

1. Where do we start when thinking about sin?

- A. Before we *define* sin, and respond to it in ourselves and others, we need to pursue God's vantage point of it.
- B. God's *reaction* to sin is wrath, holy anger, but His *response* is SACRIFICIAL LOVE

2. What does it mean that "I am a sinner"?

- A. We can't reduce sin to just the wrong things we do.
- B. Sin is also about who I am.
 - 1) At the core of my being, I am created in the image of God.
 - 2) So the fact that I'm sinful isn't just about things I do. It's corruption and pollution at the most core place of what makes me, me.

3. What's the point of confessing sin?

- A. James 5:16 "*Confess* your sins to one another, that you may be *healed*."
- B. Depends on your relationship toward God.
 - 1) Rebellion:
 - a) Nature = bad (Ephesians 2:3)
 - b) Responsibility = to whoever has the most power
 - c) Confession = to feel better
 - 2) Redeemed:
 - a) Nature = good (2 Corinthians 2:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17 Romans 5:19, Colossians 3:1-3)
 - b) Responsibility = to the one who has shown the most love
 - c) Confession = transformation
- C. These two economies are on opposite ends of the spectrum
- D. Huge problem in the church: when the Redeemed operate in the Rebellion Economy
 - 1) I want Jesus to lay down His rights to save me, but I don't want lay down my "rights" to battle sin.
 - 2) We confess to feel better rather than to transform.
 - 3) Biggest way this shows up is demanding complete confidentiality and resenting any kind of follow up or accountability
 - a) Rather than "whatever it takes to transform"
 - b) End up getting angry at those "hypocrites at *that* church" and bounce around until they eventually conclude that Jesus is a sham.
 - 4) Ya, but: Note to self: "Don't EVER share anything with anybody at this church! They're going to tell everyone!"

4. How do I relate to the Rebellious?

- A. I've got to ask, "Where is my heart toward someone who doesn't know Jesus?"
- B. Is it ok to get angry at the evil and sin we see in the world? There is a difference between *reaction* and *response*
- C. Is it ok to confront the evils in the world?
 - 1) Yes, BUT: "Don't confront unless you're willing to commit."
 - 2) Matthew 23:1-4 "Jewish religious leaders burden people with the call to righteousness but don't lift a finger to help them."
 - 3) Religious people complain about sin.
 - 4) Christ-like people speak truth about sin but offer the solution.

5. How do I relate to the Redeemed?

- A. Sacrificial love that pursues transformation
 - 1) "I love you too much to let you settle for 'feeling better'."
 - 2) "I sacrifice my comfort for your transformation."
- B. Transformation:
 - 1) Won't feel good.
 - 2) Won't make sense.
 - 3) Will ALWAYS seem like a bad idea to you.
- C. Individual sins are the result of inward brokenness.
 - 1) **Halt the behavior.**
 - 2) **Heal the inward.**

Takeaways

- 1. For Me: Discipleship—someone who is willing love you enough that they will seek your transformation over your comfort, convenience or reputation.
- 2. Toward Others:
 - 1. Will you *react* or *respond*?
 - 2. Do you love Jesus enough to sacrifice for their transformation?
 - 3. Don't confront unless you're willing to commit.