

# What is Sin?

1





**"Sin is what we do when our hearts are not satisfied with God."**

John Piper





When once asked, 'What is the definition of sin?' Billy Graham gave the following answer:

"A sin is any thought or action that falls short of God's will. God is perfect, and anything we do that falls short of His perfection is sin."





What are the most common sins  
in...

- your own life
- the lives of young people
- your church
- society today?





---

# 1. Introduction



---

---

---

---

Even the most beautiful, innocent-looking baby will sin, because it is not the first sinful action that makes that child a sinner, but rather the child commits that sin because he is showing the sinful nature with which he is born





*To sin is to do something that  
displeases God.*

*Every person born into the world is a  
sinner.*

Even the most beautiful, innocent-looking baby will sin, because it is not the first sinful action that makes that child a sinner, but rather the child commits that sin because he is showing the sinful nature with which he is born





*To sin is to do something that  
displeases God.*

*Every person born into the world is a  
sinner.*

Even the most beautiful, innocent-  
looking baby will sin, because it is not  
the first sinful action that makes that

*Psalm 51:5 – Surely I was sinful at  
birth, sinful from the time my mother  
conceived me.*





Natural life is sinful because it is centred upon self rather than upon God. Self is the centre of a child's desires and intentions, and he wants to please himself and have his wishes fulfilled.

The centre of the problem is that it is natural to please ourselves. When we act naturally, as a result of the selfish nature with which we are born, we will sin and displease God (Romans 3:23).



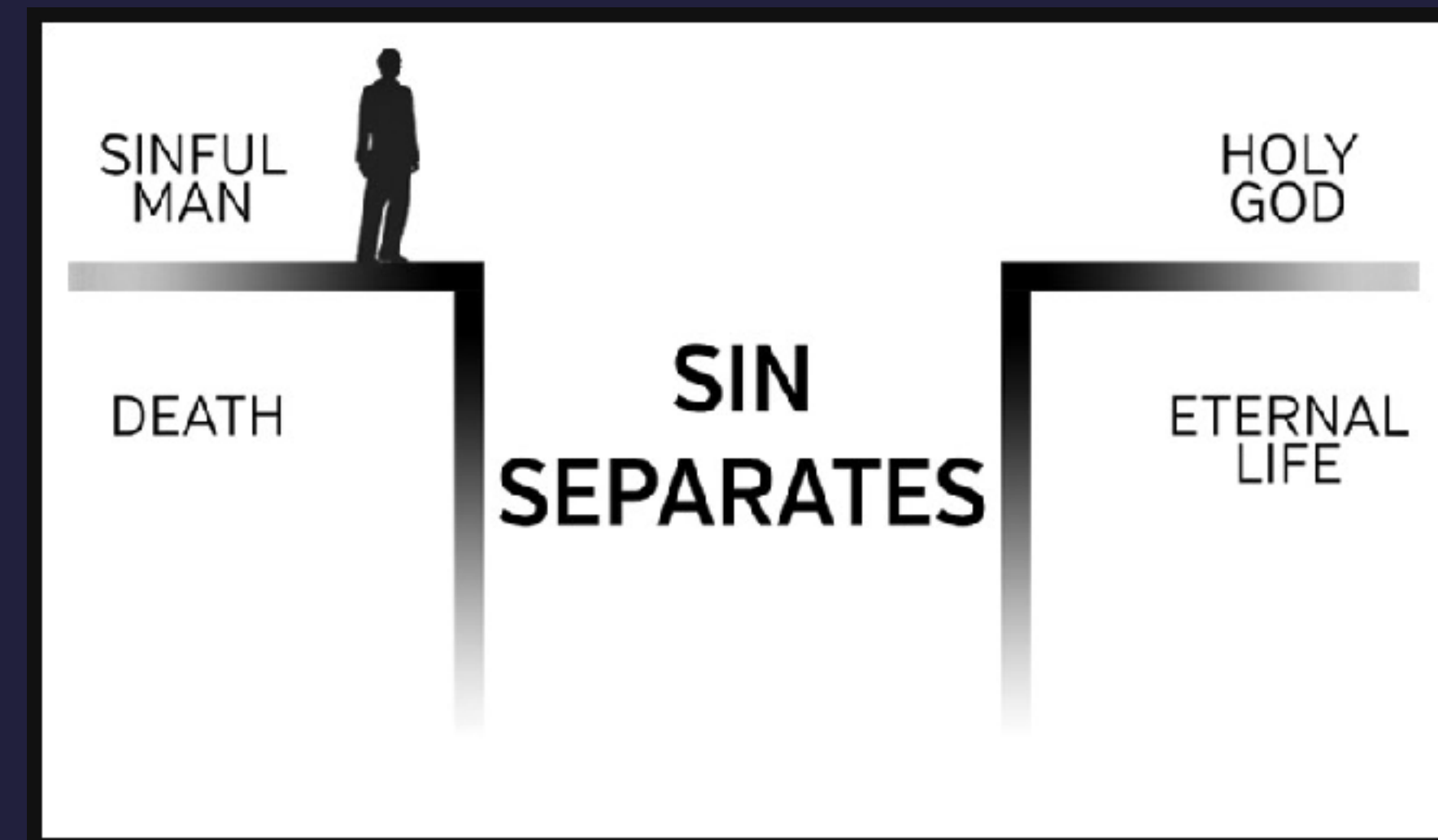


---

---

---

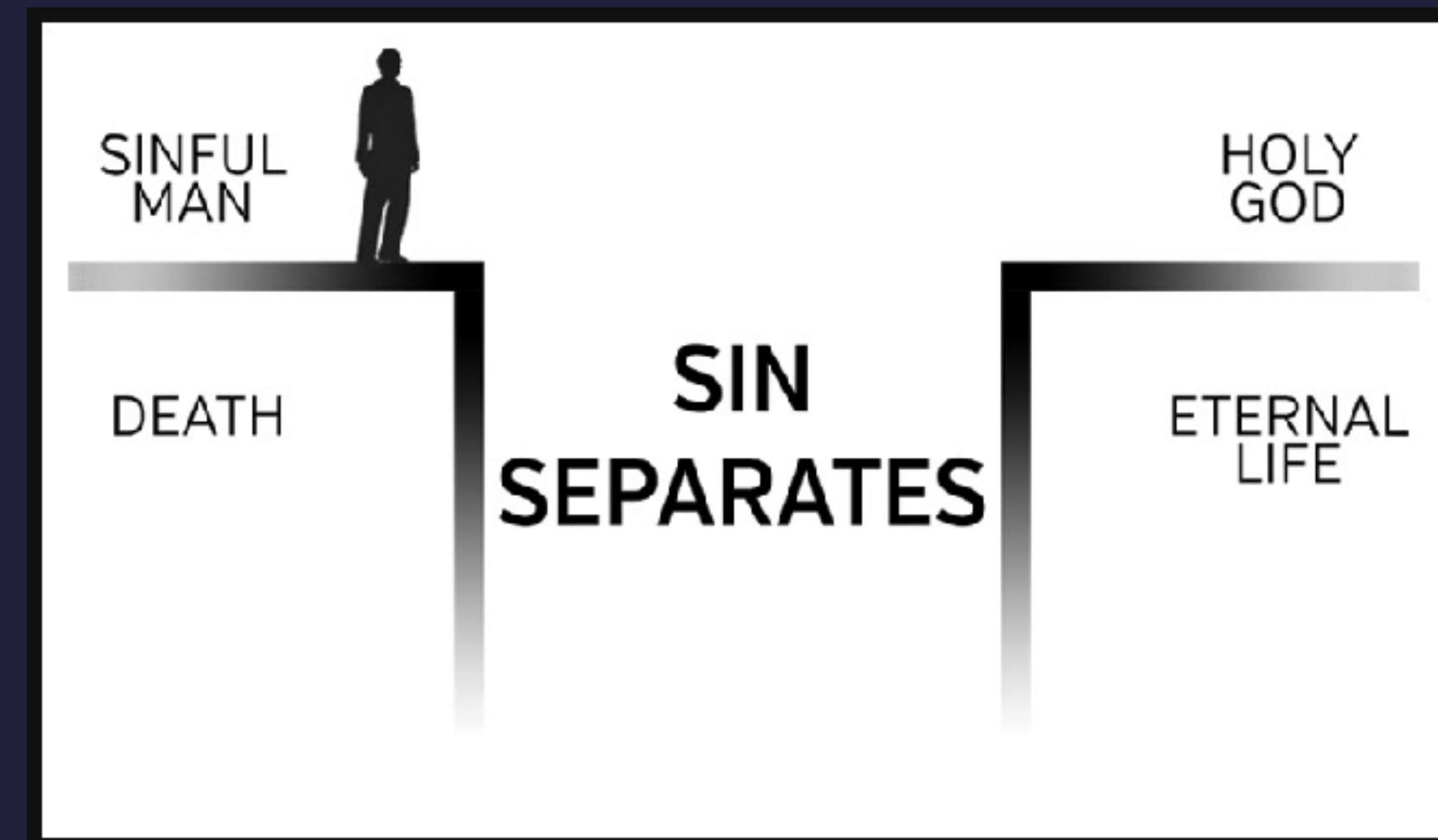
This shows the destructive nature of sin. Sin divides men from God. Sinners are driven apart from Him, they do not know Him, neither can they enjoy fellowship with Him.





