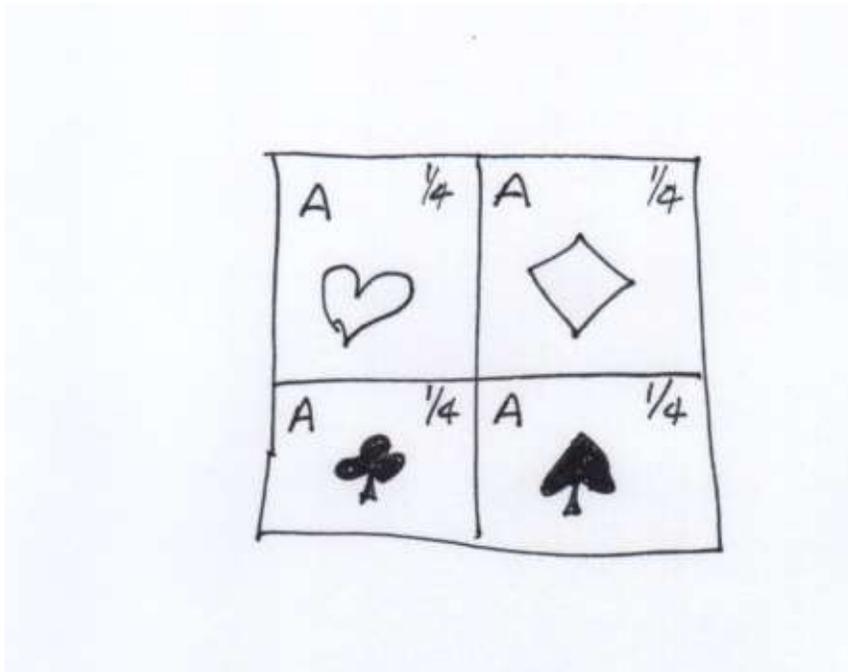


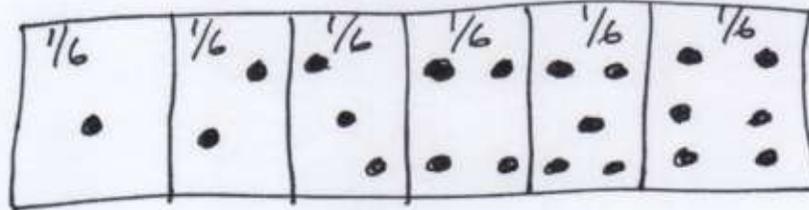
13 C PROBABILITY AND SIN

(by Bill)

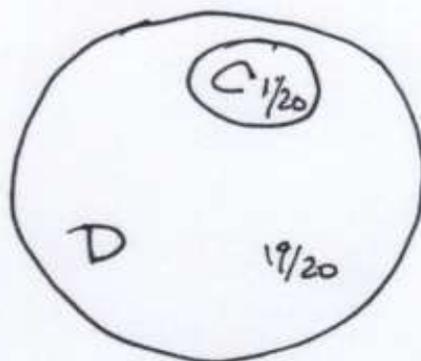
Suppose that you have four cards, face down, and all are known to be Aces. If you want to turn over the Ace of Spades you have one chance in four of turning it. You could possibly turn it over on the first try, or it could take four tries. The probability is $\frac{1}{4}$ or 0.25.



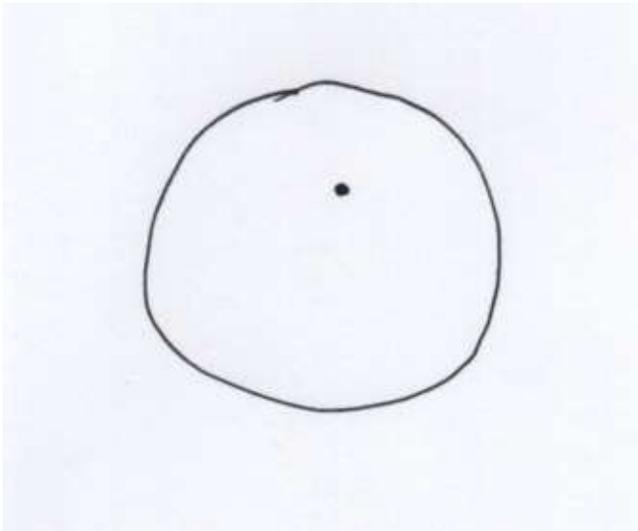
If you're rolling dice, well, just roll one die. You could roll 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6. The probability of rolling a 1 is $\frac{1}{6}$. The probability of rolling a 5 is $\frac{1}{6}$, and so on, because it's $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total area.



