



Where Does Sin Come From?

Ephesians 1:7: (NASB) *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.*



So much of the philosophy of our society today is built around the idea that "I am the center of my universe; therefore what I want, I truly must have," that the whole concept of sin becomes very subjective and often not even really relevant in people's lives. So, is sin as relevant today as it was in the past, or have we outgrown the concept of sin in favor of a much more fluid and progressive understanding of right and wrong?

Okay, so how do we define sin?

First, the **Old Testament:** the two words most often translated sin:

Sin: Strongs #2403 chatta'ah (khat-taw-aw'); or chatta'th (khat-tawth'); an offence (sometimes habitual sinfulness), and its penalty, occasion, sacrifice, or expiation; also (concretely) an offender

Sin: Strongs #2398 chata' (khaw-taw'); a primitive root; properly, to miss; hence (figuratively and generally) to sin; by inference, to forfeit, lack, expiate, repent, (causatively) lead astray, condemn

No mystery so far!

Now, the **New Testament:**

Sin: Strongs #264; to miss the mark



Matthew 18:21: (KJV) *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother **sin <264>** (miss the mark) against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?*

The point of Jesus' answer is why are you counting? We are all in the same sinful boat.



Sins: Strongs #265; sin, evil deed

Romans 3:25: (KJV) *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of **sins <265>** that are past, through the forbearance of God.*

Sin: Strongs #266; to sin, equivalent to #264

Matthew 26:28: (KJV) *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of **sins <266>**.*

According to Scripture, therefore, sin is anything less than perfection. Jesus showed us what that pattern looks like. How do we make sin as small an influence in our lives as possible so we can live as righteously as possible? What a massive challenge!

 **Greed and envy, (introduction) thescienceofsin.com**

- *(Multiple speakers) In a world increasingly ruled by material possessions, the ancient sins of greed and envy seem to be thriving more than ever.*
- *Greed is saying I need more to be a full person.*
- *I don't feel bad at all when someone calls me greedy. They can call me greedy or selfish or bossy.*
- *When envy gets out of control you lose yourself. Somebody says, "Rabbi, I sometimes look at somebody else and I feel a twinge of envy." I would say, "Welcome to the human race."*

Let's look at the context of the first human sin:

Genesis 2:16-17: (KJV) *¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Here we have specific *conditions*, a specific *command* and a specific *consequence* surrounding original sin. Sin was defined by action - do not eat of the tree or there will be consequences.

How does sin enter into our lives? Are there specific doorways sin uses to enter the mind and heart of humankind?

1 John 2:15-17: (KJV) *¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.*

Like any enemy, if we can understand the strategy of sin, we can be better prepared.

Love not the world: In its present sinful state, we do not love the way it is run, its priorities and so forth. Satan is the 'prince of this world,' according to Scripture.

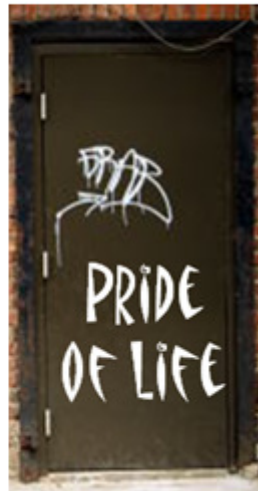


What is the difference between the original sin of Adam and the sins we commit daily?

So, what really happened in the Garden of Eden?

Genesis 3:4-7: (NASB) ⁴The serpent said to the woman, you surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. ⁶When the woman **saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise**, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.





This is taking credit for what belongs to God.

These were the same three doorways in which sin entered into the Garden. In these three actions all sin is conceived, developed and committed...but all sin does not need to have all three. For example, just the "lust of the eyes" is enough to wreak havoc in your life.

The penalty for sin was death. Implementing this kind of penalty under such perfect and life-perpetuating conditions as existed in the Garden would require radical action, as death is a radical consequence!



The protections of perfection would be removed:

The dying process would now begin.

Genesis 2:17: (ESV) *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day** that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

In the day: But Adam and Eve did not die that same day; in fact, Adam lived for 930 years! But in both the Old and New Testaments, the formula is given



that *a day with the Lord is as a thousand years*. In that sense, Adam did actually *die in that day*. The phrase *in the day* is also used to convey a period of time, for example, "The kings have had their day."

