

SIN OUR DEADLY FOE

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"Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7&8.

A very sad truth today is that millions are closing their eyes to a deadly virus that is running rampant among men. Its universal presence is everywhere, and all mankind is affected, even if they ignore its presence. It is first mentioned in the Bible when Adam and Eve sinned against God. Throughout the Bible the effect of sin on all mankind is clearly pictured. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* Rom. 3:23. The word all in the verse includes us all and *"The wages of sin is death"* Rom. 6:23a makes the outcome clear. The curse of sin is a deadly foe to all living creatures, and faith in the finished work of Christ is the only cure. In this sermon I want to give 8 warnings to Christians as to what sin can still do. As long as we dwell on earth, Satan will use sin not only to damn souls to hell, but to hinder all believers day by day. Even though we are forgiven of past sins, present reality shows we are still capable of sinning. **(1). Sin Brings Chastisement:** *"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou are rebuked of him; For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."* Heb. 12: 5b and 6. In Prov. 3:11 it urges *"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction."* Our Heavenly Father grieves, when we foolishly fail to walk in obedience to His leadership. It is like an earthly father and son relationship. When Dad sees his son doing wrong he had better correct him, and urge him back to the path of

obedience. God's correction will not be enjoyed but is necessary to curb rebellion. If you had Godly parents they corrected you and our Heavenly Father will do the same. **(2). Sin Can Cause Sickness:** *"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."* I Cor. 11:30. This verse warns communion takers that God will deal with sin hidden in their lives. The sin of smoking, drinking, using drugs and acts of immorality, all will bring judgment on any foolish soul. You cannot hide from God in the darkness of your rebellion. *"Be sure your sin will find you out."* Num. 32:23. Sins of the mind and body plus bad actions and attitudes toward others will affect your health, and well being. **(3). Sin Can Cause Early Death:** Remember *"For the wages of sin is death."* Rom. 6:23a. As one continues in sin, making excuse, the noose tightens and the anger of God increases. Your testimony is shattered and your reputation nears mutiny from God. Often such a person will leave the church and even act against it. History contains many cases of so called believers that became such a thorn in the flesh of their church, that God removed them. The Bible is filled with such rebellion that God judged with death, both individuals and whole nations. You better confess sin while it is small, for the longer you participate the more serious the outcome will be. **(4). Sin Hurts Your Children:** *"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me."* Exodus 20:5. Parents need to know that you are the first teachers of your children. From their early days they will pattern after your actions. The things that will make their lives worthwhile, you will have to teach them. Your daily words and actions become especially vital to your teens. They know how you spend your time and the friends you keep. They know if you have a true love for your church and

what you say about your pastor. Young people are our biggest critics, and our corrections and encouragements all fit in to their developing lives. They spot loyalty between mom and dad and genuine spirituality, and also spot family squabbles and inconsistency. If you care for your kids then take care of your life. **(5). Sin Causes A Loss Of Fellowship:** *"Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."* Psm. 51: 10-12. Some of the most miserable people I have met in my long ministry, are believers that don't walk the walk and talk the talk. You know if your heart is not right with God. Excuses are easy to come by, but hard to out live. Ones daily fellowship can be badly affected by unconfessed or hidden sin. Your prayer life will become a chore and daily service a task not enjoyed. If you and your husband have had a spat, nothing will be normal until you make up and get back to loving one another. If God seems distant to you He may be. You have shut Him out by the sins yet unconfessed. Outside on a cold day nothing feels better than getting in the sun. Your cooled off relationship with the Lord will quickly warm by seeking the presence of His Son. **(6). Sin Hinders Our Prayers:** *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."* Psa. 66:18. You have often heard this in church sermons, yet it is so easy to ignore. Electrical connections must be clean in order to properly carry current. Our lives, with every action, are the instruments of delivery of the power of God. We can carry His power to others, if we do not short circuit it by our transgressions. Let me ask you how long has it been since you saw a great answer to your prayers. Have they become mechanical and unproductive? Dear believer, go looking for sin in your life. Clear out the worldly leanings and listenings and spot your inconsistencies.

Praying can be a thrill again when your life totally pleases God. We are urged to *"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."* James 4:8. Notice the ball is in our court, the choice of close fellowship is ours. God wants always to snuggle with us if we will allow Him. Lets clean up, and get prayed up, and see the Lord use us in a new powerful way. **(7). Sin Causes Others To Perish:** *"Be sure your sin will find you out."* Num. 32:23b. The life of David was such proof. He lustfully sinned with Bathsheba, and he sent her husband Uriah to his death. Then the child dies and God uses the prophet Nathan to expose it all. Sin and deception on our part will always hurt and bring great tragedy to others. Many a bitter family fight has pushed a family member into hell. Immorality of any kind, unconfessed and uncorrected can so harden others, even until they perish. We are not alone in this world but are being watched closely. We believers must be sure nothing in our past has driven others away from God. **(8). Sin Results in Loss At The Judgment:** *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* II Cor. 5:10. *"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."* I Cor 3:13. What form this loss will take is in the hands of God. A believers salvation is sure because of the finished work of Christ. How we honestly lived our life, and the loss or gain of rewards, is yet to be experienced by all men. We believers will definitely face the quality and achievements of our service, as soldiers of the cross. Dear believer, now that you know what sin can still do to you, and others because of your failures I hope you will right any wrongs and walk faithfully, close to God.