

What is the Difference Between
a Sin and an Abomination?

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- The biggest difference is in the matter of degree.
- All abominations are sins, but not every single sin, (some of which are unintentional), rises to the level of being an abomination.
- Committing abominations elicits much stronger anger, fiercer judgments, and more striking punishments from the Almighty than are seen for other forms of sin.
- While it is true that all sins (including unintentional or inadvertent sins) will be punished, abominations appear to increase the wrath of God against the perpetrator.

What Is Sin?

- Something is sin when God calls it sin.
 - Sin is anything that transgresses; anything that misses the mark, that violates God's laws, commandments, instructions, or His expressed desires.
 - 1John 3:4 - “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”
 - Hosea 8:1 - “Set the trumpet to your mouth! He shall come like an eagle against the house of the LORD, Because they have transgressed My covenant And rebelled against My law.”
 - Daniel 9:11 - “Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.”

What Is Sin?

- Hebrew: (Hebrew Strong's #02398) CHATA - "To miss; to sin; lead astray, bear the blame, fault, harm one has done, loss, offend, trespass" - Isa. 5:20-24
- Hebrew: (Hebrew Strong's #06588) PESHA - "To be destitute of the law; illegality; iniquity; to break, transgress or walk in violation of the law" - Gen. 31:36
- Greek: HARMATIA (Greek Strong's #266) "To miss the mark, to err especially morally, to sin, offend, trespass" - Rom. 3:23, 6:23
- Greek: another word for sin is ANOMIA, (Greek Strong's # 458-459) "lawlessness, iniquity" - 1John 3:4

What Is Sin?

- Therefore, sin is:
 - The condition of being without law,
 - The condition of being ignorant of the law,
 - Violating or breaking the law,
 - Having contempt for the law.

What Is An Abomination?

- The Bible has 72 verses containing things that God considers an abomination.
- “An abomination in the Biblical sense is an attitude, behavior, or lifestyle that is particularly evil and detestable in the sight of God. In fact, abominations are considered by God to be so detestable that in order for God to maintain true righteousness, they incur His wrath and violent punishment. Abominations are attitudes, behaviors, or lifestyles that are so evil and detestable in the sight of God that they incite Him to great anger.” *(Michael Lankford)*

What Is An Abomination?

- God is loving, kind, long-suffering, and merciful.
 - Ex. 34:6-7 - “And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.”
 - Psalm 86:15 - “You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.”

What Is An Abomination?

- Psalm 103:1-8 - “Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.”

What Is An Abomination?

- 1John 4:7-10 - “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

What Is An Abomination?

- He does not show this level of fierce anger very often, which is a good thing, because when He does, people die.
- When God says that He detests any attitude or behavior to the degree that He calls it an abomination, we must take special notice.
- This is not to suggest that other sins do not incur His anger or merit punishment, but rather abominations make Him especially angry.
- We can reason that the more angry He becomes, the less likely He will be to extend mercy to the violator.
- While a sin of ignorance or inadvertence may receive mercy, an abomination will not.

What Sins Rise To The Level Of Abomination?

- The sin of the world before the flood - Gen. 6:5-7
- The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah - Gen. 19:13, 24-25
- The golden calf - Ex. 32:7-10 - 3000 people died and the Lord plagued them

What Sins Rise To The Level Of Abomination?

- General forms of abominations:
 - Any form of idolatry,
 - Any sinful form of pride and greed,
 - Any form of lust and sexual immorality,
 - Anything that violates good and decent relationships between people,
 - Any form of dishonesty or lying.

What Sins Rise To The Level Of Abomination?

- A few specific examples:
 - A false witness - Prov. 6:19
 - A sower of division - Prov. 6:19
 - Deliberate wickedness - Prov. 8:7
 - A false measurement - Prov. 11:1
 - Sacrifices offered by the wicked - Prov. 15:8, 21:27
 - The lifestyles of the persistently wicked - Prov. 15:9
 - The schemes of the wicked - Prov. 15:26
 - The arrogant - Prov. 16:5
 - Attempts to justify sin - Prov. 17:15
 - Condemning the righteous - Prov. 17:15)
 - The prayers of those who reject the truth - Prov. 28:9
 - Corrupt civil leaders - Prov. 16:12

God Wills That Even The Abominable Repent

- God does not take any pleasure in the destruction of the wicked
 - Ez. 18:23 - “Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?’ says the Lord GOD, ‘and not that he should turn from his ways and live?’”
 - Ez. 33:11 - “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’”

God Wills That Even The Abominable Repent

- His desire is always that they would repent, turn away from wickedness, and walk uprightly, so that they will be forgiven and saved
 - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
 - 1Tim. 2:4 - “Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”
 - Acts 26:18 - “To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me”

What is the Difference Between a Sin and an Abomination?

- However, when sinners refuse to turn away from wickedness, they will eventually suffer the consequences of those foolish choices.
- The answer to any sin is to repent and appeal for forgiveness on God's terms.
- The time to do that is before one becomes embedded in the sin to the point that they become reprobate, unable to be reached by the word.