



**WELCOME
TO
BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

**Various Aspects
of
Self, the Spirit
and of
Sin.**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible Online

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Various Aspects of Self, Spirit and Sin.

Topics.

- Cain murders his brother Abel.
- Sin is crouching at the door.
- The intent of man's heart is evil from his youth.
- Aaron brought a great sin upon the people of Israel.
- The sins of Sodom.
- Korah assembled all the congregation against Moses and Aaron.
- A stubborn, rebellious and alcoholic son.
- There is no guilt for a woman who has been raped.
- Each, person is responsible for their own sin.

CAIN MURDERS HIS BROTHER ABEL

- **Genesis 4:6:** The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"

Cain and Abel brought an offering to the LORD and the LORD had regard for Abel's offering, but not for Cain's so Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him (Gen 4:1-8). It is certain Cain had jealousy, anger, resentment and hatred in his heart toward Abel long before this especially since this jealousy of Cain's was so extreme it led to murder. When self does not get the attention, favour and importance it craves it becomes jealous of those who do in Cain's case it went from jealousy, to resentment, to anger, to hatred, to murder and all because self was not getting the attention it craved. This evil in Cain's heart is no-doubt the reason God did not accept his offering, had Cain repented of his murderous heart and hatred toward his brother and ruled over it God would have shown him the same favour and acceptance. In this scenario self-gratification is the underlying power of sin because if self, had gotten the favour and attention it craved it would have been gratified and because murdering Abel satisfied Cain's rage, anger and hatred toward his brother.

SIN IS CROUCHING AT THE DOOR

- **Genesis 4:7:** If you (Cain) do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

This verse shows us three things:

1. Sin is pictured as some type of creature waiting behind a door looking for an opportunity to pounce upon Cain and overpower and devour him.
2. Sin is personified as a creature that has a desire to take hold of Cain.
3. Cain had the power to master and rule over sin.

Cain had the power to rule over his corrupt murderous heart of hatred, bitterness and anger rather than it rule over him as a powerful task master, but to master it he first has to humble himself before God,

acknowledge his attitude toward Able was wrong and repent and after doing all this ask Able for forgiveness. Cain's act of murder shows that his pride was far too high to allow him to act in such a humble manner and so the destructive power of sin dwelling within devoured him. Peter in his letter wrote:

- Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8).

Peter likens the devil to a roaring lion prowling around seeking those who it can devour. Sin in the Old Testament is pictured as a creature waiting to devour whoever it can. The New Testament calls this creature the devil and likens it to a roaring lion seeking to devour whoever it can.

Matthew wrote:

- Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander (Matt. 15:19).

James wrote:

- From within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness all these evils come from within, and they defile a person (Mark 7:21-23).

Matthew and James shine a brilliant spotlight on all the evils that arise out of the human heart. The evils of the devil is the same as the evils that dwell within the human heart, just as Genesis personifies sin as an evil creature hiding behind a door and Peter personifies sin as a roaring lion New Testament writers personifies sin as the devil. There is a universal saying, "The devil within" this is a true statement since the devil is the personification of all the evil dwelling in the human heart. For further information see the title: "Devil" in, (Satan and his Family) (ON WEBSITE MENU).

IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE AMONGST THE WICKED

- **Genesis 6:5-9:** The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually ---- NOW GO TO VERSE NINE ---- ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God ---- NOW GO TO GENESIS SEVEN VERSE ONE ---- ¹Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.

In amongst a population that was so grossly wicked and every intention and every thought corrupt God finds Noah a righteous and blameless man who had a heart toward God. This shows that humans have the potential to live a righteous life regardless of how corrupt the people are that they live amongst.

NOTE: the word righteous and blameless in this context does not mean without sin, if anyone of us could attain to that perfect state of glory Christ died for no purpose. Righteous and blameless in the context of these verses means living with a mind and heart toward God and being a decent human (i.e., treating others with respect and doing what is right). Today we would say that Noah was a man decent, compassionate and kind man with a heart of integrity who did what was right and good. For further information see the title:

- Sin in the Flesh in, Sin (ON WEBSITE MENU).