Genesis 3:16-19: (NASB) ¹⁶*To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children;*



The equality of perfection would be skewed:

Yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.



The earth itself would now be a part of the suffering of death, just as it had been a part of the perpetuation and blessing of life:

¹⁷*Then to Adam He said, because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, you shall not eat from it; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.*

Not only would humans now die, but the whole process of God's creation would be affected. Sin's consequences reach far, deep and over long periods of time.



Effort would now become toil as the cursed earth would no longer produce to its formerly blessed capacity:

¹⁸*Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

There was work involved to tend and cultivate the Garden - plump grapes didn't just fall into Adam's mouth! But it was pleasant and rewarding work, and the ground produced in a blessed, bountiful way.

This original sin is the context of the sins of our lives. This is all that we inherit from the *dying thou shalt die* consequence. Having already been sentenced to death and removed from God's presence, our sins pile misery upon the already-encompassing context of a sinful world.

Original sin sets the context for all of our individual sins. We contribute to the mess!

Romans 7:21-24: (NASB) ²¹*I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. ²²For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, ²³but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*

The curse says we will never be sin-free. How do we deal with wanting to rise above it?



Self-enhancement defined, Julian Keenan, thescienceofsin.com

- *So, self-enhancement is thinking, believing, acting as if you're better than you actually are. Is it a good thing for me to see myself as I really am or is there a benefit for thinking that maybe I am better than I am? And the answer is reality is not necessarily a good thing. People with clinical depression - severe, severe depression - have a lack of self-enhancement, so they actually see themselves as they truly are, whereas people who don't have clinical depression tend to self-enhance.*



Self-enhancement is looked upon as being good and necessary in this world. Do we as Christians do this? Should we be thinking of ourselves as better than we are?

Philippians 4:12-13: (NASB) ¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Is the “self-enhancing” approach the best way to navigate through life, or is there an alternative?

 Self-enhancement “benefits,” *Julian Keenan, thescienceofsin.com*

- *If you show up at a job interview and you’re confident and you might embellish the truth a little bit, people look at that favorably. If you walk into a dating situation and you enhance yourself, that’s probably a good thing. Has it been this way through all time? Probably not. Will it be this way in the future? No, perhaps a more humble person will be selected, but in today’s Western society a “self-enhancer” certainly has benefits.*

What are the Christian principles regarding “embellishing” the truth?

Philippians 2:2-8: (NASB) ²make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Look at yourself with great humility; look at others as more important than yourself. Be focused *outside* of you rather than *inside* of you.

The Christian way is *not* to embellish; it is to be humble.



A caller from Connecticut suggests three important observations - how do I see myself? How do you see me? How does God see me?

Is there any self-enhancement here? If not, then what is here?

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things, which he suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Jesus clearly taught us that our approach to life through him would be to humbly learn and grow. So, how do we do this in this world where such an approach is seen as stifling?

The Problem: The reality of life - without a larger context - can simply be a stark and unvarnished reality. People can become easily depressed by the reality of life, because it offers no hope and so they “self-enhance.”

The Solution: The Christian solution is to “God-enhance” instead!





Put yourself in the context of the larger picture of God's love and plan. There is hope. For any of us having difficulty with depression, focus on God's view of you and His love for you. God will hold you up if you look to Him. He doesn't ever let us down.

We can see the reality and say, "Oh, my thoughts and actions are going in the wrong direction. O wretched man that I am." And we can get totally depressed by it. Or we can say "Oh, my thoughts and actions are going in the wrong direction. O wretched man that I am, but God loves me and Jesus died for me. God understands this is where I am. God through Christ is willing to lend me a hand so I don't have to stay this way." Do you see the difference? There is no "self-enhancing" here, telling ourselves how good we are. *Christ* is that good and helps me take a step up to change my life.



Pride: Strongs #212 *alazoneia* (al-ad-zon-i'-a); *braggadocio*, i.e. (by implication) self-confidence

Remember the *pride of life*? This particular word for *pride* is only used twice in the New Testament. We already went over the first Scripture; here is the second.

