



# Are Some Sins Worse Than Others?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Q&A NUMBER: 26

[www.GodSaidSo.com/QA26](http://www.GodSaidSo.com/QA26)

Are some sins worse than others? It is commonly said that some individuals are worse sinners than others because of the specific sins they have committed. Man commonly treats some sin as being less devastating than others. But, let's consider what the Scriptures teach on this subject.

## **Worse How?**

To clarify our subject, let's spend just a moment to consider what I am asking when I question, "Are some sins worse than others?"

Please understand that I am not questioning whether some sins have worse *physical* consequences than others. There can be no doubt that they do. From a physical perspective, some sins seem to carry little or no specific physical consequence – while others result in great physical harm. Certainly there are some sins that will directly result in injured/destroyed relationships, bodily harm, jail time, or even death. Some sins will not only directly effect your own life; but, will also negatively effect the lives of others – injuring others physically or emotionally. Therefore, from a *physical* perspective we can properly conclude that some sins result in greater physical consequences than others – although (ultimately) sin is responsible for all of the physical death that exists in the world (because sin caused Adam and Eve to be removed from the Garden of Eden and separated from the Tree of Life).

Instead, this question is focused on what the Bible teaches about the *spiritual* consequences of sin. Do some sins result in a greater *spiritual* punishment than other sins? Let's investigate how the Bible answers this question.

## **The Nature Of God And Sin**

In order to be able to reach the proper conclusion about this question, we absolutely **must** understand the nature of God and the nature of sin – and how each one correlates with the other.

First, the nature of God is that He is entirely holy, pure, and free from evil. 1 John 1:5 says, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” The holiness of God is both proclaimed and demonstrated repeatedly in Scriptures. Particularly, notice how four living creatures are pictured as proclaiming God’s holiness in Revelation 4:8: “The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’” So, God’s nature is one that is entirely separated from everything that is evil. He is entirely pure – and cannot be in fellowship with anything that is evil.

Second, you must realize that this holy God has revealed a law to mankind that is also holy (Romans 7:12). There is no aspect of God’s law that will lead mankind into ways of unrighteousness. Instead, God’s law is designed to lead mankind to walk in God’s holy ways and be separated from all the ways of evil. However, the devil tempts mankind to violate the holy law of God and fulfill his own fleshly desires (read Romans 7:7-12 and James 1:14-15). Whenever an individual decides to violate the holy instructions of the holy God, he/she commits sin. 1 John 3:4 says that “sin is lawlessness.” That is, sin is acting against or contrary to the law of God.

Therefore, sin separates the sinner from God 100% of the time! Death is clearly identified in the Bible as being the result/outcome of sin. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (also read James 1:14-15). This “death” is not a reference to physical death; but, is a reference to the spiritual death (separation) that results from sinning against our holy God. Isaiah 59:1-2 states: “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”

After stating that God is entirely holy (that He is light) and that there is nothing evil (no darkness) at all in God (1 John 1:5), John writes, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:6-7). Once again, the Bible is clear that we cannot live in our sin and be in fellowship with our holy God!

Now, the question for you to consider is this: What sin makes less of a separation between man and God? We have observed the holy nature of God and the unholy nature of sin – and the death (separation) that results from sin. So, in order for some sinful activity to have a less severe consequence than others, it must be less unholy than other sinful things! Can you identify which sins are more holy than others? You cannot!

### **Romans 1:28-32**

Romans 1:28-31 is a passage that lists many different types of sinful activities. As you consider this list, which sins do you think are worse than others? “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which

are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful.”

“Surely, being disobedient to your parents is not as bad of a sin as being a murderer.” “Surely, being envious is not as bad as committing fornication.” “Surely, being a gossip is not as bad as being violent.” This is how we often apply our human reasoning. However, consider what is said in verse 32: “who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” First, notice that “death” (spiritual separation from God) is the earned consequence of each one of these sinful activities (as they are all equally contrary to the holy nature of God and against His holy commandments). Then, notice that it is not just those who practice these things who are deserving of death; but, those who give approval of such things are also deserving of death!

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

Again, which is the worse sin? Being covetous or a fornicator? Being a drunkard or an idolater? Being a swindler or practicing homosexuality? Stealing or committing adultery? We might each have our own ideas. However, God says that no one who practices these things will “inherit the kingdom of God.” None of them will partake of the blessings of Heaven! Why? Because they have all separated themselves from the holy God by engaging in unholy activity! In order for any of these people to be saved, they must be cleansed and set apart from their sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

Galatians 5:19-21 lists some “works of the flesh”: “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Do you think that jealousy is as bad a sin as murder? Or selfishness as idolatry? Or hatred as sorcery? Again, just as in 1 Corinthians 6, those who engage in any of the sinful works of the flesh listed here “will not inherit the kingdom of God”! There is absolutely no distinction made by

God between any of these sinful activities! Furthermore, the phrase, “and the like” indicates that there could be additional sins listed in this passage that are not listed – similar to the sinful activity that has already been identified. And, all such works of the flesh result in the same separation from the holy God as the others!

### **Revelation 21:8**

We have already discussed the fact that sin separates from God. Thus, we can be dead (spiritually) even though we live (physically), according to 1 Timothy 5:6. Living in a spiritually dead condition means that we are separated from the spiritual blessings God provides through Jesus Christ and that we are without hope in that current condition. However, the Bible speaks of the consequences of dying (physically) while in our sins. Consider Revelation 21:8: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Again, which sin is worse: Being cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, a murder, a fornicator, a sorcerer, an idolater, or a liar? Everyone who practices such things will have their share in the “lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”! This is eternal separation from our holy God in Hell fire! This is the consequence awaiting all those who die (physically) while living in sin! Read Matthew 25:41 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 to see that such people will be eternally separated from God. This is why it is called the “second death.”

### **Conclusion**

Are some sins worse than others – spiritually? No. Not in the sense of having a different eternal consequence than others. Some sins may be harder to repent of than others. Some sins may have harsher physical consequences. However, ultimately, all sin equally separates the sinner from our holy God – and dying in sin will result in eternal separation from God in Hell fire.

**Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series**

**Study Number: QA26**

**Written by Eric Krieg**

**Copyright:** Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God’s glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

**Scripture quotations:** Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.