THE INTENT OF MAN'S HEART IS EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH

- **Genesis 8:21:** when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

This does not mean that every man and woman is an inherently evil wicked person, it is true we are all sinners before God, but that does not mean everyone is wicked. Consider Noah and Job who God said were righteous and blameless men, faithful Abraham and David who God said had a heart after God, the faithful prophets, the apostles, Paul and all the faithful who belong to God's Kingdom and Christ's family from every generation throughout history. Consider those in the secular world who rally together to help innocent victims in times of great disasters, people who give their leisure time to raise money for the Cancer foundation, children with leukemia and terminal sickness, secular friends and family who help in times of crises, professional people who give up their careers to help the poor and suffering in third world countries and the list goes on. Certainly, we are all sinners before God since not one of us can attain to the perfect standard the law demands or to God's Holiness, but this does not mean that everyone is wicked evil and corrupt. Biblically an evil and wicked person is one who is aggressively against God and deliberately plots harm and hurt upon others.

Outward acts of sin are symptoms of an inward problem namely sin dwelling within our members. Since we are all descendants of our earthly father Adam, we have all inherited sinful dysfunctions and aberrations (selfishness, ego, pride, greed, jealousies and such like things), but this does not mean everyone is evil and wicked. This is because not everyone acts on these sinful dysfunctions and aberrations to the extent that they deliberately, callously and maliciously inflict harm on others physically, verbally, financially, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. We are all sinners, but we are not all evil. God in this verse is saying that He will never again destroy the earth because He understands that evil (the potential for it) is in the heart of every child born (meaning the potential for evil dwells within all of us, but not all of us act on this evil. Clearly Noah (and many others like him) never did because God said he was a righteous and blameless man and it was because of the pleasing aroma of Noah's offering that the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man" (Gen 8:21). It could be said that amongst the sea of evil and wickedness on planet earth there are people who though still sinners have kind and compassionate hearts.

When Jesus was asked:

- Which commandment is the most important of all?

He answered:

- The most important is, "God is one and you shall love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" there is no other commandment greater than these two (Mark 12:28-31)

James refers to Jesus commandment, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" as the royal law (James 2:8). It means do not deliberately do harm to others, but show compassion. Many secular men and woman live by this command of Jesus and chose to show love rather than evil, this does not mean they are saved to eternal life, since we are all sinners, but they could hardly be called evil.

ABRAHAM ASKS THE LORD, "WILL YOU DESTROY THE RIGHTEOUS WITH THE WICKED?"

- **Genesis 18:19-23:** For I have chosen Abraham, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." ²⁰Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,

²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know." ²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

Abraham asks the LORD; Will He sweep away the righteous with the wicked? and then says surely you would not put the righteous to death with the wicked so that the righteous fare as the wicked! (v25). Scripture states:

- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Righteous in the context of these verses does not mean without sin, there has only ever been one man who has attained to that glorious state and his name is Jesus the Son of God and Saviour of the world. Righteous in this context refers to people who treat others with fairness (justice), respect and decency in contrast to the men of Sodom and Gomorrah who were prepared to rape by brutal force and cruelty the two men visiting their city (Gen 19:4-11). This is a perfect example of evil and wickedness people who abuse another person's will and who deliberately cause pain and suffering to another human for their own self-gratification. This why God showed no mercy to the men of Sodom and Gomorrah their hearts were full of malicious cruelty and lacked any form of compassion toward another person's well-being. The two men sent by God asked Lot:

- Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place because the LORD has sent us to destroy it (Gen. 19:12-13).

This implies that the two men did not want to destroy those living in the city who did not fit the category of being evil and wicked as the men of Sodom and Gomorrah were which shows that though we are all sinners and all fall short of God's perfect holiness God does not consider everyone to be evil and wicked.

ABRAHAM LIES TO KING ABIMELECH ABOUT HIS WIFE SARAH

- **Genesis 20:2-12:** Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And king Abimelech took Sarah. ³But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken is a man's wife." ⁴Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people? ⁵Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." ⁶Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her --- NOW GO TO VERSE NINE --- ⁹Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done." ¹⁰And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you see, that you did this thing?" ¹¹Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ¹²Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.

