

ARTICLE 4

We believe that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.

1. Definition of Sin

a. Sin entered the world with the decisions and actions of Adam and Eve.

Scripture references: Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 2 Corinthians 11:3

b. At the center of sin are human wrongdoing, imperfections, wicked actions, and selfish desires.

Scripture references:

Sin as rebellion—Deuteronomy 17:2; Isaiah 1:2; 63:10; Luke 15:18, 21; Romans 3:23

Sin as it relates others—Romans 1:18-32; 13:9-10; James 2:1-13; 1 John 3:15

Sin as it relates to oneself—Malachi 4:1; Luke 1:51; Romans 1:18-32; 1 John 2:16; Ephesians 4:19; 1 Timothy 6:10

(1) In relation to God, sin is rebellion against Him.

(2) In relation to other people, sin expresses itself in immoral conduct, lack of love, discrimination, and injustice.

(3) In relation to oneself, sin expresses itself in pride, self-centeredness, exaggerated self-sufficiency, greed, and self-destruction.

c. There is no area of human life that is untouched by sin.

Scripture references: Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:1-5; Romans 3:9-18; 5:12.

2. Universal Reality of Sin

a. The Bible states that all people have sinned.

Scripture references: Romans 3:12; Psalm 14:3; 143:2; Romans 3:9, 23

b. All have done wrong, and apart from Christ the most moral person is still an unsaved sinner.

Scripture references: John 1:47; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:1-15

3. Repentance

a. The New Testament word for “repentance” (*metanoia*) means simply “to change one’s mind.”

Scripture references: 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Matthew 27:3

b. The Holy Spirit has an active role in our repentance.

Scripture references: Acts 5:31; 2 Timothy 2:25; Acts 17:30; Romans 2:4

c. Repentance toward God and faith in Christ go hand in hand.

Scripture references: Acts 5:31; 10:43; 11:21; 13:24

Discussion

Definition of Sin

- 1) If God created the world and God is good, then how did evil come into this world?
(Read Genesis 3)

- 2) Discuss sin as it relates to God, to other people, and to oneself.

Universal Reality of Sin

- 3) Is there anyone who has never sinned? Explain your answer.
- 4) How is one delivered from the bondage of sin?

Repentance

- 5) Explain the difference between sorrow (or remorse) and repentance.
- 6) In repentance, what are the roles of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

Prayer

Father, Your Son came among us as the Friend of sinners to find those who are lost and to give them new life.

You proved Your love for all of us—in that even when we were sinful people who did not love You, You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to die for us. The Cross of Your Son is a constant reminder of Your unfailing love toward each of us.

We pray that You will help us to hold on to the Cross through all of the difficulties and temptations of life; and that You will help us to repent from our wrongdoings and failures.

Have mercy on us and pardon us from all of our sins. Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness. We want to live holy and blameless lives and finally enter into the life of heaven one day.

Amen.

Resources for Additional Study

Arrington, French L. *Christian Doctrine: A Pentecostal Perspective*, Vol. 2. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway, 1992; pp. 117-155.

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Hoyt, Herman Arthur. *The New Birth*. Findlay, Ohio: Dunham Pub. Co., 1961.

Ironside, H. A. *Except Ye Repent*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Bethany Fellowship, 1963.

Packer, J. I. *The New Man*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.