

SIN POINT VALUES

1 John 3:4 ... "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

Self-justification is how many people live their lives. I am not immune to it. I suppose every reader of this can confess that they occasionally justify their sinful thoughts, words, and deeds. It is a very hard practice to escape. So, can we just admit that everyone excuses their sin to one degree or another, at least occasionally?

How do we do that? What tool or principle do we use to justify our own sins? I believe the most common way is by assigning points to the various sins illustrated in the Bible. You may not do this deliberately or assign actual numbers to each type of sin, but subconsciously I believe most of us go about it in this manner. For instance, is shoplifting a carrot from a store less sinful than killing someone? In my carnal mind, I would have to say "yes" to that question. However, the problem with that is that in God's kingdom, all sins can send you to hell if you do not confess and repent of them.

Several places in the Bible list common sins. If you try to compile them, you may collapse under the weight of conviction because the Word of God is a living thing that speaks to your heart. When you begin to read and recite the sins that make you lawless, the Holy Spirit speaks through those lists and you feel the pain of what you have done, or are currently doing. But for the purposes of this lesson, let me provide you with a very short list of common sins: Idolatry, misusing God's name, dishonoring parents, murder, adultery, stealing, lying, libel, coveting, anger, lust, pride, sexual immorality, hate, drunkenness and many more.

If you assign points to these sins, you might give shoplifting (taking the carrot) 1 point. Dishonoring parents and lying might be worth 3 points. Drunkenness might rate 4 points by a drunk, but it gets 10 points from the person who has to mop up a drunk's vomit. Murder hits the top at 10 points, while adultery and immorality might be worth 6 points. People assign these point values not based upon how sins are ranked in the Bible, but how they personally rank them. If you look at other women lustfully, you might give that sin only 1 point. If your husband looks at woman lustfully, you might give it 8 points. If you hate someone, you may justify your feelings by giving that 0 points. But if you are the victim of hatred, you may give it 10 points.

Justifying your sins is the quickest and easiest way to create separation between you and Jesus. If you have been feeling that God is distant, consider the justification of your sins as a possible reason. You can fix it. Ask the Holy Spirit for help.

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