Abraham because of the beauty of his wife Sarah feared being killed by the king so to protect himself he lied by telling King Abimelech saying that Sarah his wife was his sister. Self-survival cause people to sin, if people can't do something legally to protect themselves or get what self wants, they will do it illegally and sinfully as Abraham did in this story. Following are two other things that are interesting to notice:

1. Abimelech a Philistine king was aware of right and wrong he was aware of sin and acted in honesty and integrity of heart and God knew he had integrity of heart. Abimelech though a pagan king and a sinner was not an evil and wicked man especially since had he known Sarah was Abraham's wife, he would not have taken her since he knew such a thing was totally wrong.

2. Abraham attempts to justify himself since his lie is partly true, but it's irrelevant since Sarah was his wife regardless of her family background. Sin is motivated by some desire to satisfy or protect self.

IF YOU SERVE THEIR GODS, IT WILL SURELY BE A SNARE TO YOU

- **Exodus 23:32-33:** You shall make no covenant with them (the nations in the land of Canaan) and their gods. ³³They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

Prior to this verse the LORD told Israel the following three things:

1. He would send His angel before them to bring them into the land He has promised to give them and drive out their enemies little by little until they have increased and possess the land.
2. They must not bow down or serve the gods in the land He is giving them or do as those in the land do.
3. If they faithfully serve the LORD their God, He will bless their health, their land and their nation (Gen 33:23-32).

Those who worshipped pagan gods and idols were free to live to gratify the flesh in whatever way they craved since their gods were not based on a God of Holiness. This is why it was tempting for the people of Israel to turn from their God to pagan gods and why being in the company of people who live to gratify the flesh is dangerous unless they have strong integrity of heart and mind and are strong in their own faith. This is because the flesh is like a hungry mouth that always craves more it is never satisfied. Israel had all the blessings, the promises and faithful prophets of God, yet as we approach the end of the Old Testament, we see that they have turned from God and become grossly sinful, such is the power of the flesh (self, ego, pride, greed and such like things).

AARON BROUGHT A GREAT SIN UPON THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

- **Exodus 32:21:** Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?"

Prior to this verse Moses had been on Mount Sinai for some time so the people of Israel gathered together and told Aaron to make gods who will go before them because they did not know what had happened to Moses. Aaron made a golden calf and Israel worshipped it proclaiming that it was their god who brought them up out of Egypt!" And they rose up to drink, danced and play. It is almost certain Aaron would not have made the golden calf if the people had not gathered together in one accord and requested it of him.

The pressure, the influence and fear of others or the desire to be accepted by peers, the crowd, a community or a nation has the power to cause good people to sin in a manner they would not normally do left to themselves or in the right company.

WHOEVER REALIZED THEIR SIN AND GUILT IS TO RESTORE WHAT THEY HAVE DONE

- **Leviticus 6:1-5:** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²"If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the LORD by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor ³or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby— ⁴if he has sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took by

robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found ⁵or anything about which he has sworn falsely, he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt.

A breach of faith against the LORD refers to anything that is against the nature of God and against the law of love. Robbery, deception and cheating people from what is rightfully theirs, oppressing others, finding a lost item and not returning it, lying and talking about others falsely are all sins and all against the nature of God and the law of love. Here we see that even in the Old Testament whenever a person realized they had sinned they were called by God to make it right when it was in their power to do so.

NOTICE: sin always hurts another human in some way physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, verbally or spiritually this is why God is so against sin. John wrote:

- Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8).
- God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in them. (1 John 4:16).

And Paul wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Jesus said the second most important commandment of all is:

- You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these (Mark 12:29-31).

James calls the command:

- Love your neighbor as yourself, the royal law and says whoever is doing this is doing well (James 2:8).

This is why God hates sin it is against the law of love and the nature and character of God since it inflicts harm of some kind upon others.

