

Too many are ignorant of what constitutes sin or how bad sin is. The apostle Paul gives several lists of things that God considers indictments of man's sinful behavior:

**Romans 1:25-32** -- *For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie... burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts... being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10** -- *Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Galatians 5:19-21** -- *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissension, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Further, it is not just the immoral acts that God considers sin. First, there is immoral thinking that is also sin. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus taught that for the one who lusts, it is the same as adultery, and to the one who hates his brother, to him it is the same as murder. There is also the lack of obedience to God's law that is equated as sin.

**James 4:17** -- *Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

**John 3:36** -- *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides in him.*

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-8** -- *...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

**2. Changing from Worldly Living.** Many believe that if they just call upon God He will send some sort of Spirit to change them into good people. To the contrary, the Scriptures demand that one must first make a decision to stop doing the wrong things and then start doing the right things. In God's word this is known as "repentance."

**Luke 13:3,5** -- *Unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*

**Acts 17:30** -- *Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.*

**Acts 26:20** -- *But [Paul] kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then through all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.*

**3. Making a Profession of Faith.** Most versions of the Bible retain the confession of the Ethiopian treasurer in Acts 8:37 and Paul writes of the confession that one must make in order to be saved (Romans 10:9-10). However, confession is more than just a one-time thing - *it is a profession.*

**Matthew 10:32-33** -- *Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.*

**4. Being Immersed in Water for the Forgiveness of Sin.** All sorts of excuses have been given as to why one does not have to be baptized, but if it were that unnecessary, why does the Bible even bring it up? Why did all those who were converted without exception, believe they had to do it? Get out the concordance and see for yourself what the Scriptures have to say about what the act of baptism does. It is in water (Acts 8:36; 10:47); it was a burial (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12); it washed away sin (Act 22:16); and through it one received the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). It is said to save one (1 Peter 3:21). Since the blood of Christ is said to do most of these same things, it must be through the act of immersion in water that one comes in contact with the blood (Romans 6:3-4).

**5. Remaining Obedient to God.** In order to get pure before God, one must constantly study and be obedient to God's word (1 Peter 1:13-23), and must walk in the light, to have Jesus' blood continue to cleanse his soul (1 John 1:7). They must also seek to be pleasing to God (Ephesians 5:8-10).