Session 1 - Leveling the Playing Field

1 Corinthians 6:9–10

Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

ALL sin separates us from God. ALL sin deserves an eternity in hell. There are no levels, no rating systems.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

John 8:7–9

Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

What made them put down their rocks and walk away?

ALL sin, mine and yours, holds the same weight on the cross of Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8–9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:1 - As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins

You were dead. I was dead. Jesus saved you by His grace, not by anything you did or how good you looked. This is the gospel.

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Do you live a lifestyle of sin?

John 8:10–11

Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Jesus the bridegroom - Matthew 9:15, Matthew 25:1-13

Hebrews 10:26–27 - If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

Romans 6:11–12 - In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

It's a fantasy to think you can claim Jesus, expect eternal life, and live in sin.

1. Temptation is not sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Matthew 4:1 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted v by the devil.

2 Cor. 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2. One sin does not send you to hell.

John 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Ephesians 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Romans 8:38–39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Can you lose your salvation?

Hebrews 6:4–6 - It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 6 and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance.

3. What if there is repeated sin in my life? Am I saved?

1 John 3:9–10 - No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

Are you repentant? Are you wanting out? Is there conviction?

1 John 2:1–6 - My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

What is the trajectory?

We are becoming more and more like Jesus every day.

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

It was his revelation of who God was that made him aware of his sin! Our message should be, Look! This is who God is! He is good!

Do people see God in you?

2 Timothy 1:14 - By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Galatians 5:22–23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.

Jesus hung out with sinners. He loved people no matter who they were, no matter what they had done.

People won't see their sin until they see God, His glory, His grace.