

Lecture #2:

How Sin Affects My Relationship with God

Sin will take us further than we ever wanted to go. It will promise us more and deliver nothing but heartache and fear.

Consequences of Sin

- Slavery and bondage – spiritually, emotionally, and physically. This slavery can lead to bitterness and anger.
- Pain and suffering
 - This is the law of life – the type of sin determines the nature of the consequence. The Bible warns, “...be sure your sin will find you out.” (Numbers 32:23)
 - If God allowed the sinner to get away with sin, it would result in continued disobedience and ultimate failure.
 - It is detrimental to our spiritual, mental, and physical health.
 - It affects our relationship with others.
 - We cause others around us to suffer.
- Poor relationship with God
 - Sin deceives us into thinking that God has distanced Himself from us.
 - It affects our prayer life and worship.
 - Above everything else, abiding in sin quenches the Holy Spirit in us.
 - We end up listening to the wrong voices.
 - We are easily deceived by Satan.
 - It affects our witnessing to other people.
 - It blocks our spiritual growth.
 - We make decisions that appeal to the flesh.
 - We excuse our wrongs and blame others.
 - It blocks God's blessings.

What if we have sinned?

We have to admit that we are all sinners and the way for us to be cleansed from our sins is the blood of the Lord “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” 1 John 1:8-9

So, when we sin, we should follow these steps:

- Realize that we always have another chance as far as we are still here on earth; no matter how set we are in our ways; or how deep our disobedience of the Word of God.
- Admit that we have sinned. Often people fail to acknowledge their sin and blame others for their behavior.
- Repent of sin. This means that we have realized that our behavior is not in line with God's will, and that we are truly sorry for what we have done.
- Confess our sin to our confessor father and ask for absolution – this is important because we are assuming responsibility for our actions.
- Be determined to turn away from sin (John 8:7) – this is true repentance. The pattern of sin must be broken. All means and reasons that lead to sin should be cut off.
- Apply the Word of God to our heart - Trust the Word of God and what it says about forgiveness.

- Turn to God for healing. Start walking with God through the healing process, and trust that we can hope for real lasting change. A fervent life of prayer in your room and in the liturgy will also help keep the heart warm with the love of God.
- Engage in spiritual warfare – recognize that we have an enemy – Satan – who is trying to block our progress. Trust God to help us in future trials. St. Paul sets before us the level up to which we should be struggling against sin, “You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin” Heb.12:4
- The fellowship with the saints in the victorious church will always be an undefeated weapon in our struggle “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” Heb. 12:1
- Partake of His Holy Body and His precious Blood continuously. Remember that this is given to us for salvation, remission of sins, and eternal life to those who partake of Him.
- Thank God for His grace and mercy.
- Know that God will never give up on us. He will never think of us as a lost cause. As long as we are open to a relationship with Him, He will work in our lives.