YOU SHALL NOT HATE YOUR BROTHER IN YOUR HEART, BUT REASON FRANKLY

- **Leviticus 19:17-18:** You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

The focus of these verses is wrongful attitudes between those who belong to God's household. When self is hurt (especially by someone close) in some manner it harbors bitterness and resentment and if the hurt is great enough and there is no forgiveness it grows into hatred and eventually seeks revenge thinking revenge will ease the pain. Harboring hate, seeking revenge and vengeance and holding grudges in the heart is sin because it not only eventuates in harm to others, but also destroys the mental and spiritual peace of those who are harbouring such destructive attitudes.

This may sound extreme to some, but these types of revengeful and bitter attitudes are the very things that caused wars amongst the people of Israel. James wrote:

- The thing that causes quarrels and fights amongst God's people is because their passions are at war within them because they desire, but do not have so they murder, covet, fight and quarrel (James 4:1).

Revenge driven by hurt, pride and hatred is motivated by a craving to satisfy self in some manner (howbeit twisted) and manifests outwardly in sins of cruel and unlawful acts of harm against another human or nation. In contrast to harbouring destructive attitudes and acting on them in arguments and quarrels God calls us to reason frankly honestly forthrightly freely openly truthfully candidly with each other without deceit and anger (Lev 19:17-18).

YOU SHALL KEEP ALL MY RULES SO THE LAND WILL NOT VOMIT YOU OUT

- **Leviticus 20:22:** You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out.

It does not make logical sense for Israel to disobey God since He had promised them perfect health, prosperity in everything they do and that they would be the head of all nations if they obeyed Him. This shows the power of self and the power of the flesh. God's promises were delayed whereas self and the flesh want instant gratification. The reason people don't keep God's commandments is because self wants what it should not have, it wants to be satisfied. Self that lacks integrity or is undisciplined and uncontrolled will get what it desires illegally and sinfully if it cannot get what it craves legally and honestly.

NOTE: the titles the flesh and self in many contexts are interchangeable since both embrace the ego, pride, greed, lust, jealousies, hatred, anger and such like things when used in certain Scriptures.

WHOEVER CURSES THEIR GOD WILL BEAR THEIR SIN

- **Leviticus 24:15:** Speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin.

This is not about those who do not know God's love and grace, but those who belong to the LORD'S Kingdom. Cursing God in this context could be likened to a man who has a loving, compassionate and devoted wife speaking badly about her. It not only shows a total disrespect toward her, but is also enormously hurtful and clearly does not portray a good testimony of her good character.

Today some churches teach a prosperity gospel, they teach their followers that they are a child of God the King of creation and therefore He will give those who belong to His Kingdom a charmed life and the best that this world has (i.e., wealth, success, great riches and perfect health etc.,) after all they are a Kings child. This is a totally false gospel and if Christians have these high expectations of God in this world and they don't come to pass or their life hits a crisis of some kind, it can result in them turning bitter and resentful toward God and even lead to them giving up their faith because of the confusion, hurt and pain which has resulted from the false concept of God the religious leaders they have followed have deceived them by.

Because of false teaching that promises prosperity self often develops expectations of God that are unrealistic and when these expectations do not come to pass, there is confusion and a danger that some who once had a simple faith blame God and fall away. The truth is God loves us and has given us His best on the cross of Calvary. Through Christ we have forgiveness of sin, God's grace, righteousness imputed to us and eternal life in everlasting glory. God's gifts are eternal in contrast to the temporal things of this world. Jesus is more than enough for those who know and experience the love of Christ in their minds and hearts and any good thing that does come to them is added value and considered a gift and a blessing not an expectation. God does not owe us anything, what more

can He do to show His great love than give his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16) and what more can Christ do than lay his own life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death. If anyone doubts God's love and blessing toward them, they should take a moment to ponder the cross and consider what it cost God and the price Jesus paid to save us to eternal life and everlasting glory.

CONFESSING SIN AND MAKING RESTITUTION BRINGS FREEDOM FROM GUILT

- **Numbers 5:5-7:** the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 6"Speak to the people of Israel, When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the LORD, and that person realizes his guilt 7he shall confess his sin that he has committed. And he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong.

