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Sin and the Cure for It
I John 3:4-5

INTRO: Sin is a terrible thing. It is a blight upon humanity. When Adam fell and sinned into the Garden of Eden, the entire human race fell with him. The entire human race was plunged into sin and death (Rom 5:12; 6:23).

Sin effects all of us in some way. Sin adds to your troubles, subtracts from your energy, multiplies your difficulties, and divides your interests.

Sin manifests itself in:

1. Disobedience of God's commandments: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point is guilty of all" (James 2:10).
2. Pride- Psalm 12:4
Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips
are our own: who is lord over us?
3. Criticism- Luke 6:41
And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's
eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?
4. Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking- Eph
4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil
speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
5. Envy and strife- James 3:14
But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts,
glory not, and lie not against the truth.
6. Hypocrisy- Titus 1:16
They profess that they know God; but in works they deny
him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work
reprobate.

I. VS 4, WHAT IS SIN?

A. John tells us plainly what sin is: "Sin is the transgression of the law." The definition of sin that John gives is very clear, but note what he says in the first part of this verse: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law...." To break the law is sin.

1. Sin then is to trespass, to cross over the line, to cross the fence that God has put up, "to violate the commandments of God" (Vines 113).
 - a) When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:16-17), they disobeyed God; they trespassed. God had a posted sign there in the garden, and they ignored it and sin came into their lives and into ours (Rom 5:12).
 - b) When we disobey God, we sin.
2. The Bible says that "sin is the transgression of the law," and

whosoever transgresses the law sins. Who is that sins?

- a) Rom 3:23, "All have sinned....."
 - b) Rom 3:10, "There is none righteous...."
 - c) Ecc 7:20, "There is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."
 - d) Isa 53:6, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...."
 - e) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and call God a liar (I Jn 1:8, 10).
3. Disobedience is sin.
- a) Children are to obey parents; husbands are to love their wives; wives are to get under the protection of the husband. To refuse to follow God's chain of command is sin (I Cor 11:3).
 - b) For a saved person to refuse baptism is sin (Acts 2:41).
 - c) To refuse to tithe is sin (Mal 3:10).
4. Sin is knowing to do good and not doing it.
- a) James 4: 17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.
 - b) Sin is not just doing wrong; sin is failing to do good.
5. Anything that is not of faith is sin (Rom 14:23, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.") We need to live by faith (Heb 11:1).
6. Rebellion is sin.
- a) I Sam 15:23, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...."
 - b) To rebel against God given authority and God given boundaries is sin.
7. Sin is a separator– sin separates us from God (Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.)
- B. Sin's work– Sin is a robber:
1. Robs man of God's peace (Rom 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:)
 2. Robs man of fellowship with God as with Adam and Eve in the garden when they hid from God because of their sin (Gen 3:8).
 3. Robs man of his courage (Proverbs 28:1, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth....")
 4. Robs man of prosperity (Prov 28:13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper.....")
 5. Robs man of life (Rom 6:23, "The wages of sin.....")
 6. Robs man of glory (Rom 3:23, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.")
 7. Robs man of heaven (I Cor 6:9-10 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

II. VS 5, WHAT IS THE CURE FOR SIN?

A. Jesus “was manifested” to deal with sin. Many things can be said as to why Jesus Christ came to the earth, but the main reason for the incarnation was “to take away our sins.”

1. Before there was a world, before man was created, before there was sin, God in His sovereignty made provision for man to be saved from sin (I Pet 1:18-21).
2. John tells us Jesus came into the world “to take away our sins.”
 - a) Jesus left the Ivory Palaces of heaven “to take away our sins.”
 - b) He left the beautiful streets of gold “to take away our sins.”
 - c) Christ passed through the gates of pearl “to take away our sins.”
 - d) Jesus came “to take away our sins.” “Take away” is the Greek *airo* “to lift up and carry away.”
3. Jesus came to save sinners, to pay the sin debt, to deal with the sin question in the flesh doing what sinful man could not do because of the weakness of the flesh (Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
 - a) I Tim 1:15, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners....”
 - b) Luke 19:10, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - c) John 1:29, “Behold the Lamb of God....”
 - d) Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
 - e) I Peter 2:24, “Bare” or of the priest carrying the sacrifice up to the altar.
 - f) Galatians 1:4, “Who gave himself for our sins....”
 - g) I Peter 3:18 ¶ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
 - h) Heb 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
 - i) Matt 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
4. If Jesus had not been manifested, if He had never taken upon Himself the form of a man, no person could have been saved.
5. Every drop of blood shed in sacrifice from Eden to Calvary pointed to the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God (Heb 9:15).

B. “In him is no sin.”

1. No sin exists in Him.

2. He did not sin (I Pet 2:22).
3. Here we have the sinlessness of the remover of sins.

CONCLUSION: The sinless Son of God became sin for us that we might be righteous (II Cor 5:21).