

Sin is Guilt

1. Take a moment to look up what the word “guilt” means in a dictionary. The concept of guilt is developed in the very beginning of human history with the very first sin committed by man. What do you observe that helps you understand what guilt means?

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” (Gen 3:8-11, NIV)

2. The Bible uses several Hebrew words for the English translation of sin. For example in Isaiah 53:10, a word was translated as “sin” in the NIV whereas NASB translators used “guilt.” What do you observe about God’s view of sin in this Messianic prophecy?

NIV	NASB
Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin , he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. (Isa 52:10, NIV)	But the LORD desired To crush Him, causing Him grief; If He renders Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, (Isa 53:10, NASB)

3. Carefully observe a part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Do you see a pattern? Make a chart to aid your observation.

“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be answerable to the court.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. (Matt 5:21-22, NASB)

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Teacher Notes

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If the student has trouble defining the word “guilt,” help him use an online dictionary.

Guilt is knowing you committed a crime, offense, or something wrong.

Ask the student: how did Adam know he was naked? Did he know he did something wrong or offended God?

Adam knew he was naked because he ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil and gained a sense of moral knowledge. At this point, it seems that he did not know he offended God.

Ask the student: how did God teach Adam what guilt means?

God taught Adam that disobeying God’s word is a crime. “Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” Afterwards Adam learns of God’s judgment and consequences of his actions.

God sees sin as practically synonymous with guilt. Disobeying God’s word make one guilty before God.

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Ask the student: what do you make of the association of the words “sin”, “guilt”, and “offering?”

While sin makes one guilty in God’s court of law, a payment can be made to avoid the consequences of God’s judgment.

Ask the student: in this Messianic prophecy (Isa 53), what do you observe about the payment for sin?

The Suffering Servant is being offered by God as the guilt payment for our sins. We do not suffer God's judgment of our sins!

When you read Isaiah 53, you'll see that the Suffering Servant was "pierced for our transgressions," and "crushed for our iniquities" (Isa 53:5). The Lord "laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa 53:6).

3. Carefully observe a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Do you see any patterns? Make a chart to aid your observation.

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Ask the student: how would you make sense of these offenses and their associated court or punishment?

One method is to list your observations in a chart. For example:

Offense	Court / Punishment
Murder	Court
Anger	Court
You good for nothing!	Supreme Court
You fool!	Instead of court, judgment: fiery hell

Ask the student: is there a pattern in offenses?

Ask the student: is there a pattern in the type of courts?

Ask the student: how are the two patterns related to each other? What does that tell you?

The pattern of offenses appear to decline in severity from murder to a verbal insult. The pattern in courts appear in the opposite from lower court to judgment of punishment.

When Jesus says, "you have heard that the ancients were told," He is making a reference to God's word. Sin is more than just the act of murder. It includes all of the thoughts, however minor, that may lead up to murder. The desire to harm by simply saying "you fool" is a sin equivalent to murder by God's standard and violates His word. God's judgment of sin, of any kind, is fiery hell where it is removed from His holy presence.