



# People Need New Life in Christ

“Man calls sin an accident; God calls it an abomination. Man calls sin a blunder; God calls it blindness. Man calls sin a weakness; God calls it willfulness” ---*Christian Digest*  
Sin is the willful disobedience of God’s law. That law was given not to make man miserable, but as instructions from our Maker on how to live life at its best. Man, however, in wanting to be a god unto himself, chose to rebel and disobey. As a result the Scriptures gives us God’s perspective on sin.



**Every person is a sinner**  
**All men are captives of sin**  
**Sin condemns all people**  
**Sin hardens the hearts of people**

Romans 3:23  
Romans 7:23  
John 3:18  
Ephesians 4:18

There is only one remedy for sin—to believe that Jesus died on Calvary facing the penalty of our sin on our behalf. Every human being needs the forgiveness of God to overcome sin and its consequences.

**God will change hard hearts**  
**God will forgive our sin**  
**Forgiveness brings peace**  
**God can forgive anyone**

Ezekiel 36:26-27  
1 John 1:9  
Romans 5:1  
1 Timothy 1:15-16

## Overview

Genesis 3:1-6 describes how sin first entered the human race. Adam and Eve, by their willful disobedience, introduced sin and death into a previously idyllic world. They had the ability to sin or not to sin, according to the power of their own choice. Why did God create man with a free will and the possibility of disobeying? The Lord did not want “robots,” people who would love and obey Him because they had no other

choice. This kind of adoration would be meaningless. The Creator wanted beings that would choose to love Him. There was a pastor who evidently felt unloved by his congregation, so he programmed his computer to say, “I love you” each time it booted up. The computer had no free will, but could only do what it was programmed to do. It, therefore, had no impact. Giving man a free choice meant that man could

freely express his love to God, but it also created the possibility of man’s making wrong decisions. Tragically, man, when given an option, made the wrong choice.

This act of disobedience took man into sin. The results of sin include

- our inability to please God;
- spiritual and physical death;
- and a crucial need to be rescued.

Nonetheless, there is hope. God in His love had a plan to save sinful man (Romans 5:8).

# DECLARATION OF FAITH

*"We believe that upon sincere repentance, godly sorrow for sin, and a wholehearted acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ, they who call upon Him may be justified by faith, through His precious blood, and that in place of condemnation they may have the most blessed peace, assurance and favor with God; that with open arms of mercy and pardon the Savior waits to receive each penitent who will in unfeigned contrition and supplication for mercy, open the door of his heart and accept Him as Lord and King."*

– Aimee Semple McPherson,  
Founder ICFG



## Insight

### INABILITY

Romans 3:10-12 teaches that man simply cannot be as good as God requires. We may think that we are better than others and, therefore, we ought to make it into heaven. We are not judged, however, with regard to other people. God's standard is His own perfection and glory (Romans 3:23). We fall immensely short of His requirements. Galatians 3:10 explains that, to keep from falling under the curse and judgment for sin, people would have to keep the law perfectly all the time. We could never make any mistakes. James 2:10 adds that if we break even one of God's commands, we are just as guilty as if we broke them all. Man desperately needs help. God has provided that help in the person of His Son, Jesus and through the power of His Spirit (Romans 8:1-4). God's higher law of His renewing Holy Spirit supersedes the law of sin. It's similar to how the law of aerodynamics supersedes the law of gravity enabling an airplane to defy that which wants to hold it down.

### DEATH

*The wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23). This death takes on three forms. First, there is spiritual death (Ephesians 2:1; 1 Timothy 5:6). Second, there is physical death (Hebrews 9:27). Third, there is eternal death (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:11-15).

The effects of sin are far-reaching. When sin entered the world, people discovered for the first time the meaning of the phrase "life span." The agony of guilt impacted man, and suffering, in all its various forms, entered into the world. However, God had a plan to make things right (John 3:16). It would cost the Lord His own life, but it would counter the terrible curse of man's sin.

When the Bible speaks of the wicked being destroyed, it means primarily that they are separated from God (2 Thessalonians 1:9). This devastation results from being separated from all that is good and that restrains evil. Furthermore, it is to face the wrath of God against sin. Man is not without hope however. God always makes a way for reconciliation. There was another who faced the punishment of sin on man's behalf (Romans 5:8-9).