Only other use:

James 4:13-17: (NASB) ¹³Come now, you who say, today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. ¹⁴Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, if the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that. ¹⁶But as it is, you boast in your **arrogance <212>**; all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.



Pride of life in this verse = overwhelming self-confidence, not just appearing above others, but literally, giving yourself God's credit! The Christian should never be focused that way.

Humility is making the proper assessment of yourself. It is not beating yourself down, but is reality in the context of the bigger picture.



Self-enhancement is really contrary to true growth. It is dishonest. Lying on a resume might actually be “stealing” a job away from someone else.

Proverbs 16:18-19: (NRSV) ¹⁸*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹It is better to be of a lowly spirit among the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.*

Proverbs 29:23: (NRSV) *A person’s pride will bring humiliation, but one who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.*

Lowly in spirit: Understanding both the deficiencies and strengths we have, both in the context that God loves us.

Sin is subtle! Sin is appealing! Sin is common... but sin does NOT solve our problems - if we “self-enhance,” we might be committing another sin.

Now let’s look at how sin lives within us:

Psalms 19:12-13: (ASV) ¹²*Who can discern his errors? **Clear <5352>** thou me from hidden faults. ¹³Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me: Then shall I be upright, and I shall be clear from great transgression.*

Sometimes sin can fester quietly on the inside of us. We have *hidden* faults and we have *presumptuous* or arrogant sins.

Hidden (secret): Strongs #5641 cathar (saw-thar');
to hide (by covering), literally or figuratively, to hide, conceal, to hide oneself, to be hidden, be concealed

So, this first aspect of sin is the hidden, internal sin. Perhaps sins that are a part of our very nature - hard for us to see clearly, as they are so “natural” to us. Perhaps these sins correlate to our desires. Understand God sees through His eyes what is really there.

Matthew 5:29: (NASB) *If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell (Gehenna).*

Jesus here is obviously talking metaphorically. He is saying if sin is entering your life through your eyes, look somewhere else. Stop observing that thing because it will destroy you. He is trying to explain how sin can take us over. This is a tricky area of sin, for it is not necessarily known or seen by others.

How do we overcome?

Matthew 4:1-4: (NASB) ¹*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he then became hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, if you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. ⁴But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*

How did Jesus overcome? First, he answered based on Scripture - that is, his reasons were based on an authority higher than himself - the authority of the word of God. He “God-enhanced!” He did not succumb to his desire of the flesh - eating the food - over his principles of loving his Father. He overcame sin by seeing things through his Father’s eyes. That is the process to follow for the internal fight we have with sin.



Remember, anything "off the mark" is sin. Just because we miss the mark, such as with a sin of omission we do not do purposefully, does not mean God is angry with us.

If we are really trying but keep falling down, God loves us because of the fact that we are fallen humanity, trying and struggling. He has a plan for us. Jesus came as a sacrifice for all mankind. Sin will not doom us at this time until the sacrifice of Jesus is applied directly for our personal lives. That doesn't happen for the vast majority of mankind until the resurrection. The ultimate solution for sin just has not been activated yet for the majority of mankind.

"The Temptation of Christ,"
by Botticelli
(Sandro Filipepi),
Fresco 1481-1582
Sistine Chapel,
Vatican City



The bread temptation is depicted top left. In the top center the devil and Jesus stand on the roof of a temple. The devil challenges Jesus to let himself fall: surely he will be caught by angels. On the right the two are on a high cliff. The devil offers Jesus all kingdoms in the world.



All three of Jesus' scriptural answers in Matthew 4 were related to the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt:

First text Jesus quoted:

Deuteronomy 8:2-3: (NRSV) ²Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these **forty years in the wilderness**, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. ³He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.



In Matthew 4, Jesus is hungry after 40 days in the wilderness. He quotes from Deuteronomy with the context of 40 years in the wilderness as a test for humility. Jesus' mind went right to a core value in the Old Testament.

When Satan came with a temptation, Jesus' immediate reaction was to go back to the time when the Israelites were delivered. They were allowed to be hungry so God could feed them spiritually - man does not live by bread alone.

