How Sin Works

Ken Chapman · James 4:7–10

INTRODUCTION

- We have far more in common than that which distinguishes us.
- If we know how it works, then maybe we can stop it, prevent it, or cure it.
- If we can do the same or similar research and figure out how sin works, then I'll be better equipped to know how I can deal with it.

1 Sin Is Filthy

James 4:8; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 3:21

- Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- The first thing we need to understand about sin is the horror of sin and just how filthy and disgusting and contaminating it is.
- Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- The challenge for you and I, living in this not only sin pervasive society, but sin embracing society, is for us to see sin for what it really is.
- We have to first understand just how serious this sin problem is before we ever get serious about addressing it.

2 My Sin Begins With Myself

James 1:13–15; James 4:7

- When it comes to sin in my personal life, James says it begins with me.
- Each one is tempted. When he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
- James doesn't say the devil made you do it. James says, you're drawn away by your own lust.
- The devil has no power against you unless you're a willing participant in that temptation and that sin.
- It's time for me to take personal ownership and personal responsibility.

3 Sin Works in Many Different Ways

James 2:8–11; James 4:17; Galatians 6:1

- We need to understand that sin works in many different ways.
- It's going to be different for you than it is for me. Because your desires are not my desires.
- For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.
- Every sin is different. But yet every sin's the same. Because it separates me from God.
- To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.
- The irony of irony is that in going to restore that thief, I've become a sinner myself.

4 Sin Ends in Death

James 1:14–15

- And sin when it is full grown brings forth death. Don't ever forget where this pathway ends.
- Those that have chosen the broader path chose that because they're looking at the path.
- Those that are on the narrow path have chosen it because they're looking at the destination.
- When you're dealing with sin, and you're thinking about how sin works in your life, look up and see where it's leading.

THE CHALLENGE

Why won't I do everything that I can to avoid it, to eradicate it, and to have it removed from my life. That's how sin works. The research has been done. It's now up to us to deal with it.

MY NOTES