

Sin....

Aren't there some sins which aren't as bad as others?

For instance – we all know murder and cruelty are big sins – bad sins, in fact. But, seriously, is telling a small lie really such a big deal?

From scripture we learn that certain things are true of sin – no matter how big or small. There's a list below of nine (9) of those true characteristics of sin. Read them through and judge for yourself how significant even a small sin is:

1. Romans 1:29-32

Sin gets worse and worse

One sin does not usually just stop there. Sin leads to other sin...to other sin....to worse and worse sins.

2. John 8:34, Prov. 5:22

Sin enslaves, ensnares

Sin is like a trap hidden in the woods. The unsuspecting person steps into the trap, thinking he can keep going forward, only to find that the sin has held him in place. He can't move forward. He can't wriggle free.

3. Psalms 38:4,5

Sin brings guilt

Guilt cannot be sidestepped. The heavy burden of it can show up in all kinds of ways in our lives. Guilt which is not acknowledged and dealt with can cause depression, physical sickness, and even death. It can destroy families, and end lives in loneliness and uselessness.

4. Numbers 32:23

Sin can't be kept secret

When any of us sins, we want it to be kept quiet. We usually don't want anyone else to know. But it never stays quiet. Sin will always be known to all. Shouted from the housetops, sometimes.

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5. Hebrews 11:25

Sin does give pleasure

It helps to understand this. There is pleasure in sin. But only for a little while. It doesn't last. Guilt sets in soon and even more sin must be added in order to get back the pleasure. Like an addiction to heroin, sin craves more, and the trap is very powerful.

6. Proverbs 14:1

Sin tears down

Whatever you have tried to build up...the good things you have tried to do...they can all be speedily torn down by just one sin.

7. Exodus 34:7

Sin must be punished

The LORD has no choice. The nature of sin is that it must be dealt with. Punishment must follow.

8. Romans 6:23

Sin brings death

And the very worst punishment for sin is death...and it always comes. The Good News of Jesus Christ is that He has taken our punishment. Amazingly, we don't have to be punished if we will accept Jesus' gift.

9. Romans 6

Sin has results...even for the

forgiven Christian

Yes, sin has results, even for a Christian who has truly believed in Jesus. Forgiveness of sin and removal of the penalty of death do not mean that the scars of sin will not remain in our lives. We will usually bear them our whole lives, until some day we have new bodies in heaven.

So...addictions will still have a strong pull

Divorces will still bring pain.

Disobedience to parents will still destroy families

Lying will still foster lack of trust

Sexual sin will still bring disease and destroy marriages

Cheating will stand land us in jail.

As you look over these 9 truths about sin, I think you'll conclude as I have: There are no small sins.