### DECISION

Receiving Christ as our Savior makes the difference between being forgiven of our sins, or paying the price for them ourselves (Matthew 13:41-42). Jesus tells us that the way to escape the punishment for our sins is to believe on Him (John 3:18). Because God will not violate our free will, the decision is up to us. Indecision is the same as rejecting God's provision of salvation. Imagine a man in a burning building who refuses the help of a fireman on a ladder offering a way of escape. It's one thing to burn when there is no hope of rescue; it is something else to perish when it would have been so easy to be saved. Christ offers salvation to all who will put their faith and trust in Him. Paul expresses it this way in 2 Corinthians 6:2, *"I tell you, now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation."*



# Personal Response

Man’s wickedness forfeited his fellowship with a Holy God who cannot tolerate sin. Since man cannot change himself, his condition seemed hopeless. Jesus faced the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross in our place. When we put our faith in Him, our sins were then credited to His account, and His perfection was credited to our account . Because we are now made right before God through Christ’s sacrifice, our fellowship with God is restored.

The New Testament meaning of the word, “redeem,” is closest to our concept of a ransom. If a person were kidnapped and held for “ransom,” he would only be released after the “ransom” had been paid. Our Redeemer has paid the ransom by offering Himself so that we might go free. Read Romans 7:23-25a, Galatians 3:13, and Ephesians 1:7. Explain below how God redeemed us from the curse of sin.

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## HEART PERSPECTIVE

A little boy and his father were taking an afternoon drive in the country. As they enjoyed the breeze and the relaxing balmy day, suddenly a bee flew into the car. The boy was extremely allergic and knew that a bee sting would certainly mean a trip to the emergency room and possibly death.

In a panic, the little boy swatted and squirmed to avoid the bee. Gently, the father reached over to the thrashing boy and scooped up the offending bee in his hand. With obvious relief, the boy stopped wiggling.

The father opened his hand, releasing the bee to fly out the car window. Then, the father showed how he had taken the sting so that the boy would not have to feel the pain or experience the effects.

We can identify with the boy’s relief. Our Heavenly Father arranged to take the sting of sin and death in the body of His Son, Jesus Christ. The nail prints of the crucifixion and the physical lacerations of the beatings resulting from that decision will be lasting reminders of God’s grace and mercy. While we struggled with sin, trying to avoid its deadly sting, Christ died, taking the penalty and paying the ultimate price that we might escape sin’s horrible consequences ourselves.

Read Romans 5:19-21. The Apostle Paul tells us that where sin is present, grace now abounds in greater measure. Once you receive Jesus as Savior, God’s grace abounds to you. Think about your life. Consider how the grace of God has brought about change. Think about how His grace will continue to change your life in the future.

Answer this question: What new significance do the words of Romans 5:20-21 have for me? Once you answer this question, it should help motivate you to share God’s wonderful grace with another person.





## Lesson 1 Teaching Outline

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### **REFERENCE POINT**

**(15 minutes)**

Before class give each verse below to a student. After each person reads his or her verse aloud, ask that class member how he or she would explain it to someone else.

Romans 3:23

- Every person is a sinner.

Romans 7:23

- All men are captives of sin .

John 3:18

- Sin condemns all people.

Ephesians 4:18

- Sin hardened people's hearts.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

- God's will change hard hearts.

1 John 1:9

- God will forgive our sin.

Romans 5:1

- Forgiveness brings peace.

1 Timothy 1:15-16

### **OVERVIEW**

**(10 minutes)**

Write the following question on the chalkboard: "*Why did God give man a free will with the possibility of making wrong choices?*" After getting their opinions, ask the students to read the overview on the first page of the handout.

Ask the students to explain the difference between having a computer that was programmed to do so, say "I love you", and having a living person of his or her own free will, say "I love you." Use that example to relate how God longed for someone who would chose to have relationship with Him, instead of just a race of robots.

### **INSIGHT**

**(25 minutes)**

This is the primary time of teaching. After going through the section on man's *INABILITY* to meet God's requirements, illustrate with a model airplane, picture, or video clip of an airplane taking off, how the law of aerodynamics overcomes the law of gravity. Likewise, God's renewing Holy Spirit overcomes the law of sin and death.

Write on a chalkboard or overhead transparency the three forms of death that entered the world as a result man's sin, and discuss them with the class.

Ask the students why they think it is so important to make a decision to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord of their lives.

## **TAKING IT HOME**

### **PERSONAL RESPONSE (Conclusion,10 minutes)**

Encourage the students to read the suggested Scriptures. Have them think about the meaning and write in their own words an explanation of how God redeemed us from the curse of sin.

### **HEART PERSPECTIVE (Personal Devotions)**

This section is intended to encourage and guide the students during the week as a reminder of how much God cares for them. It might be used in personal devotions or as a point of conversation with family members or friends.

### **FAITH SHARING (Follow-Up)**

Have the students read and consider how God's grace and love have affected their own lives. This will encourage students to share their faith with other people outside of class.