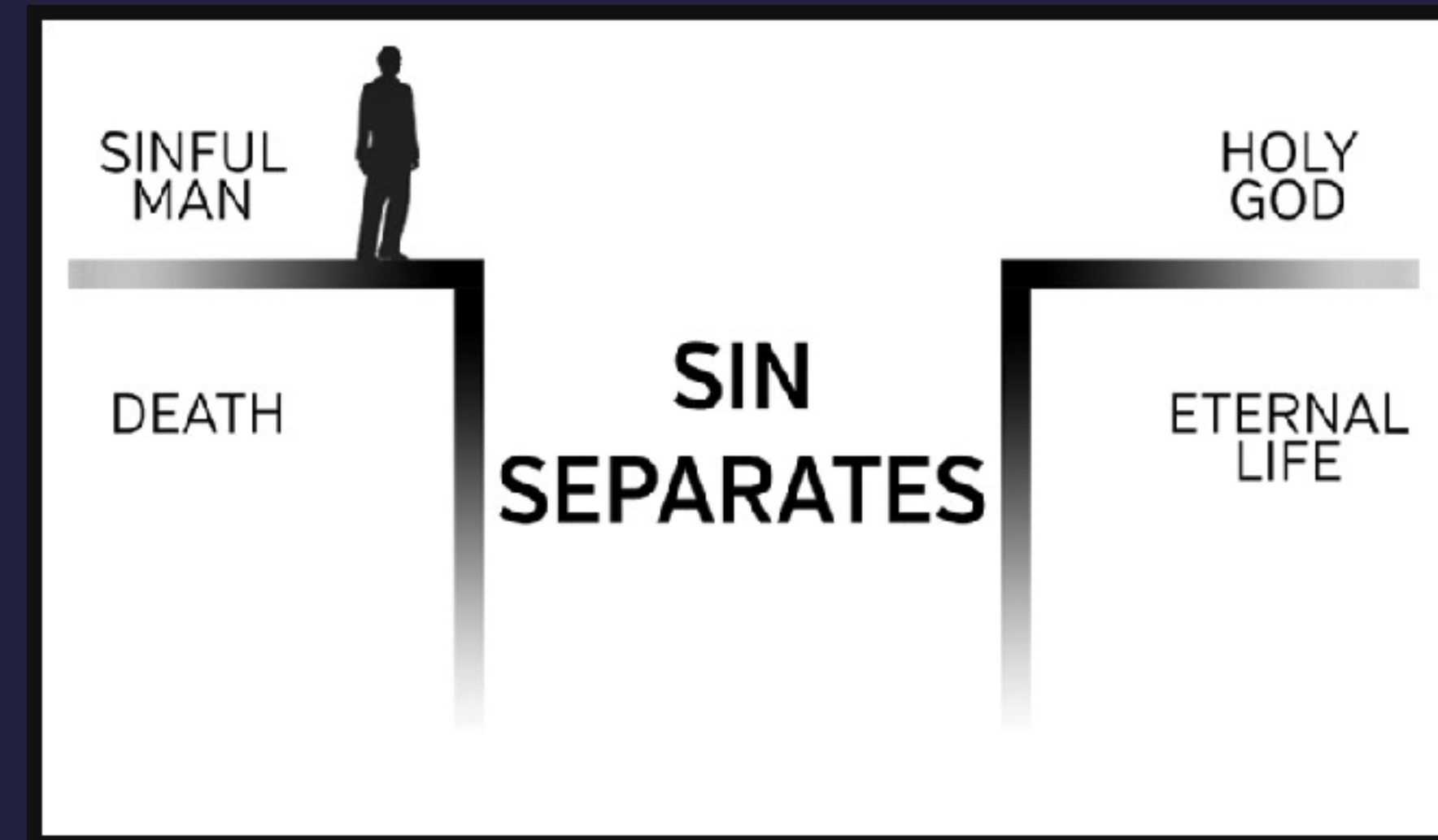
*Sin not only displeases God, but also separates the people He created from the glory He intends for them.*

This shows the destructive nature of sin. Sin divides men from God. Sinners are driven apart from Him, they do not know Him, neither can they enjoy fellowship with Him.





From birth everyone is separated from God. If this was not the case, every man, woman and child would know God naturally. Obviously this is not so!





