

PERSONAL SINS

- 1. Our personal sins arise from our inherited sin. We sin because we are sinners.**
 - a. See *Flesh*.
 - b. **Mt 12:34** 34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.
 - c. **Ga 5:19** 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident....

- 2. Everyone commits personal sins (except Jesus).**
 - a. **Ro 2:1** 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.
 - b. **Ro 3:9-12** 9 ...All, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written: None is righteous, no, not one. 11 No one understands. No one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside. Together they have become worthless. No one does good, not even one.
 - c. **Ro 3:23** 23 ...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God....
 - d. **Ja 3:2** 2 For we all stumble in many ways.

- 3. We are directly responsible for our personal sins.**
 - a. Personal sins may not be transferred.

- 4. Personal sins include acts of commission and acts of omission.**
 - a. **Ja 4:17** 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

- 5. Classic lists of personal sins include:**
 - a. **Ex 20:3-17** 3 You shall have no other gods before me. 4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing loyal love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. 8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ...12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you. 13 You shall not murder. 14 You shall not commit adultery. 15 You shall not steal. 16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.
 - b. **Mt 15:19** 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
 - c. **Ro 1:28-31** 28 And because they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder,

strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

- d. **1 Co 6:9-10** 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
- e. **Ga 5:19-21** 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- f. **Re 22:15** 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
- g. The seven cardinal sins.
 - (1) “The list isn’t meant to cover all sin or even the worst sins but rather to identify seven foundational sins that underlie and nourish the rest.”¹
 - (2) “Within these seven basic categories of sin the human heart has the astounding capacity to produce an infinite number of variations.”²
 - (3) Pride. See *Pride*.
 - (4) Envy. See *Envy*.
 - (5) Anger. See *Anger*.
 - (6) Greed. See *Greed*.
 - (7) Lust. See *Sexual Sin*.
 - (8) Sloth. See *Sloth*.
 - (9) Gluttony.

6. Personal sins fall into three domains: thoughts, words, and actions.

- a. Thoughts. See *Thoughts*.
 - (1) **Mt 5:27-28** 27 You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
 - (2) **Mt 12:34** 34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.
 - (3) **Ja 2:4** 4 ...Have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?
 - (4) “If we reflect upon our ‘secret’ thoughts, we shall find within our own breast the seed of all those vices which we condemn in others.”³
 - (5) We may sin in our thoughts even if we never say or do anything based on those sinful thoughts.

¹ Dallas Theological Seminary, Spiritual Formation course.

² Michael Mangis, *Signature Sins*, 27.

³ La Rochefoucauld, quotes in Will Durant, *The Age of Louis XIV*, 156-57.

b. Words. See *Words*.

- (1) **Mt 12:36-37** 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.
- (2) **Ro 3:13-14** 13 Their throat is an open grave. they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. 14 Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.
- (3) **Ja 3:6** 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

c. Actions.

7. Some personal sins are worse than others.

- a. **Nu 15:30-31** 30 But the person who does anything with a high hand, whether he is native or a sojourner, revile Yahweh, and that person shall be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he has despised the word of Yahweh and has broken his commandment, that person shall be utterly cut off. His iniquity shall be on him.
- b. **Mt 7:5** 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
- c. **Lk 12:47-48** 47 And that servant who knew his master's desire but did not get ready or act according to his desire, will receive a severe beating. 48 But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.
- d. **Jn 19:11** 11 Jesus answered him, You [Pilate] would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you [Caiaphas] has the greater sin.

8. Personal sins condemn the unbeliever and cause loss of fellowship for the believer.

- a. Condemnation for the unbeliever.
 - (1) **Ro 2:2-3** 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?
 - (2) **Ga 5:21** 21 I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - (3) **Col 3:5-6** 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.
- b. Loss of fellowship for the believer.
 - (1) **1 Jn 1:6** 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

9. Our personal sins negatively impact ourselves and those around us.

- a. Ourselves.
 - (1) Habitual personal sins may actually change our DNA.
- b. Others.

10. We are to put our personal sins to death. This is traditionally called “mortification.”

- a. **Col 3:5** 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

11. We are to pray for our brothers and sisters who are committing personal sins.

- a. **1 Jn 5:16** 16 If anyone sees his brother [or sister] committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death.

12. Forgiveness is the remedy for personal sins.

- a. Judicial forgiveness for unbelievers.
b. Family forgiveness for believers.
(1) **1 Jn 1:9** 9 If we [believers] confess [name] our [known personal] sins, [God] is faithful and just to *forgive* us our [known personal] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [including unknown personal sins].

13. Related Topics.

- a. *Sin.*
b. *Flesh.*
c. *Temptation.*
d. *Unbelief.*
e. *Atonement.*
f. *Confession.*
g. *Sin unto Death.*

Videos

