Sin Is No Laughing Matter

Intro: Our world thinks sin is hilarious. The former suggestive lines and scenes in movies and television have given way to the explicit. The dirty jokes and four letter words are sources of great fun to most people. Lying, cheating, sexual promiscuity, and drunkenness are all passed over with a wink or a chuckle. Sin is merely a laughing matter to the masses. Surely it would not be if men were not so deep in their self-imposed ignorance of the simplest spiritual principles. Let us consider.

I. WHAT SIN IS:
   A. Transgression of God’s law:
      1. 1 John 3:4 “Whosoever committeth transgression also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
      2. Transgression means to step across; or go beyond the boundary set by God, that boundary is God’s law.
   B. Unrighteousness:
      1. 1 John 5:17 “All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.”
      2. Unrighteousness is a failure to do right. Those who do not keep God’s law or live in harmony with the Gospel of Christ.
         a. Righteousness in its application to man is the doing of right; the keeping of God’s commands; obedience to the Gospel of Christ.
         b. 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
         c. Psa. 119:172 “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”
         d. Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
   C. A failure to do good:
      1. Jam. 4:17 “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
      2. Good is that which God has ordered or ordained and not doing it is sin.
   D. Iniquity:
      1. Isa. 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
      2. Indicates lawlessness or wickedness.
   E. Falling Short:
      1. Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
      2. The basic meaning of the word sin is, “to fall short of the mark.”
      3. In Christ day when an archer’s arrow fell short of the mark or target, the Greeks said that he had sinned.

II. HOW GOD VIEWS SIN.
   A. God’s character is one of holiness.
      1. The basic meaning of holiness is, “apart from the earth” having reference to being set apart, free from sin and dedicated.
2. 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 

16Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

3. Rev. 4:8 “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

4. Psa. 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.”

5. Psa. 145:17 “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”

B. Being holy, He is totally sinless.

1. 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

2. Deu. 32:4 “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”

C. God, thus, cannot tolerate sin.

1. Hab. 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devour eth the man that is more righteous than he?”

2. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

III. WHAT SIN DOES:

A. Causes a separation between God and ourselves.

1. Isa. 59:1-2 “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

2. Sin’s wages is death:
   a. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
   b. Jam. 1:14-15 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.  

15Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
   c. Death is separation; Jam. 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

B. It dishonors and offends God because of His holiness.

1. God made man to live on a higher plane; Gen. 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

2. Sin, thus, defiles and pollutes us in God’s sight.

C. It renders us completely useless to serve God’s holy purposes for us on earth.

1. Sin destroys our mind.

2. Sin destroys our bodies.

3. Sin makes us the comrade of the devil and his destructive work.

D. Sin will destroy us eternally if we do not receive the remission of those sins.
IV. What Sin Cost.

A. What sin cost man:
   1. His place with God in the Garden of Eden; Gen. 3.
   2. Sin today cost.
      a. Many a woman her purity and many a man his honor.
      b. It robs many of their health, wealth, families, and even their lives.
   3. It will cost man his soul.
      a. Mat. 7:13 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat;”
      b. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
      c. Jam. 1:15 “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

B. What sin cost God:
   1. The death of the only begotten Son of God.
      a. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
      b. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
      c. 1 Pet. 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”
   2. Except for sin, Christ would never have needed to come to the earth.
   3. This is the most dramatic demonstration of the cost of sin.

Conclusion: Let us never laugh at sin.