There are two aspects to confessing sin and being freed from guilt:

1. When our sin is against another person humble ourselves and acknowledge (confess) what we have done wrong to the person we have wronged and were possible not only restore to them any loss, but do more than is expected.
2. When our sin is against God humble ourselves and acknowledge (confess) it before God knowing that when we come to God in repentance confessing our hidden sins He will not condemn or reject us since He already knows.

KORAH ASSEMBLED ALL THE CONGREGATION AGAINST MOSES AND AARON

- **Numbers 16:19-22:** Korah assembled all the congregation against Moses and Aaron at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation. ²⁰And the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, ²¹"Separate yourselves from among this congregation that i may consume them in a moment." ²²And they fell on their faces and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and will you be angry with all the congregation?"

Prior to these verses Korah, Dathan and Abiram jealous of Moses and Aaron's authority and priesthood rose up against them and not only accused them of exalting themselves above the assembly of the LORD, but also accused Moses of bringing them out of the wilderness to kill them and to make himself a prince over them. Moses was horrified and falls on his face and the LORD tells Moses he will destroy the congregation of Israel. Moses cries to the LORD shall all the congregation be destroyed because of the sin of one man (Korah seemed to be the head leader) so the LORD has the congregation of Israel separated from Korah, Dathan and Abiram and their company and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed Korah, Dathan and Abiram up and all the people who belonged to Korah went down alive and the earth closed over them (Numbers 16:31-33).

Korah, Dathan and Abiram wanted to be as important amongst the people of Israel in the same way that Moses and Aaron were and attempted to turn the people of Israel against Moses and against Aaron. When self wants its own way, it will cause others to sin to get what it craves. Sin is always fulfilling some emotional, spiritual, financial or physical need self-craves after and desires. In this story the thing self, craved after was authority and importance.

DO WHAT YOU HAVE PROMISED

- **Numbers 32:20-23:** Moses said to them (the people of Gad and the people of Reuben), "If you will do this, if you will take up arms to go before the LORD for the war, ²¹and every armed man of you will pass over the Jordan before the LORD, until he has driven out his enemies from before him ²²and the land is subdued before the LORD; then after that you shall return and be free of obligation to the LORD and to Israel, and this land shall be your possession before the LORD. ²³But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out. ²⁴Build cities for your little ones and folds for your sheep, and do what you have promised."

The people of Gad and the people of Reuben came to Moses and the leaders of Israel and promised to leave their families in Gilead and cross the Jordan River and not return to their homes and families until all Israel had gained their inheritance in the Promised Land. Breaking a promise is a sin the only reason people break a promise, is because it is going to cost them something, or they are going to lose something by keeping the promise. Self, will sin (break a promise) to maintain what it has or gain something it wants.

A STUBBORN, REBELLIOUS AND ALCOHOLIC SON

- **Deuteronomy 21:18-21:** If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, ¹⁹then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives, ²⁰and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard. ²¹Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

This is not about a teenage son who now and again might have a drink too many, the son in focus is one who is deliberately disobedient, unruly, defiant, unmanageable and uncontrollable he will not listen to his father or mother and is totally unruly, stubborn, rebellious fractious and habitually drinks an excess of alcohol. He was a disgrace to his family and a disgrace to the nation of Israel. During this era to rebel against one's own parents and against the leaders of Israel and live a totally unruly life refusing any sort of discipline was a major offense because it brought dishonor to the parents, dishonor to the nation and dishonor to the testimony of God. Stubbornness and rebellion are sins that are a result of self, wanting its own way and manifested outwardly in the corruptible behavior of the flesh. When sin is present self-gratification is almost always alongside it.

THERE IS NO GUILT FOR A WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN RAPED

- **Deuteronomy 22:25-27:** If in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man seizes her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. ²⁶But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbour.