Nobody would have known if Jesus fed himself miraculously! But, that was NOT his mission! He knew the physical hunger would focus him on the spiritual. His mission was to feed upon the word of God.

Jesus' Temptation	Jesus' Old Testament Quote
1. <u>Matthew 4:1-4</u> Bread (Lust of the flesh)	<u>Deuteronomy 8:2-3</u>

Our God-enhancing focus:

1 Timothy 6:6: (NASB) *But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.*

When we deal with sins we intentionally commit, it is important to go back and feed upon the word of God to help us understand how to be an overcomer of sin.

The point of sin is to understand what life is like without God. As a race, we will come to God, having had the experience of being without Him. Humankind chose in the Garden to follow the wrong leadership, that of Satan. We now know the experience of following sinful leadership. The world has fallen apart on every level in every area. That is why Jesus died. God already sent the solution; it just has not been fully activated yet.



What about external, presumptuous sins? Is it ever a good thing to lie?

Psalms 19:12-13: (ASV) ¹²Who can discern his errors? **Clear <5352>** thou me from **hidden <5641>** faults. ¹³Keep back thy servant also from **presumptuous <2086>** sins; Let them not have dominion over me: Then shall I be upright, and I shall be clear from great transgression.

Presumptuous: Strongs #2086 zed (zade'); arrogant, proud, insolent, presumptuous

This second aspect of sin - arrogance - has to do with outward display and action. This show correlates to pride. How often do we show to others what is really not our true selves?

Matthew 5:30: (NASB) ³⁰If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell (Gehenna).

Remember Jesus first talked metaphorically about the eye? If what you see is causing you to sin, don't look. In this next example of the hand, it means that people can see what you are doing. If your actions are leading you to sin, don't do it!



This is a more blatant and publicly discernible area of sin. How do we overcome?

Luke 4:9-12: (NASB) ⁹And he led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, if You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; ¹⁰for it is written, He will command His angels concerning you to guard you, ¹¹and, on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. ¹²And Jesus answered and said to him, it is said, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.

New strategy - Satan (mis)quotes Scripture! How arrogant! The presentation is for Jesus to arrogantly show off for the people, demonstrating how powerful he was. Satan invited Jesus to join him on his pedestal of arrogance. How did Jesus overcome? He answered based on Scripture. He "God-enhanced!"

Second text Jesus quoted:

Deuteronomy 6:16: (NASB) ¹⁶You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah.

The actual event of Israel in the wilderness.

Exodus 17:6-7: (NASB) ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, is the LORD among us, or not?

They should have been thinking, God delivered us. He is not going to abandon us now. (Our lesson: All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I



have not seen.)

Jesus kept seeing the parallels of Israel's experience in the wilderness to his own. There was no reason for him to test God by throwing himself off the temple.

Jesus' Temptation	Jesus' Old Testament Quote
1. <u>Matthew 4:1-4</u> Bread (Lust of the flesh)	<u>Deuteronomy 8:2-3</u>
2. <u>Luke 4:9-12</u> Throw yourself down (Pride of life)	<u>Deuteronomy 6:16</u> <i>The actual event: <u>Exodus 17:6-7</u></i>

To "God-enhance" is to **KNOW** that He is always there when we need Him: Hebrews 4:16: (NASB) *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

How can we be confident if we keep falling down in sin? We don't have confidence in ourselves; our confidence is in God. God will hear us if we draw near to Him. We come to the *throne of grace*, not the throne of condemnation or the throne of indifference. There we find mercy and grace in our time of need. That helps us to cope with the difficulties of sin.

We do not have time to discuss the third temptation of Jesus in this program, but here is the chart completed: **(More in the CQ Rewind Bonus Material)**

Jesus' Temptation	Jesus' Old Testament Quote
1. <u>Matthew 4:1-4</u> Bread (Lust of the flesh)	<u>Deuteronomy 8:2-3</u>
2. <u>Luke 4:9-12</u> Throw yourself down (Pride of life)	<u>Deuteronomy 6:16</u> <i>The actual event: <u>Exodus 17:6-7</u></i>
3. <u>Matthew 4:8-10</u> Promised kingdoms of this world (Lust of the eyes)	<u>Deuteronomy 6:13</u>



What about lying? Can it be a good thing?

