



Sin Tax 1: Introduction “Death”

Sin Tax Defined- Legislators sometimes attempt to raise government revenues by imposing something called a sin tax. This tax would be levied on such things as cigarettes, alcohol, gambling, and so on.. To raise funds for tight government budgets, legislators sometimes attempt to charge unusually high excise taxes. The Sin tax appeals to certain voters because they believe that it may very well be a deterrent to the consumption of products that they deem to be objectionable.

There is a principle here that I want you to see. There is a spiritual cost to sin as well. A price so steep that it far outweighs the small percentage charged for these objectionable purchases and behaviors. We know that the real price of sin is Death.

*****Romans 6:20-23**

²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

²¹Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.

²²But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***(Cue Video of “I Am Sin” Death Igniter media here)

The reality that we must consider is that sin is a cruel master. But often we live our lives as if there is no price to pay, no tax being levied, no cost to us or anyone around us.

*****Approaches to Sin** (that we need to recognize)

*****1. Blow it Off’s** (Greasy Grace) - The diluted "gospel" of the 20th century has its roots in that period of church history known as the "Protestant Reformation." We owe much to the great Reformers, Luther, Calvin, and others, but they did not have a clear understanding of the Bible as "marching orders from King Jesus," or as "blueprints" for all of life. They mixed and matched according to the politics of the day. For most Christians today, the Bible is a manual of "theology" – a story, a theory, a relative guide-book. Some people and even some doctrines are being taught that have resorted to watering down the reality of sin to where they are now considered “mistakes” “bad decisions” and “mis-teps.” Many sincere religious people do not understand (and are not being instructed) that sin is the transgression of God's law.

J. Lee Grady, the editor of Charisma Magazine, in an article concerning the public “disciplinary” process that we employ with so many fallen ministers said this,

*****"Many of us have rejected biblical discipline and adopted a sweet, spineless love that cannot correct."**

The truth is that the Greasy Grace syndrome creates those that "blow off sin" because the consequences are minimal.

*****2. The Work it Off's** (works)

In the realm of religion, there are organizations that find their worthiness in works and you may even find them going from door to door hoping to make it to Heaven on their own merits and deeds. Almost as if the Christian life is just a trade off with Jesus. If I do three things right, then you Lord, will excuse the sins I've committed. Ex) How many times have we corrected our kids for something and before you can lower the boom of punishment, you find their room immaculately clean. Kind of the same concept, if I do something good, then the punishment will be less.

*****Ephesians 2:8, 9**

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

*****3. The Keep it Off's** (Legalism) Almost see sin as a diet regimen. There is a list of things that we just don't partake of and that keeps us Holy and fit.

Ex) My Grandmother and the fishing story

Commentary on Story: You see, legalism will cause us to cover over sin and sometimes be in total denial. If we deviate from the list, if we admit that we've sinned, than we are not Holy and fit for the Kingdom. It disqualifies us for eternity. There's one very important thing missing from this equation though, Calvary. Jesus died in order to pay our ransom and we need to receive His mercy and extend it to others for those times when we fall. But if we never admit there is a need for His grace, surely, we have already received our reward. We have become "List keepers" and that list becomes our compass for living.

We may even see in this approach if sin has not been totally denied than we at least categorize one or the other of the sins we've committed as not quite as bad as another's.

Exercise:

Question-When I say the Word "Sin", what types of sins come to mind? **Common Answers-** adultery, murder, lying, cheating, drug/alcohol abuse.

But How about...abortion, astrology, unjustified anger, not acknowledging God, being ashamed of God, accusation, anxiousness, arguing, and arrogance. AND THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE A's! It's not that one sin is more terrible than another, but rather that any sin we don't repent of will result in death. As a matter of fact **Gossip** ranks right up there with **Gluttony** and **Backbiting** ranks right up there with **Boasting**.

Did you know that the word “murder” is used only 20 times in the New American Standard Bible and there is only one way to sin in the way of murder and that is to kill someone, but the sins of the tongue are numerous, mentioned many more times across the bible and there are many different ways to sin with the tongue:

The Lying Tongue, The Flattering Tongue, The Proud Tongue, The Overused Tongue, The Swift Tongue, The Backbiting Tongue, The Tale-bearing Tongue, The Cursing Tongue, The Piercing Tongue, and The Silent Tongue.

