



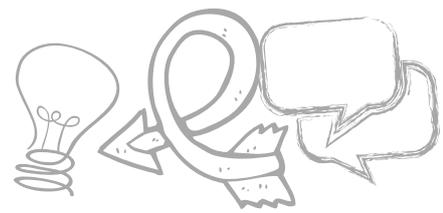
The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL



no big deal?



no big deal?

Part 1: Whatever Happened to Sin?

“The very word “sin”, which seems to have disappeared, was once a proud word. It was once a strong word, an ominous and serious word... But that word went away. It has almost disappeared – the word, along with the notion. Why? Doesn’t anyone sin anymore? Does anyone even believe in sin anymore?” Dr. Karl Menninger

“For whoever shall keep the whole LAW, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” James 2:10

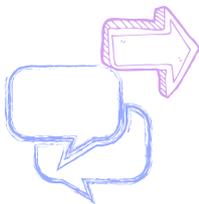


While the earthly consequences of sin

the spiritual consequences are

“For the wages of sin is death...” Romans 6:23

"Catch us the foxes, the LITTLE FOXES that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes." Songs 2:15



It only takes a small leak to sink a big ship.

SIN =

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.” Romans 8:29

SMALL deviation over LONG period of time =

MAJOR



“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” Hebrews 12:1–2

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”
Psalm 139:23–24

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

“Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.” Romans 5:20

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” 1 Timothy 1:15

If you water down **sin, you water down **forgiveness**.**

If you water down **forgiveness, you water down **the One who gave it**.**

no big deal?



Part 2: Criticizing

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Proverbs 18:21

“The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.” Proverbs 15:4

Key Verse:

**“The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” Proverbs 12:18**

Which do you want to be?



1. _____

“Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for THE ACCUSER OF OUR BRETHREN, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.” Revelation 12:10

Comes from being _____ and _____

“Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.” Proverbs 21:19

2.

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29

“When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” John 8:10–11

“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63

Who do you know that is in need of grace today?



TODAY'S ARE CREATING



TOMORROW'S

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:36–37

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Part 4: Lying

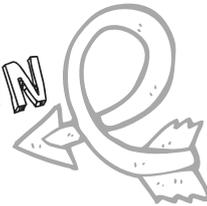
“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.” Proverbs 12:22

We consider the impact of our lies on

God considers the impact of our lies on

“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44

SATAN'S THREE STEP PLAN



1. **ALIE**

“Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.” Proverbs 20:17

2. **ALIE**

“When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.” 2 Samuel 11:26–27

“So David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.” Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!” 2 Samuel 12:6–7

3. **ALIE**

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9

 **Only defense is**
and

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

Lying comes down to fear vs trust. We lie because we believe that a lie will work out better for us than the truth.

“I [Jesus] am the way,  THE TRUTH, and the life.” John 14:6

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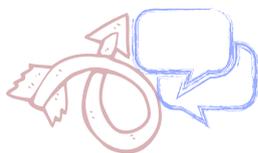
Part 5: Gossiping

“The words of a gossip are like CHOICE MORSELS; they go down to a man's inmost parts.” Proverbs 26:22

“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are GOSSIPS, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.” Romans 1:28–31

**gossip: passing on information when you are neither part of
the or the**

“... wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.” 1 Timothy 5:13



the victims of gossip:

1. The of the gossip

“These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ... A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.” Proverbs 6:16,19

2. The of the gossip

“Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.” Proverbs 11:12–13

“Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babbler.” Proverbs 20:19

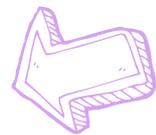
3. The of the gossip

“Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander.” Proverbs 17:4

What you permit, you promote.

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’” Matthew 18:15–16

Socrates' Triple Filter Test:



IS IT TRUE? IS IT GOOD? IS IT USEFUL?

“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks...

For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Matthew 12:34, 37

no big deal??

Part 6: Bitterness

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” Ephesians 4:31

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.” Hebrews 12:14–15

FORGIVENESS: TRUE OR FALSE



1. A person should not be forgiven until he asks for it.
2. Forgiving includes minimizing the offense & making excuses for the offender.
3. Forgiveness includes restoring trust and reconciling the relationship.
4. You haven't really forgiven until you've forgotten.

FORGIVENESS =

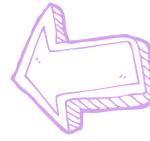
see Matthew 18:21–35

“So My Heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” Matthew 18:35

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors... For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:12, 14–15

**"When you forgive, you in no way change the past.
But you sure do change the future." Brad Meltzer**

the path to forgiveness



1. _____ who you're angry with

3. Cancel the debt

2. Determine what they _____ you

4. _____ the case

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, FORGIVING one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:31-32

**Anyone unwilling to forgive
is usually thinking of what was done TO THEM vs FOR THEM.**



"Heavenly Father, _____ has taken _____ from me.

I have held on to this debt long enough
but today I choose to cancel it forever.

_____ doesn't owe me anymore.

Just as You forgave me, I forgive _____."