

What's The Matter With Me?

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THE TRUTH: All problems in my life are the result of my separation from a loving God due to sin.

The Fall of man in Genesis affected the whole of God's creation. His design for the way things were meant to be was distorted and keeps us from experiencing abundant life.

Sin separates us from life.

THE LIE: Nothing is the matter with me.

We have so rejected this awareness of the awfulness of our sin that we either ignore it or make excuses for it. It is for many, even in the church, "much ado about nothing".

Defining the Sin Problem ...

1. Most people agree with the concept of sin, but interpret it in very _____ and mostly irresponsible ways. (Isa. 59.2)

Biblically, Sin is "any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature."

2. In order to deal with the pain of conscience, we have simply decided to eradicate _____ and _____ from our society. Sin blinds us to the truth about sin. (Ps. 14.1) (Rom. 1.21-22,28)
3. We tend to think of sin in terms of what we _____, not in terms of who we _____. (1 Tim. 1.15, Eph. 3.8)
4. The _____ of sin are far more devastating than we know. (Rom. 6.23)

Honestly facing the reality of my own sinfulness is painful and devastating – when I see my sin in light of God's holy nature I naturally experience shame, depression, fear, anger, lowered self-esteem, feelings of failure, and hopelessness. When I place my own imperfection beside God's perfection it will naturally reveal my flaws and disturb me deeply.

EQUIPPED 2 ENGAGE:

Declaring the Sin Solution – Christ Crucified

Every believer in Christ is empowered to live a holy life. But, we are foolish if we think we're incapable of serious sin.

1. An awareness of my sin and its consequences should drive me to be rescued.
2. To downplay sin is to distort the gospel and to challenge the very character of God.

3 responses to live above sin's domination (Romans 6) ...

1. " _____ " (6.3, 6, 8-10)

2. " _____ " (6.11)

3. " _____ " (6.13)

3. Confession is not an incidental part of the Christian life or the Christian gathering.

When we come to Christ, we surrender ourselves and our attempts to be good enough. When we admit our sin problem is our real problem, we can invite Christ to come and live his life through us. And when we choose him, he begins the process of changing us from the inside (Romans 8:29; Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:20-21)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: For House Churches, Triads, and Family Devo's

1. Why do you think sin has such a broad range of meaning to most people?
2. In what ways have we attempted to remove guilt and shame from culture? How do you see this blinding our society to the truth about sin? about God?
3. Discuss the difference between our sins (plural) and sin (singular).
4. How does sin affect you in your relationship with God? What is God's solution?

*~Fill in the blank answers: Personal, Guilt, Shame, Do, Are, Effects
Know, Consider, Present*