

Why Do We Sin?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. What is sin? - 1John 3:4; James 4:17; 2John 9
- B. What are sin's effects? - Matt. 7:21-23; Isa. 59:2; 2Thes. 3:6
- C. Who commits sin?
 - 1. All, including Christians; but they must not practice sin.
 - 2. 1John 1:7-10, 3:8-10
- D. Since sin is so invidious, why do we sin?

I. WE DO NOT HAVE TO SIN

- A. Some believe that we sin because we have no choice - Joshua 24:15
- B. God did not create us with a propensity for sin that cannot be overcome.
 - 1. Gen. 1:26, 2:15-17, 3:1-6
- C. Neither did God arrange for the inheritance of the Adamic sin to pass upon all people so they are sinners by an unalterable nature.
 - 1. Ez. 18:10-18, 20; Gen. 3:16-19; Rom. 5:19
- D. Notice the expression "were by nature the children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3).
 - 1. "Nature" is derived from the Greek physis, which can mean habit or long practice (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, pg. 660).

II. SOME SIN THROUGH IGNORANCE

- A. Ignorance, not knowing God's word, is a common cause of sin.
 - 1. Acts 17:23, 30-31
- B. Saul - Acts 26:9, 23:1; 1Tim. 1:13-15, Acts 22:16

III. SOME SIN DELIBERATELY

- A. John 3:19-21
- B. Some sin willfully - Heb. 10:26
- C. Some are also willfully ignorant - 2Peter 3:5
- D. Some sin presumptuously - Num. 15:30
- E. Some entertain sin, permitting themselves to indulge in it.
 - 1. James 1:13-16; Matt. 5:28

IV. SPECIFIC REASONS FOR SIN

- A. We often sin because we want to - James 1:14-15
- B. We are not watchful - Prov. 22:3; Gal. 6:1
- C. We do not develop self-control - 1Cor. 9:27
- D. By being a partaker of other's sins - 1Tim. 5:22
- E. We do not control our thoughts - Prov. 15:26, 24:9; Phil. 4:8
- F. We do not resist the devil - James 4:7
- G. We do not have the word hidden in our hearts - Psalm 119:11
- H. Because of selfishness - Luke 15:12, 17

V. AS MEN DO NOT HAVE TO SIN, THEY ARE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SIN

- A. Our responsibility and guilt in the scriptures - Rom. 2:6-9; 2Thes. 1:6-9
- B. God has given us a book which we can readily understand - Eph. 3:4
- C. By trusting in the word, we are enabled to resist sin - Matt. 4:1-11

Conclusion:

- A. Why do we sin? Because we want to - Heb. 3:13
- B. Even with sins of ignorance, one has chosen not to know - Rom. 1:28
- C. Our goal should be to "sin not" - 1John 2:1-2