

**Questions to Consider:**

- 4** Ezek. 18:20
- Even in the Old Test. the penalty for sin was death? T F
- Heb. 9:22
- This penalty of death requires blood as payment for the my transgression. T F
- Romans 3:23
- Have you sinned and come short of glorifying God? Yes No
  - Because of your sin, must God turn away from you? Isa 59:2 Yes No
  - Is there any way you can pay the judicial penalty you deserve? Yes No



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# LESSON



**A HOLY GOD.** All Biblical understanding must begin and end with a knowledge, as much as possible, of God. The character of God is defined by the attribute of holiness—the absolute absence of any evil—“*For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You*” (Psalms 5:4). John says, “*God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all*” (1 John 1:5). John is telling us that God is completely free from any moral evil - He is the essence of moral purity (see Job 34:10-12). He is repulsed by even a hint of evil.

It is God’s holiness that governs His attributes of omnipotence (infinite power), omniscience (perfect knowledge), and omnipresence (everywhere present). Holiness makes all of His attributes perfectly good. It is His holiness that makes Him worthy of our praise and devotion (see Exodus 15:11). I want to be with Him forever *because* He is holy.

**GOD’S PURPOSE.** God has purposed to have spiritual beings with Him in heaven. We are spirits created and placed in these temporary containers, *physical* bodies, in order to train our *spirits* to

love, serve, and worship Him. God wants a *spiritual* relationship with us based upon our choosing to love and serve Him out of our own free will and not out of compulsion (see also Is. 43:7; Eph. 1:14; Ps. 149:4; Phil. 2:14; Acts 17:27; Col. 1:16).

**GOD’S HOLY DEMAND.** God repeatedly states that we are to be holy *because* He is holy. “*Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine*” (Lev. 20:26). God created us as spirit beings (Gen 1:26). *Only* if we are holy can we then have the *spiritual* union or *spiritual* relationship that a holy God desires with our spirits.

**GOD’S HOLINESS IS DEMONSTRATED IN HIS JUSTICE AND LOVE.** Our relationship with God is defined by these two characteristics of His holiness. “*For the word of the Lord is upright,...He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the loving-kindness of the Lord*” (Ps. 33:4-5, 89:14; Rom. 11:22). God is *just*—he is fair and will always do what He says, and He is a God of *love*.

### 3 Sin Separates Us From God



**THE PROBLEM OF SIN.** God is God. God is Holy. God is King. *Any* breaking of His law results in His absolute revulsion in response to rejection of His will. Breaking God’s will, to any degree, is called sin (1 Jn 3:4). Sin produces a three fold death that we experience and must recognize:



**1 SPIRITUAL DEATH.** Definition of “death” = separation. *Because* God is holy, *any* sin, regardless of its motivation, magnitude, or consequences, *must* result in separation from a holy God. “Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden his face from you” (Is. 59:2; Hab. 1:13). A holy God must turn away from sin. To be separated from God, the essence of spiritual life, is so dreadful it is referred to in the worst possible term, spiritual death (see Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13; Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 5:6). It is as if our spirit died.

**2 MORTAL DEATH.** As a result of Adam and Eve’s first sin in the Garden of Eden we will all die a mortal death (limited life span). Mortal death is a reminder of the seriousness of sin. Other consequences resulted also (see Gen. 3:14-24). While spiritual and mortal deaths are consequences suffered by each individual, nothing

has been done that would deal with sin, that is, remove sin or restore man’s *spiritual* relationship with God.



### 4 God’s Justice Demands Life as Payment



**3 JUDICIAL DEATH.** Our nation’s laws require that a monetary fine (or even life!) must be paid as a *judicial* price for breaking its laws. The *judicial price* God requires as payment for sin is as serious as the offence. Life is the judicial price for sin! The first

warning issued in the Garden of Eden clearly specified this price for sin, “from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die” (Gen. 2:16-17). Put plainly, the payment of death is pronounced as the judicial price for

breaking God’s law (sin). This price is placed on the head of every sinner (Ezek. 18:20).

2 Pet. 2:4-9 recounts the examples of the Genesis flood and Sodom and Gomorrah and their destruction due to sin. God was demonstrating in the OT the price for sin—death, and that His justice must be served. The NT flatly states that “*without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin*” (Heb. 9:22). God was teaching us throughout the OT how bad sin is, its terrible consequences, and the high judicial price required to be paid.

**ALL HAVE SINNED.** Looking over the scope of history, the NT writers reflected this chilling and disturbing characteristic of man by observing that “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23). We are all in a very desperate situation: We have broken the laws of the God of the universe, this has separated us from Him, and the judicial price of death is required by a just God! If we die a mortal death in this condition we will be *eternally* separated from God! Yet we are unable to pay the price for sin ourselves.

#### 2 Questions to Consider:

- 2** Psa. 5:4 — Is God described as Holy and that no evil dwells in Him? Y N
- Is God absolutely morally pure and good? Y N
  - Does God desire for us to dwell with Him in Heaven? Y N
  - Does God want a spiritual relationship with man whom He created? Y N
  - Does He force us (like puppets) to have that relationship with Him? Y N
  - Should His love for us motivate us to love Him? Y N

- 3** Isa. 59:1-2—Because God is Holy, when we sin, does this cause us to be separated from Him? Y N
- While separated from Him, does He hear our prayers? Y N
- Rom. 6:23 Does our sin earn us a spiritual death and separation from God? Y N
- Gen 2:9,16-17, 3:24—While in the garden did Adam and Eve have access to the tree of life which prevented them from growing older? Y N
- Because of their sin were they expelled out of the garden to prevent them access to the tree of life? Y N
  - Does separation from the tree of life result in our mortal death? Y N
  - Did Adam and Eve’s sin result in all man-kind’s physical suffering? Y N
  - Does our sin also have severe consequences? Y N

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