

5. Why does sin break our relationship with God? (Consider Romans 1:21-24 in your answer.)

Romans 1: ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts...

6. Many people we know believe that people are basically good. In what ways can you agree and disagree with that idea?

7. How does the doctrine of sin help you better understand yourself and our world?

Room of Marvels
(A Series on Foundational Bible Doctrines)

“The Serpent Key: The Doctrine of Sin”

Genesis 3:1-7

Every day we’re immersed in powerfully told stories, captivating images, and pervasive messages that _____ us into looking at our world apart from what God has revealed to us in Scripture.

It’s as if we’re falling under a spell where God becomes increasing irrelevant in our lives. Our beliefs become increasing unbelievable. And we walk away from our faith in our minds and our hearts, and sometimes with our _____.

What if the world is wrong, and this is _____ all there is?

If the world is wrong, but we’re falling under its “spell,” we need to be reminded of and more deeply comprehend the foundational teachings of our faith. When we do, we will be captivated by their immense beauty, goodness, and _____.

What is essential to know about sin?

1. The _____ and Nature of Sin

- There is a rebellious spiritual being (and his minions) that _____ the King.
- At the heart of all temptation is doubting the _____ and love of God.
- At the heart of all sin is rebellion against the King’s rule, distrust of the King, and a distortion and enthronement of the self and _____.
- Our problem may have begun with a serpent, but now we also contend with the world and the _____.

Ephesians 2: ¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed **the ways of this world** and **[the ways] of the ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying **the cravings of our flesh** and following its desires and thoughts.

2. The _____ of Sin

"Adam's sin messed up everything. Not only for him, but for you too." (Emblems)

Romans 5: ¹² ...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

We're sinners because we sin, but we also sin because we're _____.

Romans 5: ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

If you think it's unfair to be infected by Adam's sin from birth, do you feel the same way about being _____ with Christ's righteousness at your new birth?

3. The _____ of Sin

- Sin _____ the world.

Romans 1:19-21

Sin brought decay; God is bringing _____.

- Sin _____ humanity.

Genesis 3:8-10

Genesis 3:11-18

Genesis 4:5-8

- Sin _____ your Relationship with the King.

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²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts...

4. The _____ to Sin

Genesis 3:14-15

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Describe how, during this last week, the world, your flesh, or the devil tried to convince you that this world is all there is?

3. Read Genesis 3:1-7. How would you describe the nature of this temptation in the Garden to an educated 13-year-old?

4. If the devil could convince you that sin is all about breaking God's rules, it would be a brilliant move and decisive win on his part. Why?