 **Lying as a tool, Julian Keenan, thescienceofsin.com**

- *We certainly know that humans lie and deceive more than any other animal on this earth, and we certainly know that a big part of being a social species at some level involves some type of deception. And again, it usually is for the benefit of the other person. If I tell you that you look nice today, you know, it might not totally be true, but it helps our conversation go along a little bit better.*
- *If I want to be a very good liar, I have to know what you're thinking. And in cognitive science, we call that "theory of mind." I have to know that you have thoughts. So, if I want to tell a really, really effective lie, I have to get into your mind and say, you'll believe this, this will make sense to you. If I say it and I say it convincingly, I'll come off as telling the truth, right?*

Scriptural precedent for lying:

Genesis 3:4-6: (NASB) ⁴The serpent said to the woman, you surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. ⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Lying is missing the mark. It is out of the context of how we are to live. Can lying get you ahead in this world? It sure can! But it is not worth the price that you pay. It minimizes what is truly right.

God's perspective on lying:

Proverbs 6:16-19: (NASB) ¹⁶There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷Haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹A **false witness who utters lies**, and one who spreads strife among brothers.

Two out of seven of the things God hates involve lying!

...So, how are we doing so far with the lying thing?



A caller from Connecticut suggests: The essence of sin is selfishness. It is the attitude of the heart to exploit and be in coldness to others. Jesus' radical ethic of compassion breaks through the veil of self-interest. **Philippians 3:14:** *I continue my pursuit towards the goal, the prize of God's upward calling in Christ Jesus.*

Jesus was not only incredibly compassionate, but he solved the problem of sin as well. That makes his ethic of compassion so radical.

What about pride? Aren't we supposed to have some personal pride?

 **Religion got pride wrong, Julian Keenan, thescienceofsin.com**

- *I hope not to offend when I say this, but I think religion got it wrong when it labeled "pride" as one of the seven deadly sins. Based on all the research that I've seen and that we've done in our lab and certainly in other labs, the sin would be not having pride because that would be much more deadly. If we were in a world where people weren't confident, erring on the side of over-confident, I think we would see more depression. I think we would see more people less happy. I think we would see people being less productive and less*



likely to take chances. I don't think we would be as much fun, as interesting, or even as spiritual as human beings as we are with pride. So, I think pride is a good thing, and listen, who am I to say that religions have got it wrong, but I think in this case they might be off a little bit.

See **CQ Rewind Bonus Material** for some background on the seven deadly sins.

One can have confidence without being prideful and arrogant. There is nothing wrong with accurately assessing our lives.

Philippians 4:12-13: (NASB) ¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Matthew 10:28: (NASB) ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Gehenna).

God is the ultimate judge. God has a plan for you. Don't allow the world to skew you from what is important. Personal pride vs. confidence in God.

Isaiah 40:28-31: (NASB) ²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. ³⁰Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, ³¹Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

Life is SO much better when we look *up* rather than *in*! This does not diminish having confidence in the tools we have been given to use. We all have something of value and it should be used for the glorification of God.

Perhaps the bottom line is this: Humanity is hard wired to worship - to have someone or something bigger and better to honor and respect. Mankind originally only looked up to the Creator to fulfill this need. Sin has opened the door for that hard-wired honor and respect to be able to go in all directions - down, sideways and even internally. Thus, those things that we enhance, those things that we "worship" are subject to our whim and fancy rather than being subject to the necessary obligation to our Creator. Sin takes our focus in all other directions.

Back to basics!

James 4:6-10: (NASB) ⁶But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. ⁷Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

This is the opposite action from "the pride of life!"

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

These are the opposite actions from the "lust of the eyes" and the "lust of flesh!"



If we put our hope in man, what hope of glory can possibly exist?