---

## 2. Memory Verses

Romans 6:23

---

---

---

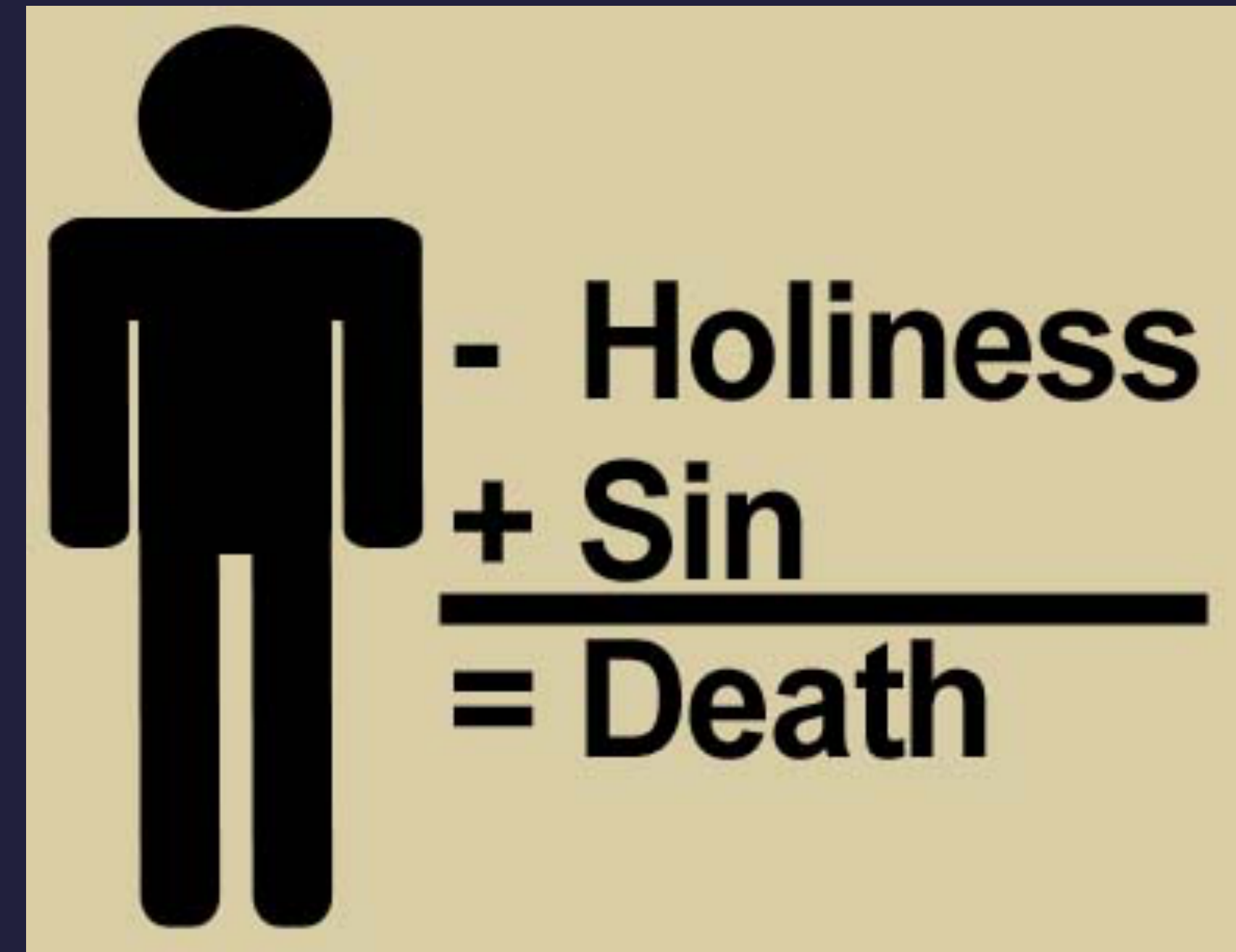
---

Romans 3:23

---

---

---





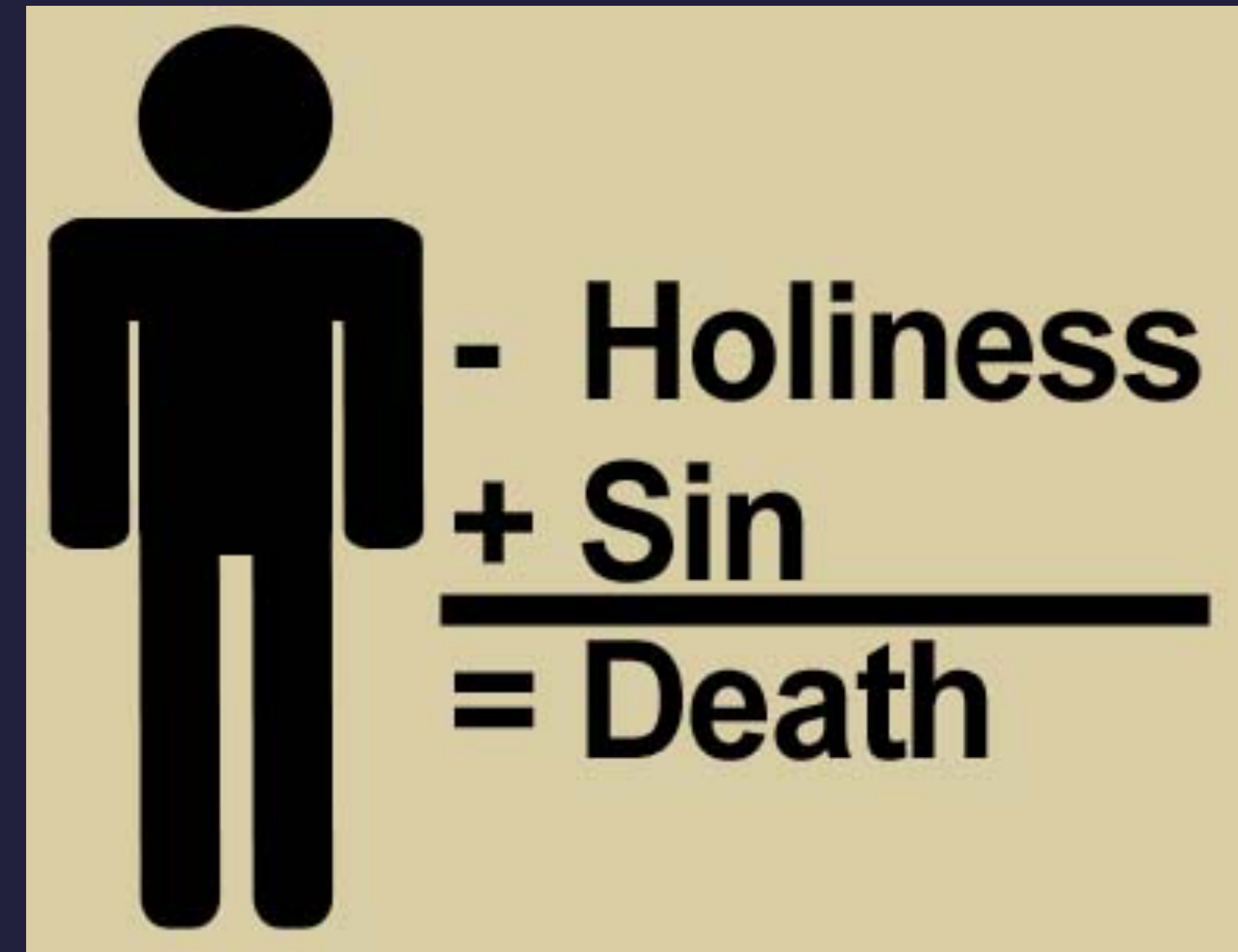
Romans 6:23

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 3:23

---

---

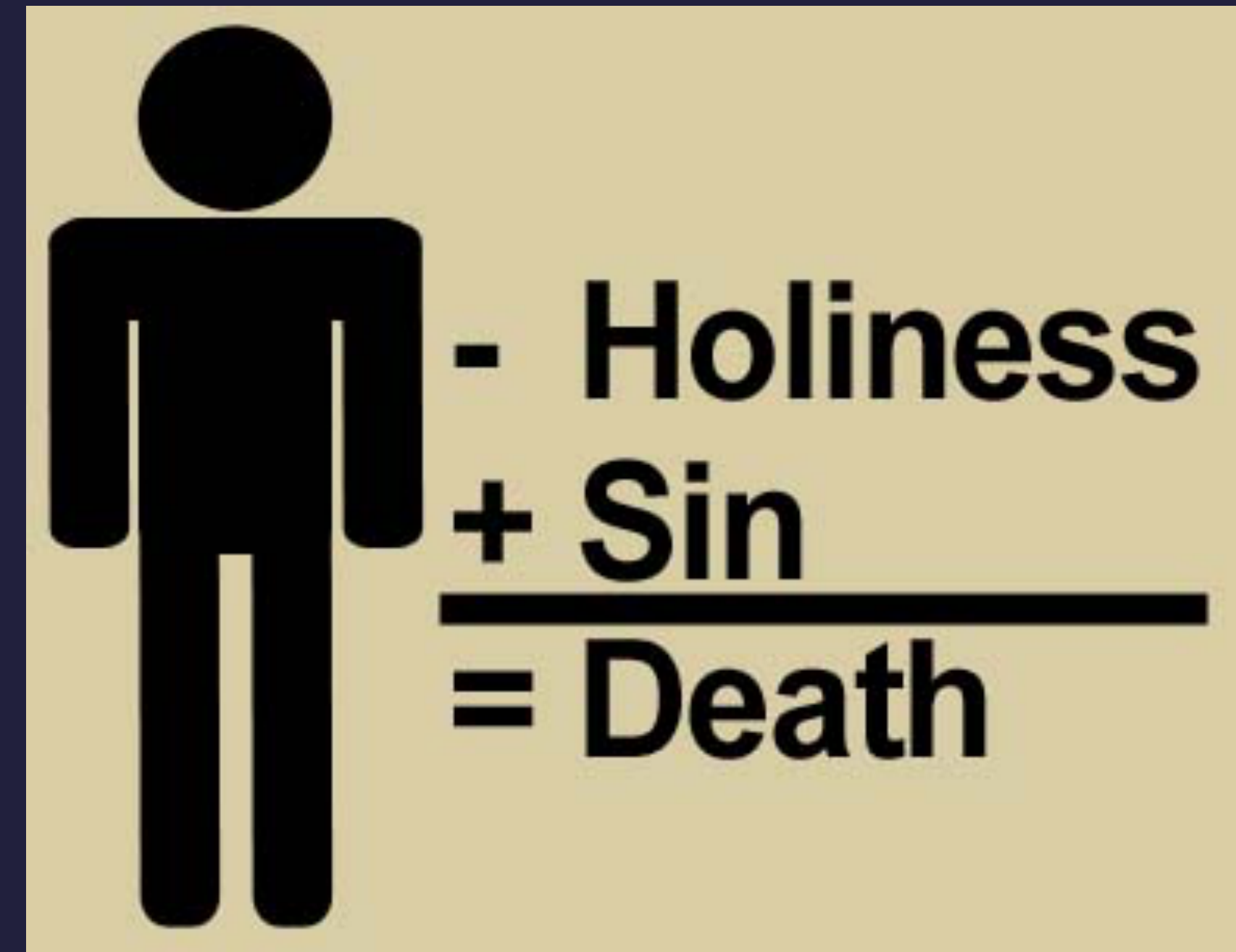


Romans 6:23

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

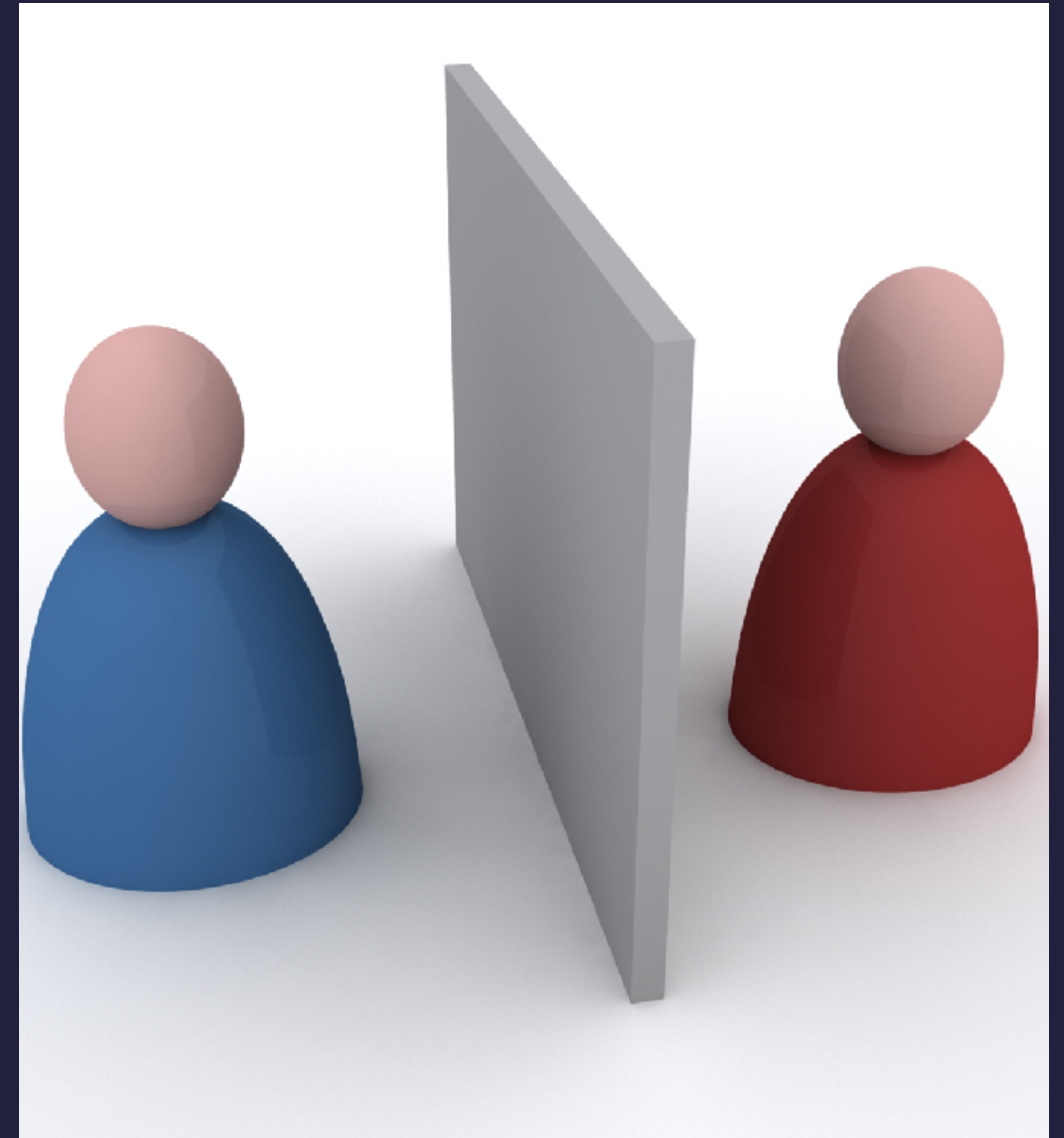
Romans 3:23

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*





Isaiah 59:2 ***But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.***



---

# 3. Some Results of Sin



---

---

---

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.



*- It grieves God [makes Him feel very sad] Genesis 6:5 - 7*

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.