Clearly raping a girl is a horrific sin, but the woman who is raped should not feel any guilt since she has committed no sin. A man rapes a girl to satisfy self either self's craving for power or to satisfy self's lust for perverted pleasure. Self that lacks integrity and compassion and is uncontrolled and undisciplined is like an evil merciless creature whose only goal is to satisfy its own hunger. Self-gratification is always alongside sin when it acts in evil ways.

BREAKING A PROMISE TO THE LORD IS SIN

- **Deuteronomy 23:21-23:** If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. ²²But if you refrain from vowing you will not be guilty of sin. ²³You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Breaking a promise (especially one made to the LORD) is a great sin it is far better to avoid making a promise were possible because no-one can know what might eventuate in the future. During the Old Testament era a man's word was his bond, it was as good as a signed contract and an expression of a man's character and integrity. This is why breaking promises was considered such a great sin it is an act of dishonesty and shows a lack of character and a lack of integrity. The reason people break a promise is because keeping it is going to cost self, something or self is going to lose something by keeping the promise. Self that lacks integrity will sin to maintain what it has or gain something it wants.

GREED SATISFIES SELF'S DESIRE TO BE IMPORTANT AND SECURE

- **Deuteronomy 23:24-25:** If you go into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in your bag. ²⁵If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

This law was primarily to provide food for the poor, they could only take what they could eat, to take more than they could eat was considered stealing from their neighbor and a sin. Taking more than they could eat stems from greed and greed is primarily motivated by a desire to be secure or be powerful (by having more than others). The sin of greed in this context is motivated by self's desire to feel secure. Greed satisfies self's craving to be secure by having more than it needs.

10

THE SONS OF ELI LAID WITH WOMEN WHO SERVED AT THE TENT OF MEETING

- **1 Samuel 2:22-25:** Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ²³And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. ²⁴No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad. ²⁵If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?"

How horrific is this, the sons of Eli were sleeping around with different woman who served at the door of the House of God. Sexual sins gratify the cravings of the flesh and lurking behind sin (especially sexual sins) is self-gratification, the cravings of the flesh for sexual pleasure manifested in the sons of Eli grossly sinning by loosely sexing around with woman who served God at the door of His temple.

Notice the words:

- If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him? (v25)

This means that when those in the world live a lifestyle of loose sexual morals though they are not saved God's compassion and forgiveness is still toward them because they are not sinning directly against God, but against each other. In contrast the sons of Eli were sons of a prophet and served at the offerings of the LORD, but they treated them with contempt (v17). Just because a person serves the LORD does not mean that they know the LORD (v12). When a person serves God or acts as a minister or priest before God and before the people their sin is counted as sinning

before God because they are ambassadors and representatives of His good character on earth and by their corrupt character, they are bringing a bad testimony to God's good name. Whereas when the world sees or hears of a secular man or woman sinning in the world, they do not connect that sin to God, but when they see people confessing to believe in God acting corruptly it instantly reflects on God Himself. Everyone who confesses to believe in God is a reflection of God, they are either a good reflection or a bad reflection, but they are a reflection.

EACH, PERSON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN SIN

- **2 Chronicles 25:4:** But king Amaziah did not put the children of his servants who had killed his father to death, according to what is written in the Law, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, "Fathers shall not die because of their children, nor children die because of their fathers, but each one shall die for his own sin."

Everyone is responsible for their own sin no one is counted guilty because of sins of another person's wrong doing. This also means that no one can blame anyone else for their own sin. This is something self is very good at, it is always looking for others to blame rather than accept the blame and guilt itself. Self-driven by pride will lie and deceive to protect itself rather than admit fault. Every individual will give an account, for their own actions and their own behaviour.

FOREIGN WOMEN CAUSED SOLOMON TO SIN

- **Nehemiah 13:26:** Solomon king of Israel sinned on account of women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin.

Solomon the wisest man on earth and king of Israel had multitudes of foreign wives and a multitude of foreign concubines. The flesh is never satisfied it is like a hungry fire that is always seeking more fuel to burn and always wants more. Lurking behind almost all sins is self-gratification, of some form (i.e., physically, emotionally or sexually). Thought it was far from God's ideal it almost seems that God tolerated Kings having more than one wife (perhaps because he could provide for them) and tolerated men having a wife and taking other women as in the case of Abraham Rachael and Leah. Taking foreign woman as sexual partners or wives was a great sin for Israel for the following two reasons:

1. The foreign woman worshipped pagan gods and drew the men of Israel away from the LORD their God.
2. Israel's land was to remain within the twelve tribes, so if they took foreign wives and had male children the inheritance of land would be divided.

