

2. Hating Sin

Colossians 1:15-23 tells us that by Christ and for Christ all things were created. Someone has said that if we had eyes to see, we would read in all creation the words: "Made By Him and For Him". Sin, of course, has damaged this beautiful universe, but it is clear that the divine intention was for the world to work in Christ's way. Though I am aware that I have argued the following point before, I would like to return to it. Sin, I believe, is unnatural. It is literally "missing the mark" (Greek, hamartia), the mark for which we are made. That "mark" is etched into every part of us. It is the will of God.

"The laws of our being," argues one medical doctor, "are none other than the laws of God - they are the laws of God wrought into the constitution of our being. To be true to them is to be true to God, and to be true to God is to be true to them." Another doctor admits: "I have come to the conclusion that we have Christian glands, Christian tissues, Christian organs...my body functions better when Christ is in it." "Created by him and for him." Sin throws into disorder every situation, both physically and spiritually, for evil is against the nature of reality. One preacher says of evil: "It is the will to live put into reverse."

Human nature is allergic to evil. When we take it into our systems our inner selves revolt against it. This may not be obvious at first. A recent newspaper report tells of a woman who gave her husband a minute dose of arsenic every morning in his cereal. Eventually it killed him. It is the same with evil. Sooner or later it kills.

- Adapted from "Every Day for Jesus" by Selwyn Hughes

Hating Sin Daily Quiet Times

Date	Week 2
28-May	Hebrews 12:1-4
29-May	Romans 12:9
30-May	Psalms 5:4-6
31-May	1 John 3:9-10
1-Jun	Isaiah 53:4-5
2-Jun	James 4:17
3-Jun	Psalms 19:13-14

Hating Sin

PART 1

Passage(s) to Study

Puritan John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, described sin like this: "Sin is the dare of God's justice, the rape of His mercy, the jeer of His patience, the slight of His power and the contempt of His love." Godly people, such as Bunyan, have always been able to articulate just how horrible and damaging sin really is. In your own words describe how damaging sin is to your life and why you should hate sin.

Read: Isaiah 53 and write down 5-10 observations that you make about what Christ had to go through to remedy our sin problem. How might knowing and meditating on what Christ went through on the cross change your view of the seriousness of sin?

PART 2

Questions to Ponder

[Q] Have you ever considered what God hates? According to the following verses what types of things does God hate? What are the thoughts that stick out to you from these verses?

Read: Proverbs 6:16, 8:13; Amos 5:21; Zechariah 8:17

[Q] What do James 1:14-15 and 2:10-11 reveal about the root of our sinful actions and about God's law and the consequences of breaking it?

[Q] Do you think it is important for us to understand what sin is and its impact on our lives & relationships? Why or why not?

[Q] What does Hebrews 12:1-3 say about where we need to focus in order to throw off the sin in our lives. Summarize in your own words.

For further study: To help you consider the awfulness of sin, use your concordance to look up some verses that address a sin you are wrestling with today. Then, spend time meditating on those verses, then record any observations or insights about your sin.

PART 3

Making it Stick

Write out 1-2 of the main things that God impressed upon you this week from your time reading the daily devotions on why you should hate sin.

To continue to hate sin you need to develop an acute sensitivity to sin. In Pss. 139:23-24 David cried out, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me" *Pray for a deeper work of repentance in your heart and life.*

Write out in your own words a prayer to God asking him for a heart that hates sin for a lifetime. A sample has been provided below:

Prayer: *Father, You have made me for Yourself and I know that no part of my life will function properly unless it is infused with Your purity and love. Help me to live in your will for my life and not against it, and deliver me from evil and help me to hate sin. I ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Recommended resources:

'Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin' by **Kris Lundgaard**

'Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate' by **Jerry Bridges**

'Directions for Hating Sin' by **Richard Baxter** (available at www.puritansermons.org)