***6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them."***





---

---

***For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.***

***4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.***





*- It brings guilt Psalm 51:3 - 4*

*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*

*4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.*



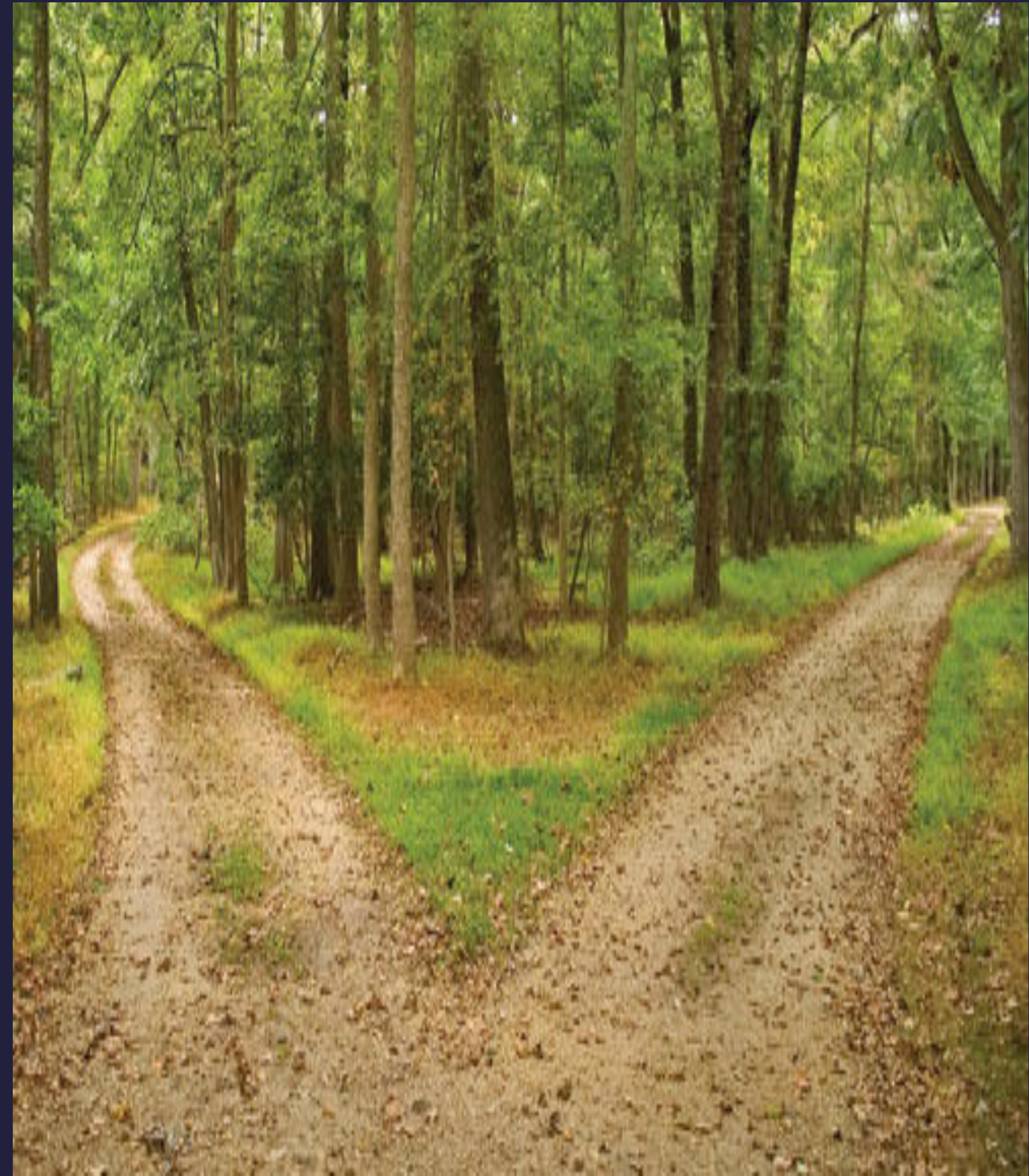


---

---

***Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.***

***2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God;  
your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.***





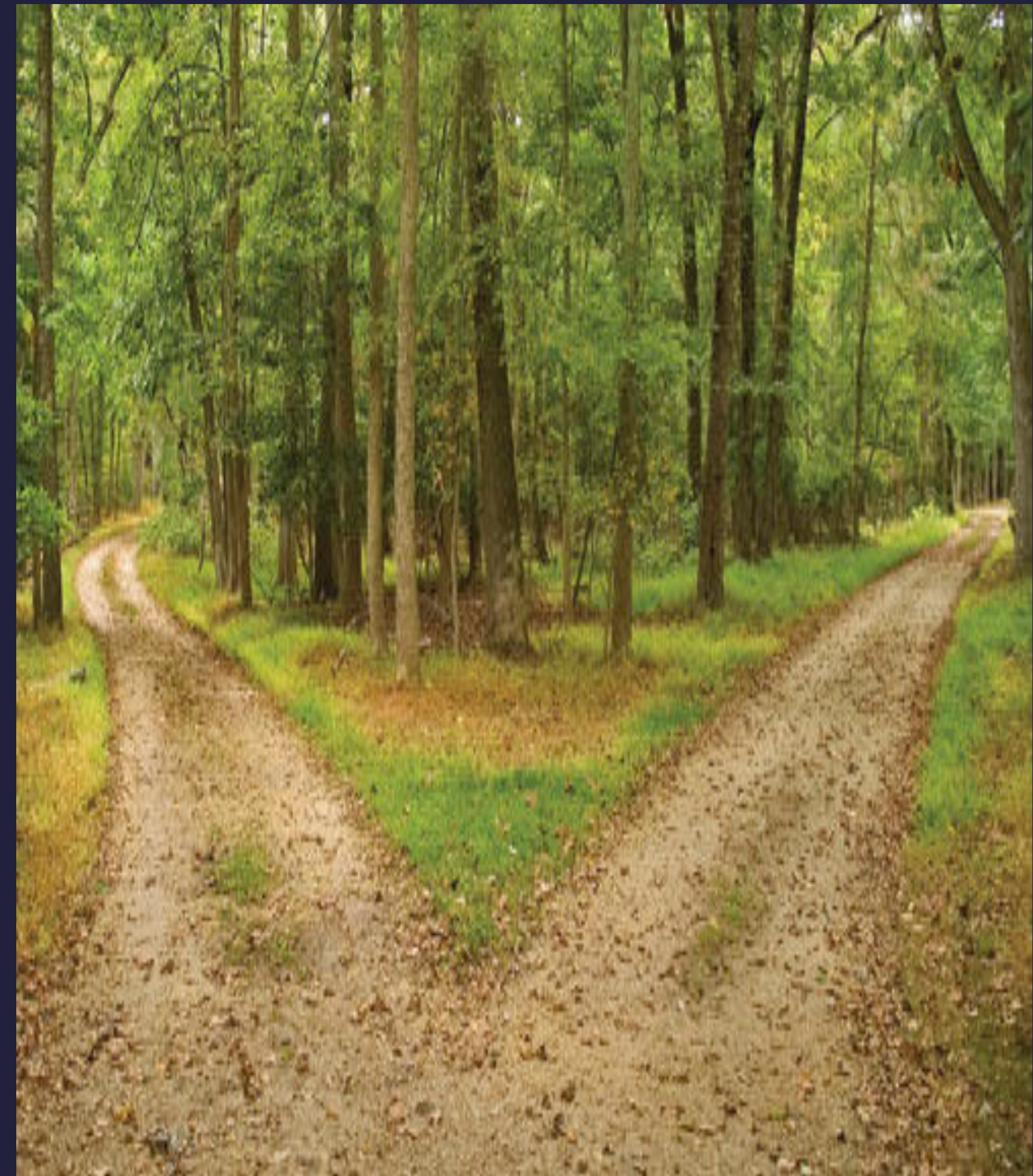
**- It brings separation from God**

*Isaiah 59:1-2*

***Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.***

***2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God;***

***your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.***





---

---

***“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”***





*- It brings judgment and everlasting punishment Matthew 25:46*

***“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”***



---

***But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.***





*- It enslaves Romans 6:17*

***But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.***



---

---

***4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.***





*- It causes spiritual blindness*

*2 Corinthians 4:4*

***4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.***



---

---

***As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,***

**SPIRITUAL  
DEATH  
HAPPENS  
ONE COMPROMISE  
AT A TIME.**



*- It causes spiritual death*

*Ephesians 2:1:*

***As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,***

**SPIRITUAL  
DEATH  
HAPPENS  
ONE COMPROMISE  
AT A TIME.**

---

---

***remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world***





*- It brings lack of hope*

*Ephesians 2:12*

***remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world***



---

---

***To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.***





*- It makes us unholy and immoral*

*Titus 1:15*

***To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.***



---

---

***Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.***





*- It condemns  
James 5:12*

***Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.***



---

# 4. The Bible Words for Sin



## Circle your sins

pride, **envy**, gossip

**laziness**, drunk

depression, stealing

lying, **anxiety**, fornication

**What other words might you use to describe sin to another person?**

**Circle your sins**

pride, **envy,** gossip

**laziness,** drunk, lies

depression, stealing

lying, **anxiety,** fornication



**What other words might you use to describe sin to another person?**

**Why does the Bible have a number of words for sin, why not just one word (like we have)?**



**What other words might you use to describe sin to another person?**

**Why does the Bible have a number of words for sin, why not just one word (like we have)?**

Because we need to understand how wide sin spreads - it is much more than simply doing something wrong, there is a greater depth and width to the idea.





## 4.1

---

---

---

---

For example driving through a red traffic light can be deliberate or mistaken.

***Chattah***: to miss the mark or go wrong  
(Judges 20:16; Psalm 51:4).

As in an arrow aimed at a target and missing.



## 4.1 *Turning away from what is normal or standard / expected*

For example driving through a red traffic light can be deliberate or mistaken.

**Chattah**: to miss the mark or go wrong  
(Judges 20:16; Psalm 51:4).

As in an arrow aimed at a target and missing.





## 4.1 *Turning away from what is normal or standard / expected*

*This group refers to things we do deliberately or accidentally.*

For example driving through a red traffic light can be deliberate or mistaken.

