

Sin is Death, Jesus is Life

Lewis Kleiner

Sin is death

Following sin always leads to death: it always has, it always will, it cannot work any other way...even 'little pet sins' have rabies.

As a Curse to Adam and Eve...

19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

-Genesis 3:19

As a Consequence to Great Kings...

-2 Samuel 11...David and Bathsheba

According to Jesus...

1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

-Luke 13:1-5

If you sin, death is the paycheck...

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.

-Romans 6:20-23

In the life of a believer, unchecked sin can drag us away...

14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

-James 1:14-15

...and deal disastrous damage to the body of Christ...

9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually

immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

-1 Corinthians 5:9-11

What we know to far:

By verdict [God's right judgment] or by virtue [because of what it is] sin leads to death, and this is how sin kills...

Sin tells a continual lie about being fulfilling: Our unsatisfied spirit that doesn't listen to God allows us to swallow the lie that sin leads to life:

The lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall...Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave....Proverbs 5:3-5

Sometimes sin looks like the legitimate best option! Proverbs 16 says that even what seems right in human eyes can lead to death...

How long would you wait in a restaurant if the waiter kept promising your food would come? Two hours? Three hours? Three days? Sin leads to spiritual starvation.

Sin has an insatiable appetite: Sin is never satisfied because it is never satisfying; we become caught in a cycle of sin...

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.
-Ephesians 4:17-19

3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.
-1 Peter 4:3-4

Sin's roots run into our hearts. Because we have a sinful nature, we cannot escape sin in our own natural world.

"And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
-Genesis 6:5,

Jeremiah 17:9, Psalm 51:5, Matthew 15:17-20

We will never value being rescued by Christ if we don't see sin for what it is: a literal death sentence of the soul.

Jesus is Life

Following Jesus always leads to life and resurrection from the dead: it always has, it always will, he doesn't work any other way...our good behavior is not life, Jesus is life.

Jesus tells the continual truth that he is life: A submissive spirit believes these words and follows, and finds authentic life.

I am the way, the truth and the life" ...John 14:6

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ...John 11:25-26

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full...John 10:10

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life...John 3:16

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace...Romans 8:6

Jesus doesn't just bring us to life, he actually fills us as we look to him:

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority...Colossians 2:9

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty...John 6:35

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."...John 4:13-14

Jesus doesn't just revive & fill us, he renews our damaged hearts through his Spirit: The roots of sin can be uprooted and replaced with the love of the Father.

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us" ...Romans 5:5

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...Ephesians 3:16-18

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed...1 Peter 2:24

You could be a teenage girl or a 40 something business man: If sin has you trapped in a death grip...

-Examine yourself (Psalm 139:23, 2 Cor. 13:5)

-humble yourself (1 Peter 5:5-6) and cry out to the lord [Psalm 107]

-and confess your sins to one another (James 5:16). look to a pastor, a trusted mentor, a small group leader, or a godly peer: Jesus never intended us to do Christianity alone, and nothing is so filthy that Christ cannot wipe it off of a truly repentant heart.