

# What Is the Big Deal about Sin?

1 John 3:4

## Introduction:

- A. The prevailing attitude toward most sin: It is no big deal!
  - 1. One is caught lying, cheating, fornicating : What is the big deal?
  - 2. One wilfully disobeys a divine command: What is the big deal?
  - 3. One obviously neglects his duty as Christian: What is the big deal?
- B. The prevailing mood ignores sin's impact and trivializes its seriousness.

## Discussion:

### I. The Impact of Sin.

#### A. *On the Godhead.*

- 1. Grieves and provokes (Eph. 4:30; Ps. 95:10, 11; Lk. 13:34; 19:41).
- 2. Turns His ear away from us. (Isa. 59:1,2)

#### B. *On a nation.*

- 1. Reproaches it. (Prov. 14:34).
- 2. Can destroy it. (Cities of the plains).

#### C. *On the church.*

- 1. Leavening influence (1 Cor. 5:1-13)
- 2. Hinders like Achan's sin. (Josh. 7:1)

#### D. *On the sinner.*

- 1. Spiritual death — here and hereafter (Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 6:23; 7:9; Rev. 21:8)
- 2. Temporal consequences — even if forgiven (cf. Moses & rock; Physical, civil and social)

### II. The Trivialization of Sin.

#### A. *Because it is universal — “everybody does it.”*

- 1. True (Rom. 3:10; 23; 1 John 1:9, 10).
- 2. “Everybody” must pay — “Everybody” in Noah's day.
- 3. “Everybody” repent or perish (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

#### B. *By comparing sins — “no worse than...”*

- 1. Unwise measurement (2 Cor. 10:12)
- 2. “No worse than” is not necessarily so. (Cf. John 19:11).

#### C. *By Cheap repentance.*

- 1. By saying, “I repent” without godly sorrow. (2 Cor. 7:7-10; cf. Lk. 15:19, 21).
- 2. By saying, “I repent” without bringing forth fruits. (Matt. 3:8; Acts 26:20).
- 3. By saying, “I repent” without restitution (Lev. 6:2-5; Lk. 19:8).

#### D. *By Unconditional forgiveness.*

- 1. God's forgiveness (Lk. 23:34; Acts 2:38; 8:22).
- 2. Our forgiveness (Luke 17:3,4).
- 3. Difference in wanting to forgive and forgiving.

## Conclusion:

- A. Sin is a “big deal” for everyone concerned.
- B. Forgiveness of sin spares us all eternal consequences of sin — only some temporal.