**Chattah**: to miss the mark or go wrong (Judges 20:16; Psalm 51:4).

As in an arrow aimed at a target and missing.



**Avon**: to bend or pervert, i.e. deliberately do what is wrong even though you know what is right (Job 33:27). It is an act of wrong from an evil heart.

**Shagah**: to go astray or err (Job 19:4; Leviticus 4:13) This is used of unintentional sin.

## Deliberate

adjective

də'lib(ə)rət/

done consciously and intentionally.



**Parabasis** (N.T.): swerving from a straight line, i.e. going over a boundary (Romans 4:15; Galatians 3:19).

**Hamartia** (N.T.): to miss the mark (Matthew 1:21; Romans 6:23).

Paraptoma (N.T.): to trespass, take a false step in contrast to a true one, or fall off a path (Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 2:5).



**Trespassers**  
will be  
prosecuted

***Rasha***: often translated 'wicked' or 'ungodly' (Psalm 1:6; Psalm 37:28).

***Asham***: to offend or be guilty (Genesis 26:10; Leviticus 5:15–16, used of a guilt offering).





## 4.2 Description of a condition

**Rasha:** often translated 'wicked' or 'ungodly' (Psalm 1:6; Psalm 37:28).

**Asham:** to offend or be guilty (Genesis 26:10; Leviticus 5:15-16, used of a guilt offering).



---

It is a fixed state in which men are trapped before God for our wrongdoing. We have moved away from God's path and now find ourself in a place of guilt because of sin.





---

This is a state where people feel they can cope without God, i.e. in pride people declare their independence from God.

---

:  
a refusal to accept His authority; outward acts of violating His law. There is no unconscious sin, but a deliberate attitude against God.





## —4.3 Deliberate rebellion—

This is a state where people feel they can cope without God, i.e. in pride people declare their independence from God.

---

---

:  
a refusal to accept His authority; outward acts of violating His law. There is no unconscious sin, but a deliberate attitude against God.





## — 4.3 Deliberate rebellion —

This is a state where people feel they can cope without God, i.e. in pride people declare their independence from God.

***This refers to an inward opposition of the heart to God*** :

a refusal to accept His authority; outward acts of violating His law. There is no unconscious sin, but a deliberate attitude against God.





***Persha***: to shake the fist at God (Isaiah 1:2; 1 Kings 12:19).

***Anomia*** (N.T.): lawlessness or rebellion (2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 John 3:4).





---

---

A problem in our world is that we want to be able to reason out everything. A professor of theology said:  
'If I cannot explain it with my mind, I cannot believe it.'



## 4.4 Devious (dishonest/sneaky) actions or attitudes

A problem in our world is that we want to be able to reason out everything. A professor of theology said:  
'If I cannot explain it with my mind, I cannot believe it.'





This inhibits our faith, because we are not

## 4.4 Devious (dishonest/sneaky) actions or attitudes

willing to trust Him. We prefer to rely upon  
A problem in our world is that we want  
our own ways.

to be able to reason out everything. A  
**Marah**: to be contentious (heated  
professor of theology said:  
argument), rebellious or stubborn (Ps 78:8).

'If I cannot explain it with my mind, I  
**Marad**: to rebel (Numbers 14:9).

**Rarah**: to believe it's bad, i.e. a specific act of  
evil (Genesis 19:7).



This inhibits our faith, because we are not able to explain everything. We do not understand the ways of God and are not willing to trust Him. We prefer to rely upon our own ways.

A problem in our world is that we want to be able to reason out everything. A professor of theology said: **Marah**: to be contentious (heated argument), rebellious or stubborn (Ps 78:8). 'If I cannot explain it with my mind, I **Marad**: to rebel (Numbers 14:9). **Rarah**: to believe it's bad, i.e. a specific act of evil (Genesis 19:7).





This inhibits our faith, because we are not able to explain everything. We do not understand the ways of God and are not willing to trust Him. We prefer to rely upon our own ways.

**Marah**: to be contentious (heated argument), rebellious or stubborn (Ps 78:8).

**Marad**: to rebel (Numbers 14:9).

**Ra'ah**: to be evil or bad, i.e. a specific act of evil (Genesis 19:7).



The idea of sin has within it the reality of something that has been lost, diverted or broken. It separates us from a loving God, it causes trouble between men, and it disrupts man in himself.



---

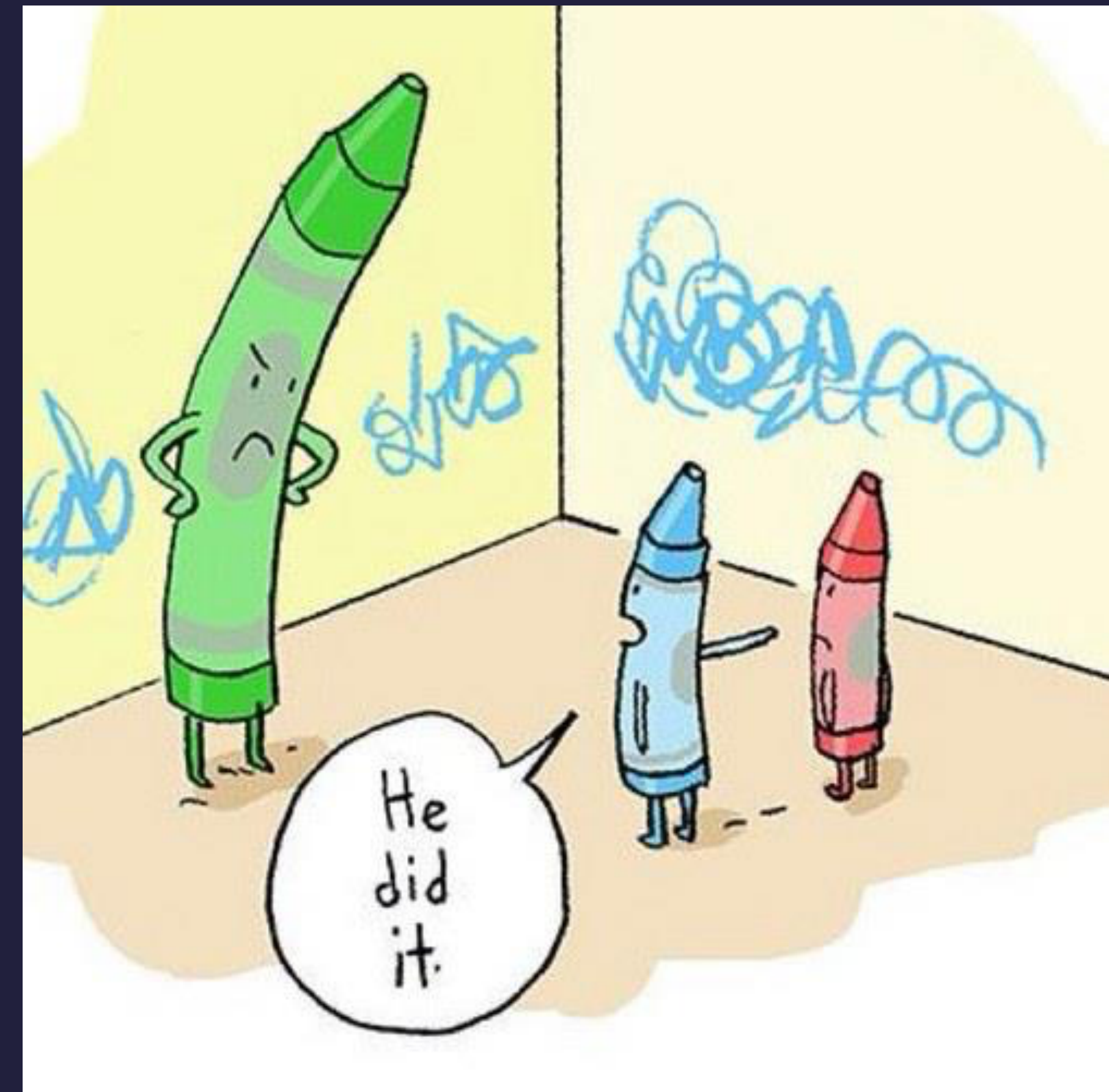
# 5. Our Response

---

---

Romans 14:12 ***So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.***

We all have sinned and we have preferred selfishness to loving God first.