THE SINS OF SODOM

- **Ezekiel 16:48-51:** As I live, declares the Lord GOD, your (Gomorrah's) sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. ⁴⁹Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride (arrogant in KJV), excess of food, and prosperous, careless ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. ⁵⁰They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it. ⁵¹Samaria has not committed half your sins. You have committed more abominations than they, and have made your sisters appear righteous by all the abominations that you have committed.

The sins of Sodom were:

Pride and arrogance: meaning they were conceited, egotistical and full of self-importance.

Prosperous: they had plenty and an abundance of food, but they did not help those who were less fortunate or the poor and needy even though they were fully able.

Carelessness and at ease: meaning they were lazy and had a more than enough leisure time, but did not use it for any good purpose.

Haughty: meaning they were self-aggrandizing, self-exalting and considered themselves superior to others.

All of these sins satisfy something, self, desires and they all give the flesh some form of gratification. When the word abomination is used in the Bible it means to dislike (i.e. to detest or abhor something that is offensive) it carries the thought of being disgusted especially in regards to idolatry. The following are seven abominations the LORD hates:

1. Pride and arrogance.
2. A lying tongue.
3. Hands that shed innocent blood.
4. A heart that devises wicked plans.
5. Feet that make haste to run to evil.
6. A false witness who breathes out lies.
7. One who sows discord among brothers (Prov. 6:16-20).

All of the following are various abominations to the LORD:

- Coveting the silver or the gold that is on idols (Deut. 7:25).
- The devious person and those with a crooked heart (Prov. 3:32) (Proverbs 11:20).
- Lying lips and the way of the wicked (Prov. 12:22) (Prov. 15:9).
- The thoughts of the wicked and arrogant in heart (Prov. 15:26) (Proverbs 16:5).
- Kings who do evil (Prov. 16:12).
- Justifying the wicked and condemning the righteous (Prov. 17:15).
- Unequal weights and unequal measures (Prov. 20:10).
- One who turns away his ear from hearing the law (Prov. 28:9).
- Oppressing the poor and needy (Ezek. 18:12).
- Committing robbery and not keeping a promise (Ezek. 18:12) (Ezekiel 18:12).
- Lifting up eyes to idols (Ezek. 18:12).
- Defiling a neighbour's wife, a daughter in law or a sister (Ezek. 22:11).
- Marrying the daughter of a foreign god (Malachi 2:11).

NOTICE: these all stem from a malicious heart, malicious thoughts and result in harming others in some manner. This is why the Lord refers to them as being Abominations. It is interesting to notice everywhere same sex relationships are referred to as an abomination they are almost always in the context of violence and hating God.

ALL HAVE SINNED

- **Romans 3:23:** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We are all descendants of our earthly father Adam and because of this we have all inherited a corrupted fallen nature. Not one of us is free from some type of sinful dysfunction and aberration dwelling within (i.e., selfishness, ego, pride, greed, jealousies, lustful thoughts, anger and such like things). This is why Jesus gave us the command, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31) meaning treat others as you treat yourself, no one deliberately does things to hurt themselves, because the most important person to every human is self. This is how God has designed the human spirit; it has to be this way so that when in great danger or facing near death self will provide the motivation to survive and that is a good thing, self is only sinful when it is:

- Controlled by pride or undisciplined, unruly and out of control.
- Hurt and uses others for its own selfish gain and its own advantage.
- Hinders people from accepting the Lord and leads a person away from God and His will to gratify the flesh or gain some other selfish desire.

