



# Holiness

## What Is Sin?

Today many people don't even know what sin is. Some people even say that we should not teach children about sin. But, the devil is exposing our children to sin through movies, television, billboards, the Internet, comic books, and through friends at school. The most basic definition of sin is in disobeying God. Adam committed the first sin by directly disobeying God. Likewise, if we disobey the Word of God we are sinning. It might sound like an old cliché, but teach your children to ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" Would Jesus watch the movies you watched? Would He play violent video games? Would He smoke or use dirty words?

## Modeling

I have a Master of Education degree and graduate school confirmed that modeling really IS the best teacher. Be aware of what you are modeling for your children and be willing to be transparent with them when you DO mess up.

## Moving In An Opposite Spirit

Yes, it's kind of a strange expression. What it means is that we need to be different from the world. We need to overcome the pressure of the world that tries to conform us to its pattern (Romans 12:1-2). Explain to your child that we are not referring to the world of nature, or even the people in the world. The spiritual meaning of "world" refers to the sinful ways of people. Moving in the opposite spirit means to respond differently than what is normal in the world. For example, when kids at school are mean to us, we respond in kindness. When a bully picks on someone, we don't join in. We reach out to kids who don't have friends. When kids use bad language, we speak pure words. When other kids cheat or lie, we stand up for honesty and truth. So, look for teachable moments to encourage your children to move in the opposite spirit of the world.

## **Why Do We Obey The Bible?**

Relationship, not religion, is our motivation for obeying God. Religion is man's effort to earn God's favor by following a list of do's and don'ts. It always ends in failure, guilt, and shame. Relationship should motivate us, however. When I disobey God, I build a wall between God and myself. God didn't build that wall. He didn't step away from me. But, by disobeying God, I took a step away from Him and I built a wall. Also, there are consequences for sin, such as damaged relationships and emotional and physical problems that can follow us through life. As a parent, it is tempting to try to get our children to do what we want through guilt, but that will only lead to a religious spirit where they feel God only loves them if they do what is right. Nurture a deep relationship with God. Talk about consequences of sin. Affirm their destiny to do great things for God, but remind them that their destiny is conditional on them obeying His Word. Tell them often that God will never stop loving them. They can't make God love them more or less, but how close they are to God depends on them. While you're at it, tell them that you love them this way also.

## **Forgiveness For Sin**

A good bedtime activity is asking God to show us how we have sinned during the day. Ask God to show you the face of someone you need to forgive. Read over 1 John 1:9, which says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." "Confess" simply means to agree with God that we have sinned. "Repent" means that we turn around and go the other way. Some kids might think, "If it's that easy, I'm going to keep sinning and just ask forgiveness later." Remind them that when they do this their heart gets harder and harder until eventually they will no longer feel sorry for sin and they won't ask forgiveness anymore.

## **The End Times**

My mission is to equip, empower and release kids to overcome in the End Times. I believe that our children will bring closure to the Great Commission and bring in the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen. I believe they will usher in the return of Christ. This all may take decades, but I feel urgency in my heart to prepare them. I also feel they will come under great attack of the enemy because Satan knows that this generation will trample him under their feet (Romans 16:20). One of the greatest ways they can get ready by walking in holiness. Sin in our lives is a foothold for the enemy, a breach in the wall. This generation is destined to take ground from the enemy, and the only way they can do this is to make sure they that the enemy has no ground in them. Partner with me in preparing this wonderful generation to walk in the power and presence of God!