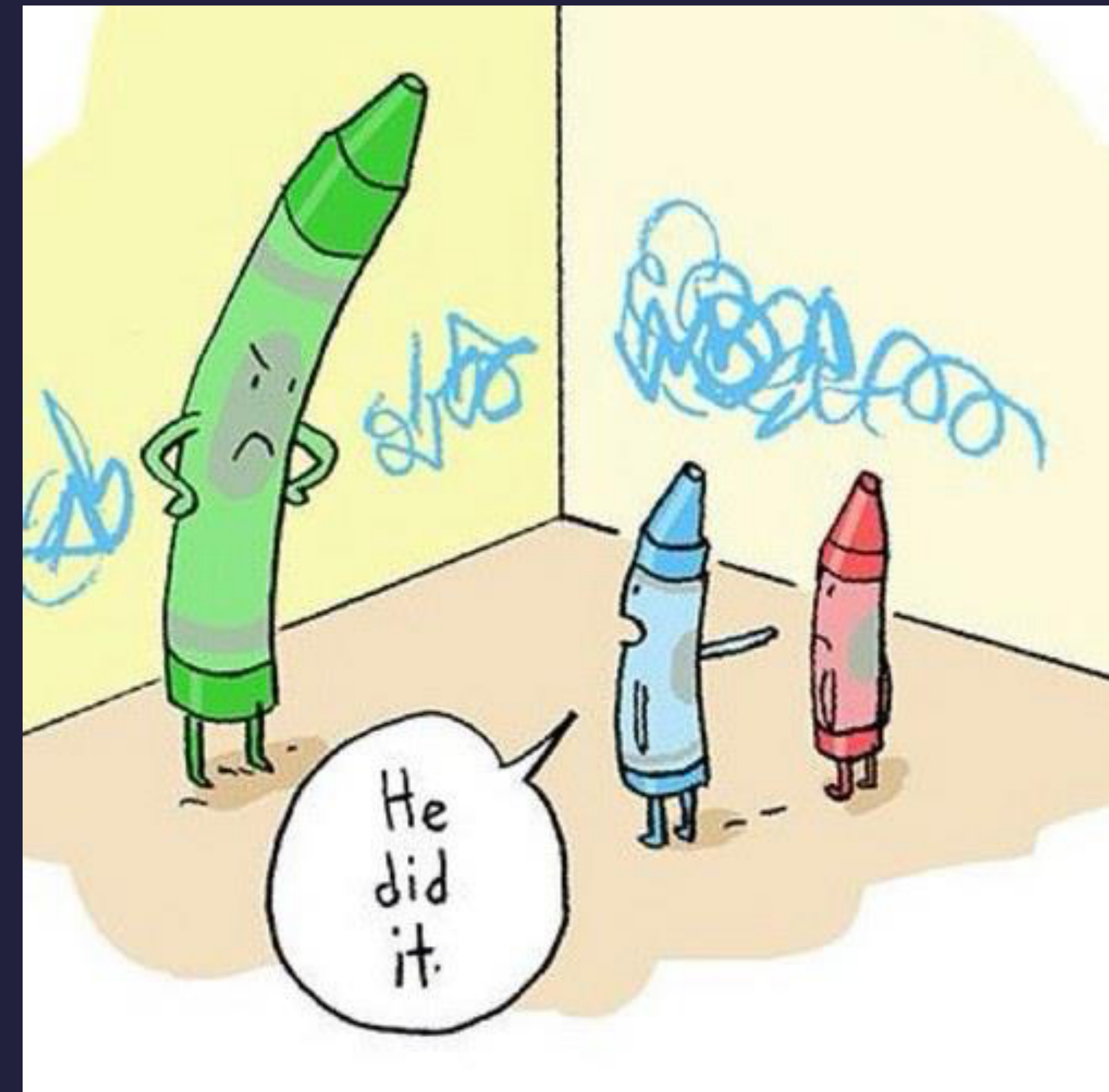




**5.1 Everybody is responsible for their own sin**

Romans 14:12 **So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.**

We all have sinned and we have preferred selfishness to loving God first.

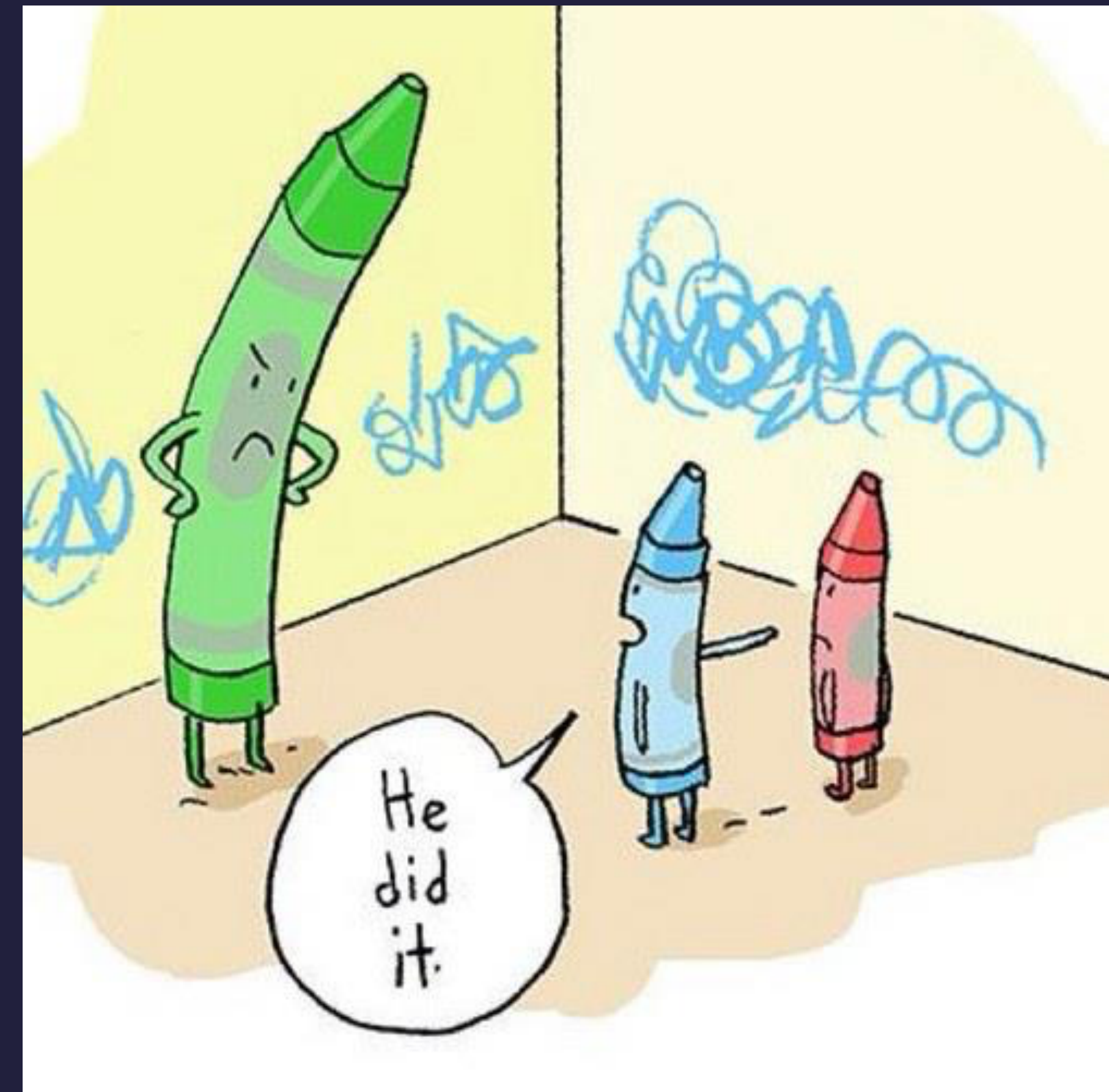


---

---

Romans 14:12 ***So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.***

We all have sinned and we have preferred selfishness to loving God first.