NOTE: the words "All have sinned does not" does not mean that everyone is an evil wicked person at heart, certainly it means all are separated from God because of sin, but being unsaved does not always mean a person has an evil heart. Christians do not own the rights to compassion, mercy and kindness there are multitudes of secular men and women in the world who sacrifice their leisure time and rally together to help others in need, especially when there is a major disaster in the community. Added to this many professional people give up their wealthy careers to go and help the poor and suffering in third world countries. Biblically an evil and wicked person is one who is aggressively against God, who has malicious thoughts toward others and deliberately inflicts harm onto people physically, financially, emotionally, verbally, mentally and spiritually.

SUMMARY

Within all humans is a lower nature and a higher nature, the lower nature is called the flesh and is controlled by self this nature only considers one's own well-being while the higher nature is referred to as the spirit which is controlled by love, this nature considers others and shows compassion. There is a well know story of an Indian father telling his son that within us all is a wild wolf warring against a tame wolf. The young son asks his father, "Which wolf wins?" the wise father answers, "The one you feed the most." Many people are good in that they don't break man's laws and many do-good and help other humans in times of adversity, but before God every human stand as a sinner. Self and pride do not like to admit this truth, this is why Jesus said, "Unless one dies to self, they cannot see the Kingdom of God."

To receive God's forgiveness of our sin we must acknowledge our sin and humble ourselves before God in honest heartfelt confession. Self-gratification is the dominant spirit of human nature that underlies almost all sins this is because self is the most important person in the world to each one of us and wants to be accepted, loved, pampered and treated as special added to this self-desires to be protected, secure and be able to enjoy life. Craving for self-gratification is the dominating power underlying most sins so if self cannot get these things lawfully and honestly will resort to unlawful, sinful and dishonest means (in a person who lacks integrity and honesty).

Often a relationship can feel so good to self and to the emotions that it blinds and deceives mind into thinking it is right when it is actually sin (this is especially true in the case of romantic affairs). Self can take on a spirit of self-righteousness it will often esteem itself as better, or more righteous than others are and rather than accept God's plan of salvation, self thinks it can make itself worthy of the Lord and eternal life by self-effort, good works and adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions etc. Sin is motivated by that indwelling entity in human nature that is determined to do and go its own way to get what it craves and therefore will cheat, lie, abuse and oppress others to fulfill its passions this entity is called self (the lower nature).

In contrast to self is the Spirit (the higher nature) of man which seeks to do what is right and considers the well-being of others whereas self only considers self. The underlying motivation of sin is always self this is because self only thinks about how it can protect itself make itself secure, and give itself pleasure. Self constantly does those things that will in some way physically, financially, emotionally or spiritually benefit it. Self does things for its reasons and not for others it is often personified as the devil in the New Testament (i.e., the devil within). For further information concerning the devil, see the title: "Devil, in Satan and his Family" (ON WEBSITE MENU).

NOTE: though we are all sinners by nature since not one of us can attain to the perfection the law demands or to the perfection of God's Holiness not everyone can be labelled as an evil wicked person. This is because we are all controlled by greater or lesser degrees of self (the lower nature) and the Spirit (the higher nature) those who are controlled and motivated by greater degrees of the Spirit are good law-abiding citizens who have compassion and consider the well-being of others. While those controlled by greater degrees of self only consider self and for their own selfish gain and gratification will break the law and oppress and abuse others simply to get what self, craves. The nature of the spirit and the nature of self:

- At the highest peak of the Spirit (the higher nature) is integrity, honesty, justice, love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace, forgiveness and such like things.
- At the highest (perhaps lowest) peak of self (the lower nature) is oppressing and abusing others physically, financially, emotionally, verbally, sexually and spiritually for one's own selfish gain. This is because when self is fully ruling on the heart and mind as king the only important person in the world is self.

Clearly all of us have within us the nature of self and the nature of the Spirit and most of us at various times will function from the nature of both the self and the Spirit depending on circumstances, situations and self-control. Not one of us is able to live perfectly from the Spirit all of the time this is why though many can be classed as good law abiding and compassionate citizens we are still sinners before God because not one of us is able to attain to the perfection of the law (the Ten Commandments) demands or the perfection of God's Holiness.