Consider a dart board where you throw darts at the circle, and the probability of your dart hitting region C is $1/20$. If you just had a big long metal cone and you were throwing them randomly, about $1/20$ of the time you would hit C and $19/20$ of the time you would hit D. You don't count not hitting the board at all.



Now, what's the probability of hitting a single point? That's a mathematical point. The probability is zero. Is it impossible? Is it impossible to hit that point? No, it's not impossible. We can prove that by throwing the dart first and then defining the point, but just because the probability is zero doesn't mean it's impossible. It just means the probability is zero.



We have some scripture which tells us something about this. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you will be able to endure it."

You can concentrate on that verse and conclude, "There's no excuse for sin." That's basically what it says. It's possible to not sin. The probability of getting through life without sinning is zero, but that doesn't mean it's impossible. It is possible, and the proof is that somebody did it. Maybe more than that did it, but I know for sure that one Person did it. He never sinned.

The hallmark of our society today is, "it's not my fault." That's everybody's mindset for the most part. We're always finding reasons to blame everything or everyone else for whatever we do, but God doesn't let us do that. God holds all of us accountable for what we do. There is no lying to God, there is no convincing God that it was someone else's sin, and there is no appeals court to aid us in shifting blame to someone else. The only avenue for forgiveness and redemption is Christ Jesus.

So, you have this situation: a guy dies and goes to stand before God. God says, "Look, I have this whole list of things that you did. You did all these sins." The guy retorts and says, "Well, your law is too hard. Nobody's ever kept it." Now if he replies like that, God can reply and say, "Look at my Son. He kept the whole law." The natural reply is, "Well, He had a head start". The answer is, "No, he didn't have a head start. He had no head start. Jesus did not have a head start." That's part of the heresy that says Jesus is God but not man, to say that he had a head start. He's every bit man and He's every bit God. He's both. He's not partly one and partly the other. He's every bit man, and he's every bit God. That's important. A lot of people have the idea of Jesus lying in the manger with a little halo hanging over his head and his head full of differential equations. That's not it. When the second Person in the Trinity came down into a body, He put aside His omnipresence-He was only in one place, He put aside His omniscience-He didn't know everything, and He put aside his omnipotence-He wasn't all powerful when He was on earth. So, God, that Person of God, put off his power and came into a body. He was no longer everywhere, and he was no longer all powerful. He could be killed, and He was. He did all His miracles by the same power that we have access to, which is intimidating, but it's true.

He was also tempted in all points just like we are, and yet He never sinned. He proved that it's possible to get through life without sinning without a head start, but he depended totally

on his Father. He illustrated the way we can get through life. He answered the Pharisees with this when He said in John 15:22, "If I had not come and spoken unto them they would not have sin, but now they have no cloak for their sin." They have no excuse for their sin. If Jesus had not come and kept the whole law, then we could say, "Ha! God. Your Law is too much. Nobody can keep it. Nobody's ever kept it." He'd hang his head and say, "Oh dear, that's sad." But we can't do that to God.

Jesus is the illustration that it's possible to keep the whole Law without a head start. So we have no excuse. In fact, He repeated it and said, "If I had not done among them the works which no other man did, they would not have sin, but now they have both seen and hated both Me and the Father." The fact that He came and did all the things that God said He was supposed to do proves that it can be done without a head start. It's possible to keep from sin for a whole microsecond. If that's true, it must be possible to keep from sin for a second. If that's possible, it's possible to keep from sin for a whole minute, or an hour, or a day, or a year, or a lifetime. It's possible. The probability is small, but it's not impossible. We have no excuse. Thankfully, we have a Savior.