



## The Problem of Sin

Christian First Principles #1

**OPEN** (5-10 minutes)

Should a husband always give an honest answer when his wife asks his opinion?

**DIG** (20-25 minutes)

**Read James 1:13-15**

1. Satan will use hardship to **tempt** us, in hopes of destroying our faith. God often uses the same hardship to **test** us, to strengthen our faith. What role do we play in the outcome?
2. What part does Satan have in creating the desire to sin?
3. What is the difference between a newborn sin and a fully grown sin?
4. Discuss the various kinds of death that sin spawns? Physical? Spiritual? Emotional? Professional? Relationships? Godly influence? Eternal? Others?

**REFLECT** (25-30 minutes)

1. How many people do you know who treat sin as seriously as God treats sin?
2. People tend to find certain sins fairly harmless while other sins seem totally reprehensible. Which of your sins are you most tempted to treat as fairly harmless?
3. In 1:14 James draws a word picture of Satan “fishing” for souls. He casts out temptations in hopes we will bite. Then Satan reels us in. Which of Satan’s lures works best on you?
4. In 1:15 James draws a word picture of our own evil desires “giving birth” to sin. Is it a sin to have evil desires (ref. Heb 4:15)? If not, when does desire become sin?
5. In the sermon, holiness was defined as being totally committed to serving a divine purpose. According to this definition, how holy are you on a scale of 0 to 100?
6. Make a case for why you believe God does or does not have the right to plan your life.
7. What part of your life are you least willing to give over to God’s design or control?
8. In the sermon, sin was defined as either ignoring God’s plan for your life or rebelling against God’s plan for your life. So, what is God’s plan for your life?
9. What part of God’s plan for your life are you most guilty of ignoring? Of rebelling against?
10. Scripture instructs us to fear God (Eccl 12:13). How can we fear God and love Him at the same time?

**PRAYER TIME** - Thank God for His honesty in warning you about sin and its consequences. Ask God to forgive you for the sins you have committed. Ask God to help you resist sin’s lures.