---

---

Man chose to sin against God's desire.  
God knew the consequences of that  
choice, but He gave man the right to  
choose.



*5.2 God wants us to turn from sin and live (Ezekiel 18:20-23)*

Man chose to sin against God's desire. God knew the consequences of that choice, but He gave man the right to choose.





---

---

Man chose to sin against God's desire.  
God knew the consequences of that  
choice, but He gave man the right to  
choose.



---

Either to remain in our sin, separated  
from God,  
or,  
To accept Jesus as our Saviour and  
Lord. Jesus sacrificed His life so that  
we can be saved from the guilt,  
consequences and power of sin.





## 5.3 *We have a choice*

Either to remain in our sin, separated from God,

or,

To accept Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. Jesus sacrificed His life so that we can be saved from the guilt, consequences and power of sin.



---

Either to remain in our sin, separated  
from God,  
or,  
To accept Jesus as our Saviour and  
Lord. Jesus sacrificed His life so that  
we can be saved from the guilt,  
consequences and power of sin.





---

So, God **cannot** have a relationship with a person who has sinned even once, who is unholy.



## 5.4 *God is HOLY*

So, God **cannot** have a relationship with a person who has sinned even once, who is unholy.





---

So, God **cannot** have a relationship with a person who has sinned even once, who is unholy.



---

---

If we take this way, then God can come and have a relationship with us again. This is what we as human beings were created for. It is why our hearts feel empty when we have no relationship with the one true God.





*5.5 He has provided a way for our sin  
to be blotted out and removed*

If we take this way, then God can come and have a relationship with us again. This is what we as human beings were created for. It is why our hearts feel empty when we have no relationship with the one true God.



---

---

If we take this way, then God can come and have a relationship with us again. This is what we as human beings were created for. It is why our hearts feel empty when we have no relationship with the one true God.





---

He wants us to be part of His Kingdom and to become His children. First, our sins must be forgiven. Second, the sinful nature with which we were born must be put to death and we must be born again (John 3:5-7), then we shall have a new nature and be able to know God and enjoy fellowship with Him.



## *5.6 God wants us to know Him*

He wants us to be part of His Kingdom and to become His children. First, our sins must be forgiven. Second, the sinful nature with which we were born must be put to death and we must be born again (John 3:5-7), then we shall have a new nature and be able to know God and enjoy fellowship with Him.





---

He wants us to be part of His Kingdom and to become His children. First, our sins must be forgiven. Second, the sinful nature with which we were born must be put to death and we must be born again (John 3:5-7), then we shall have a new nature and be able to know God and enjoy fellowship with Him.



---

# 6. Examining Your Inner Self



Sin is the great barrier between God and man. Sin prevents a new spiritual, eternal life and stops us moving forward with God.

---

---

---



We have to discover the problem.



Sin is the great barrier between God and man. Sin prevents a new spiritual, eternal life and stops us moving forward with God.

*Even when we have given control of our lives to Jesus, we still sin and need to be released from the power of it.*

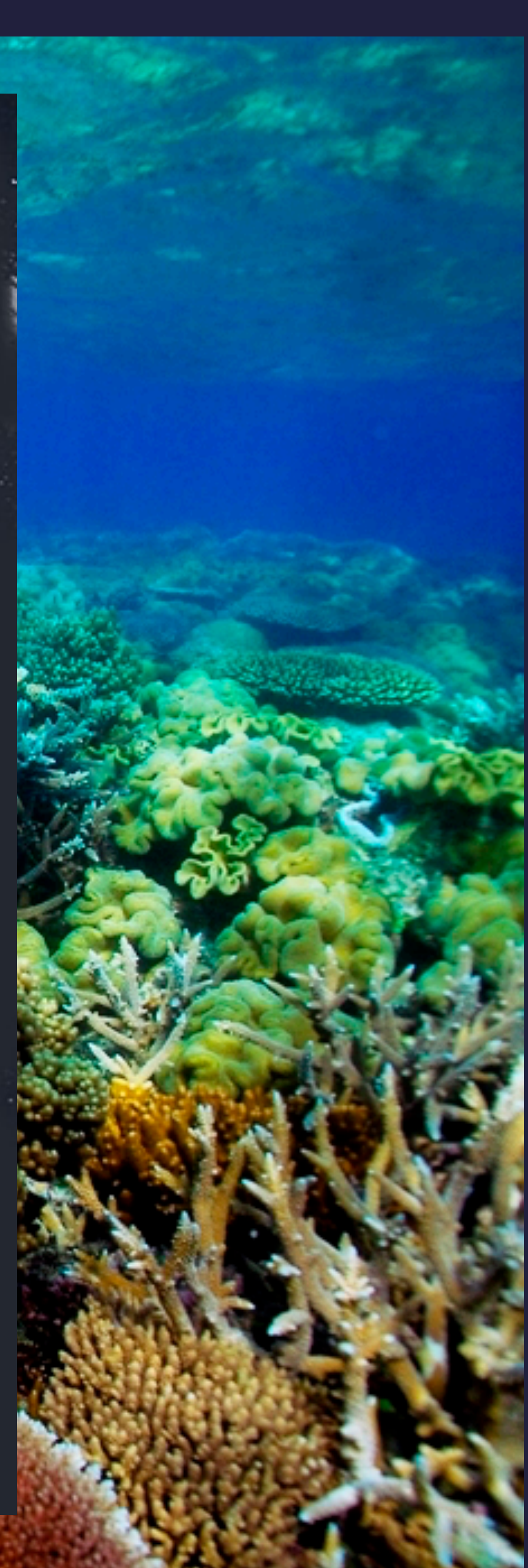
We have to discover the problem.













This is not a forced effort; the Holy Spirit will show us this in our lives (John 16:7-10).

Our responsibility is:

- to be sincere before God
- to be open before God
- to confess to God
- to be still before God
- to listen to God

What the law  
does



What the Holy  
Spirit does



In Psalm 139:23, 24 we find the following prayer from David:

**'Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.'**





During the next few days, in a quiet place, pray this prayer and be open to God. When we pray this prayer sincerely, God searches our hearts. God loves us; when He reveals our sin to us He does so with an attitude of love. He wants to cleanse us, not to condemn us.





*Be open and, if necessary, write down particular sins which come into your mind. Let the Holy Spirit show you your sins. This is vital if you want to be a disciple of Jesus.*





During the next few days, in a quiet place, pray this prayer and be open to God. When we pray this prayer sincerely, God searches our hearts. God loves us; when He reveals our sin to us He does so with an attitude of love. He wants to cleanse us, not to condemn us.





**What are you going to do with this?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





---

# 7. Questions and Discussion Points

1. 'To miss the mark' is a good definition of the word 'sin'. Discuss.

2. What is the universal consequence of sin? (Isaiah 59:1-2).

3. Why did God give man a free choice if He knew man would sin and so be separated from Him?

4. What happened to Adam when he sinned?



5. What was the result of Adam's sin for the rest of mankind who are Adam's children?

6. Why is guilt a major problem for most people?

7. Why don't most people recognise that they are displeasing God?

---

# 8. Summary and Application



1.All people are born with a sinful nature.

2.As humans our natural action is towards things that displease God.

3.Everybody is responsible and will be held accountable for their own sins.

2. God the Father sent Jesus to take our sin into Himself.

3. To make use of the work of Jesus in our own lives we need to ask God to forgive us for all we have done to displease Him and accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.



***The End***