

12 Wk Series-I Have a Question--Weekk 10: Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin? – James 4:13-17

-Message notes-post slide – Take a photo of the slide with your phone.

**Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin? – James 4:13-17-** fill in the blank... is sex before marriage, alcohol, drugs, homosexuality, pornography, etc... a sin?

- Depends on the standard used to measure sin. Logically can only be 1 standard. If more than one, one of them is wrong. Only 1 standard works, God's Word.

**- Today attempt to do 3 things: 1. Define what sin is in 5 points. 2. Give examples of sinful acts. 3. Reveal what to do about the sin in your life. Jm 4:13-17:**

<sup>13</sup> **Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."** <sup>14</sup> **Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.**

- What's wrong with flexing, er, talking about what you're gonna do, where you're going, how much \$\$ you're gonna make? What else is there? Well, there's God! Nothing about God in v 13. I, me, my, mine. Not *thy* will but *my* will. Boasting is rooted in pride.

- **What is your life?** Simple question. Huge implications! **What is your life?** Even if it's spectacular, thrill-a-minute, money-no-objection, heaven-on-earth, your grave is still gonna be the same rough dimensions of the lowest of us. **A mist that vanishes...**

- So what?, you say? What does sin matter? Sin separates us from God and unless it is atoned for by the blood of Jesus; and continually killed in our flesh through becoming more like Jesus everyday; that separation leads to eternal damnation. What does it profit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his soul? Mk 8:36

- What sin **is**, was made known when God gave Moses the Law. Standard set & fulfilled in Jesus. All the law & prophets summed up in Greatest Commandment.

- **Love** God with all that you are and **love** your neighbor as yourself. Mt. 22:37-40. Both parts of that Greatest of Commandments require loving relationships.

**- Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin? Step 1 - What is the definition of sin? 5 points (6):**

- 1A. **Sin existed before being defined** (Rm 5:12-13) Sin entered the world through one man, & death through sin, and so death came to all people, because all sinned—sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin isn't charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Needed the law to know what sin is.

- 1. **Sin is a transgression against the law of God** – OT law (10 commandments+) needed to know God's standard & seriousness of transgressing against. Where there is no law there's no transgression. Rm 4:15b

- 2. **Sin is a failure to conform to the standard of God** – **hamartia** Gk. For "miss the mark." Hamartiology-doctrine of sin. All have missed the mark – Rom 3:23

- 3. **Sin is a principle within man** – (Rom 7:14, 17-25) – All have sin nature (Ga 3:22) – the power that deceives men & leads them to destruction (He 3:13).

- 4. **Sin is rebellion against God** – Gk. *Anomia*-lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness., all who sin break the law (1Jn 3:4). Without law or restraint (Mt. 24:12).

- 5. **Sin is wrongful acts toward God & Man** – Rm 1:18- ungodliness & unrighteousness of man. 10 commandments split down these 2: Ungodliness-man's failure to obey God-keep commandments (Ex. 20:1-11), Unrighteousness-man's failure to live righteously toward fellow man (Ex 20:12-17).

**- Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin? Step 2. Examples of sinful acts – Ga 5:19-20**

The acts of the flesh are obvious, sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- Could do a year-long sermon series listing each individual sin and just focusing on what not to do. When only focusing on what not to do nothing gets done.

- The standard is clear-no matter how we try, certain things always sinful: sex outside marriage-no friends w/benefits; having more than 1-2 drinks/day; putting *anything* before your relationship w/God-idolatry; selfish ambition-today's 1<sup>st</sup> verse from James; jealousy-stop comparing yourself and start submitting yourself; homosexuality is a sin; God hates divorce and leaves only 2-3 biblical options for it. Lust is sinful: Getting a porn fix to relax is not ok. The acts of sinful nature obvious when we know God's Word.

- Expecting God to bless you in your decision to sin for a little while is sinful. We'll just live together until we can get on our feet. I deserve to get drunk tonight. Everybody cheats on their taxes. My sex & sin-filled Netflix show helps me escape.

**- Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin? Step 3. What to do about sin?**

<sup>15</sup> **Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live & do this or that."** <sup>16</sup> **As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.** <sup>17</sup> **If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do & doesn't do it, it is sin for them.**

- When we are all about **the Lord's will**, not ours, we naturally are not all about sin.

- Christianity less about cautiously avoiding sin, more about actively pursuing God's will.  
– Bonhoeffer. You know the good you should do! Do it! If not it's a sin!

- Look at your screen time-what if you spent 10% of that time doing good? 50%?

- Rules w/out relationship = rebellion. Love God and love people. Love never fails.

- **Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin?** Fishermen fill their nets and sort the good from the bad. We are to be fishers of men and Jesus will sort the good from the bad. Sinners are accepted here, loved here, pointed to Jesus here, and taught what Scripture teaches about living in sin.

- Sinful behavior/belief is not affirmed here & held accountable according to Scripture so that we all may reach full unity in the faith & maturity in Christ. Ep. 4:13.
- Pray. Communion, Offering, Announcements, Pray out.