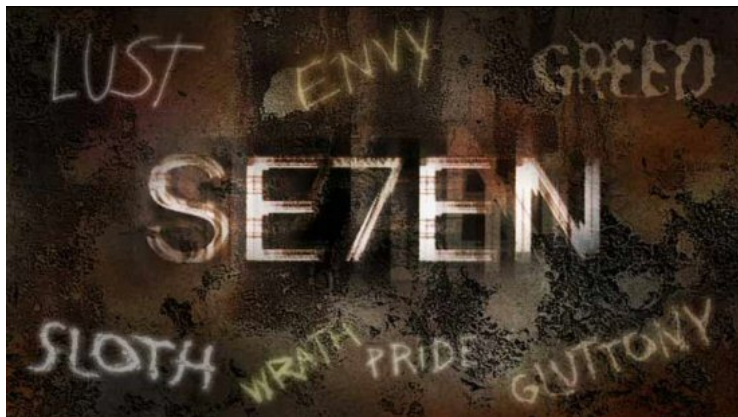
What if we hope in God through Christ?

Colossians 1:27-29: (NASB) ²⁷to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸We proclaim him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹For this purpose also I labor, striving according to his power, which mightily works within me.

Even in our imperfect state, we have wonderful potential that God sees. We fall down again and again. We need to get up and honor and worship God. There is nothing wrong with the falling down as long as we continue to get up and honor and worship God. God forgives our sin.

*So, where does sin come from?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



Are there Scriptures that actually label "seven deadly sins?" No. Then where did this list come from?

(Source: Wikipedia) The seven deadly sins, also known as the capital vices or cardinal sins, is a classification of vices (part of Christian ethics) that has been used since early Christian times to educate and instruct Christians concerning fallen humanity's tendency to sin. In the currently recognized version, the sins are usually given as wrath, avarice, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony. Each is a form of Idolatry-of-Self wherein the subjective reigns over the objective.

The Catholic Church divides sin into two categories: venial sins, in which guilt is relatively minor, and the more severe mortal sins. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a mortal or deadly sin is believed to destroy the life of grace and charity within a person and thus creates the threat of eternal damnation. "Mortal sin, by attacking the vital principle within us - that is, charity - necessitates a new initiative of God's mercy and a conversion of heart which is normally accomplished within the setting of the sacrament of reconciliation."

According to Catholic moral thought, the seven deadly sins are not discrete from other sins, but are instead the origin ("capital" comes from the Latin caput, head) of the others. Vices can be either venial or mortal, depending on the situation, but "are called 'capital' because they engender other sins, other vices".

Beginning in the early 14th century, the popularity of the seven deadly sins as a theme among European artists of the time eventually helped to ingrain them in many areas of Catholic culture and Catholic consciousness in general throughout the world. One means of such ingrain was the creation of the mnemonic acronym "SALIGIA" based on the first letters in Latin of the seven deadly sins: superbia, avaritia, luxuria, invidia, gula, ira, acedia.



We did not discuss the third temptation of Jesus - here is a little bit on it - it is actually listed as the second temptation in Luke and the third in Matthew:

Luke 4:5-8: (NASB) ⁵And he led him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to him, I will give you all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷Therefore if you worship before me, it shall all be yours. ⁸Jesus answered him, it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.

Old Testament text Jesus quoted:

Deuteronomy 6:12-15: (NRSV) ¹²take care that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³The LORD your God you shall fear; him you shall serve, and by his name alone you shall swear. ¹⁴Do not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are all around you, ¹⁵because the LORD your God, who is present with you, is a jealous God. The anger of the LORD your God would be kindled against you and he would destroy you from the face of the earth.

How did Jesus overcome? Jesus didn't engage in debate, rationalization and conversation - he answered and then closed the door.

Psalms 1:1-3: (ASV) ¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: ²But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Jeremiah 6:15-16: (NRSV) ¹⁵They acted shamefully, they committed abomination; yet they were not ashamed, they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the LORD. ¹⁶Thus says the LORD: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk in it.

The sin of arrogance:

Matthew 7:1-5: (NRSV) ¹Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. ²For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. ³Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your neighbor, let me take the speck out of your eye, while the log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

This example gives us some important tools to work with in dealing with sins of arrogance:

When seeing sin in others:

- Let us NOT react because "I'm just sick of it!"
- Let us FIRST examine our character.
- Let us FIRST examine our attitude.
- Let us FIRST examine our motivation.
- Let us FIRST build our own character, correct our own attitude and our own motivation.