The Purpose of this sermon series is to find the balance between awareness of Sin and its impact on our lives and walking in the Grace that Jesus gave us as a free gift. Sometimes, it helps to just go back to the beginning and study how it all began. That’s why today’s teaching is called Sin Tax- “Origins.”

*****Origins:**

Genesis 3:1-6

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?”

²The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

³but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”

*******⁴The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!

⁵“For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, **she took from its fruit and ate;** and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

*****1. When Sin enters and Nothing is the Same.**

Sin enters in certain pivotal moments and it changes everything.

Ex) My brother’s car accident when in a pivotal moment, he decided to take a short cut leaving church last Sunday.

In Genesis 2, things are going great, but a pivotal moment comes along—and nothing is ever the same again. The serpent brings about the pivotal decision by slyly getting the man and the woman to sin. When the woman doubts God's command concerning the tree, it shows us how sin creeps into our lives when we doubt God's Word. When the woman exaggerates God's command concerning the tree, it shows us how sin creeps into our lives when we distort God's Word. In the end, Eve chooses to believe the serpent's lie, taking it more seriously than God's warning. But the point of Genesis 3 is not to show the **how** of sin or the **why** of sin as much as the **what** of sin—its consequences.

*****Genesis 3:7**

⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

*****2. Sin Steals our Innocence.**

Ex) story of us as kids coming down from the bath and standing on the back porch to see whose car pulled up.

Previously in Genesis 2:25, we see that Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed, but not anymore.

After they ate of the fruit, Adam and Eve gained enough understanding to see they were sinful, and they began to look at themselves differently.

This distorts their perception, their judgment. Even good things suddenly become suspect.

*****Genesis 3:8-10**

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”

*****3. Sin Ruins our Intimacy with God**

Daily life in the Garden apparently was made up of time with God.

Because of the sin of the man and the woman, they feel only fear toward God, where before they had wanted to be with God.

*****Isaiah 59:2 says,**

**² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.**

The great fall of sin wrecks our intimacy, and that's when we start lying to the God who knows everything.

*****Genesis 3:11-14**

¹¹And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
 “Because you have done this,
 Cursed are you more than all cattle,
 And more than every beast of the field;
 On your belly you will go,
 And dust you will eat
 All the days of your life;

*****4. Sin Ruins our Relationships**

Notice how the unwillingness to take responsibility starts right away for the man and the woman. Finger pointing is immediate. Adam burst into poetry when he first saw Eve. Now, because of their sin, Adam speaks negatively about "this woman you put here with me." Because of this, God curses the snake, and then he curses the man and the woman. Because of the curse and its consequences, the woman's sinful inclination will be to grasp and crave what God has given to the husband, and the man will want to dominate and trample over his wife.

*****Genesis 3:16-24**

¹⁶ To the woman He said,
 “I will greatly multiply
 Your pain in childbirth,
 In pain you will bring forth children;
 Yet your desire will be for your husband,
 And he will rule over you.”

¹⁷Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you;

In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

¹⁸ “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
 And you will eat the plants of the field;

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face You will eat bread,
 Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken;
 For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

²⁰Now the man called his wife’s name ^oEve, because she was the mother of all *the* living.

²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

²²Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—

²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

²⁴So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

*****5. Sin Ruins our enjoyment of God’s Gifts**

The woman will now suffer in her role as child bearer.

The man will now suffer in his role as provider.

The woman and man are driven from the Garden, their place of delight.

*****Genesis 3:15**

¹⁵ **And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel.”**

*****6. Sin has a tax but Jesus has come.**

As you can see, sin is costly. What a depressing thought! But God shines a little truth into the dismal, wretched scene of Genesis 3.

In verse 15, God offers what the earliest church scholars called this the **proto evangelium**—the first gospel word.

It's a word from God that says: Yeah, Satan, sin is in. You have brought it into this world as part of your plan. But there's another plan at work, and it's mine—and it's going to prevail. There's a Messiah coming. You're going to strike him in the heel. But I've got news for you, Satan. He's going to crush your head, and the ballgame will be over.

Conclusionary Statement:

The message of this verse is that sin is costly, but Christ is coming. Sin has a price; but Jesus paid it all. Adam has fallen, but Christ is on the horizon. There is a tax for Sin, but Jesus has paid it.