

The Office of the Keys and Confession



There are three topics we will cover. They are and in order:

- Sin.
- Confession
- Office of the Keys.

Sin

What is sin?

The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. – Romans 5: 20-21

This verse introduces two forces that are at work in our lives. They are ___sin___ and God's ___grace___.

1 John 3:4 says ___Everyone___ who sins breaks the law: in fact sin is lawlessness.

What is sin? Sin is every ___thought or action___ and which is contrary to God's law.

The Bible uses various words to describe sin. Read each verse and determine which sin word is used and its meaning:

a. ___transgression___ (Crossing the line defiantly)

Psalm 51:3 - For I know my *transgressions*, and my sin is always before me.

b. ___lawlessness___ (At odds with God's law)

1 John 3:4 - Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is *lawlessness*.

c. ___wickedness___ and evil

Genesis 6:5 - The Lord saw how great man's *wickedness* on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

The Bible describes various ways we sin.

Matthew 19:18 – "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "*Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,*

In other words ... "God says ___don't___ but we do anyway.

We commit these sins, so they are called sins of ___commission___

And we also sin by ...

James 4:17 - Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and *doesn't do it*, sins.

In other words ... "God says ___do___ but we don't do."

We omit doing what God wants so these are called sins of ___omission___.

Now read these verses:

Mark 7:21-23 - ²¹For from within, **out of men's hearts**, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come **from inside** and make a man 'unclean.'"

According to these verses, sin always beings in the

___ heart (mind) ____.

Because we are so sinful we may not always realize the sin we commit.

Psalm 19:12-13a. - ¹² Who can discern his errors? Forgive **my hidden faults.** ¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

By the way, many people say “it isn’t a sin if I didn’t know what I was doing (or not doing) ...” What do you think?

Look up **Leviticus 5:17** for more help in answering this question.

Even if we don’t know that something is wrong (sin) it still is wrong

The Bible describes *sin's* effect on us in various ways. Look up the Bible passages and fill in what sin does to us.

SIN ___totally___ corrupts us.

Genesis 8:21-

SIN makes us ___worthless____.

Romans 3:10-12

SIN ___enslaves___ us.

John 8:34

SIN makes us spiritually ___dead____.

Ephesians 2:1

SIN makes us ___enemies___ to God.

Romans 8:7

next column.

1. Be specific in explaining the thoughts of the writer.
2. THINK about what he is saying.
3. What is the imagery that he is painting.
4. Why does that picture fit with not confessing our sins?

What Does God Say?	What Does This Mean?
Genesis 4:6-8 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed	Sin caused Cain to hate and then kill his brother.
Psalm 32:3 "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long."	When I don't confess its drains me of energy, enthusiasm all day long.
V. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;	Not confessing wrong is like a weight on my conscience
V. 4 my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.	A guilty conscience robs a person of desire to do anything



Take a Closer Look

What

impact does sin have on our lives – spiritually, emotionally, and relationally – when we don’t confess our sins to God? Fill in the chart in the

What Does God Say?	What Does This Mean?
Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.	God will not answer the prayers of one who doesn't confess their sin
1 John 1:10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.	Not confessing sin makes God seem like a liar since he says its seriously dangerous not to

What is the office of the keys?

"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:22-23

Who are repentant sinners?

The office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins (announce absolution) of repentant sinners but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent (confession).

Repentant sinners are those who are sorry for their sins (___ confess ___) and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior (___ faith ___).

The Office of the Keys is a special God-given way of applying the Gospel (forgiveness of sins), through His Church, to you in four ways.

1. The spoken word (Preaching)
2. Baptism
3. Holy Communion
4. Confession and absolution

For Review:

1. Work through this packet
2. Know the various sin words and what they mean
3. Know the 4 ways God gives us the Gospel of forgiveness
4. Memorize

THE KEYS

First: *What is the use of the Keys?*

The use of the Keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners but refuse forgiveness to the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

The holy evangelist John writes in chapter 20, "[Jesus] breathed on [his disciples] and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'"

