

The Insignificance of Sin

10 Reasons Why Sin Should
Not Be a Big Deal For You

Don Preiser

Introduction

Why should you read this and why would I write it?

Good questions, so here goes. I'll start with why I wrote it. It is because I have experienced a revolutionary change in my relationship with God as a result of these ideas, and I am convinced that there are many people with similar experiences that can benefit from this understanding.

I want to be a catalyst for you to experience freedom from guilt, shame, and condemnation that has diminished your self-esteem and convinced you that God is not pleased with you because of your failures.

I want you to gain a new understanding of who you are as a magnificent creation of God. I want you to connect with a God who loves you more than you believe, who holds no judgment or condemnation against you, and who wants you to experience an abundant life here and now before you get to heaven.

I want you to get everything you can out of this amazing connection to your Creator and loving Father.

B. The harmful aspects of separation theology-

1. It is impossible to influence people with whom you refuse to have a relationship.
2. It promotes a holier-than-thou mentality.
3. It leads to isolation, not influence.

C. The harmful aspects of confession theology-

1. It creates an unnecessary burden.
2. It makes your relationship to God conditional.
3. It keeps you focused on yourself not others.

D. The harmful effects of making sinlessness your goal-

1. It sets you up for failure because you cannot achieve sinlessness by behavior modification.
2. It distracts you from your real purpose.
3. It denies the real purpose, function, and benefits of the Cross.

Here's how I got so messed up-

The first 4 years of my schooling landed me in 4 different schools in 4 different communities. When I entered 4th grade, I started again in a new school and had a difficult time adjusting. Most of my classmates had been together for their entire school lives and I was the new kid on the block but not nearly as popular as the band NKOB. I vividly remember the first day of recess when two teams were formed for kickball. The captains chose their

Forward

I first met Don Preiser while attending seminary from 1986 to 1990. We immediately connected because of our common love of sports, particularly golf and bowling. Over those four years we came to be exceptionally close friends. Following our graduation from seminary, we set out with different dreams and goals in how our ministry would be expressed and experienced. Over these past 35 years we have touched base from time to time, until recently when we reconnected on a more personal and frequent level.

As we began to talk about our current life circumstances and where we found ourselves theologically, we discovered - although taking extremely different paths - we have arrived at pretty much the same place in our understanding of the gospel of God's amazing grace and the incredible, almost unbelievable, benefits of the New Covenant. Although we were both certainly familiar with the gospel, I think we both have come to realize that our grasp of all that the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus truly means was profoundly deficient. It seems we have both discovered, as one author put it, "the rest of the Gospel".

In the pages you are about to read, Don tackles one of the most common topics taught, preached, and

written about in the body of Christ which completely ignores the dynamics and truths of what God has accomplished for us in the finished work of Christ: the daily discipline of “sin management.” I doubt you can walk in any Christian bookstore or peruse online without encountering some new twist on that same old theme.

When Don sent me the first draft and asked me to give it a read, I was somewhat taken aback by the title: The Insignificance of Sin! My initial thoughts were, “Insignificance of sin, are you kidding me? My good friend has been indulging in something that may not be legal!” If you are reading this, then that may indeed have been your first reaction. However, let not your heart be troubled. You will find that Don finds sin to be extremely significant, but only as it relates to the consequences of our earthly choices, not as it relates to our relationship with God and His with us. And that, of course, is the undertaking of this book: to show that God in Christ has taken care of the sin problem fully and forever; and that turning our gaze and focus on all that Christ has done should be our main endeavor, not managing sin. And frankly, Don does it with tremendous clarity and scriptural support. As it has truly blessed and encouraged my heart on the unmatched and amazing grace of God in the gospel of Christ, may it also do for you.

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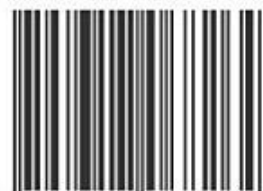
We totally underestimate the purpose of the Cross. We think it was just to provide forgiveness for our sins and that much is true. But that's like treating cancer with an anesthetic, addressing the symptom, not the cause. Making the pain go away doesn't cure the cancer. Forgiveness only addresses the result, not the cause. Forgiving our sins doesn't solve the bigger issue of why we sin in the first place.

To do that would take something so enormous that it would not just treat our symptoms. Could He find a way to reconnect with us, absolve us of our guilt, and be true to His own justice?

Is it possible to diminish something as catastrophic as sin to the point of insignificance? What else was the Cross designed to do?

In the pages of this book you will find the answer to your questions about how to make sin insignificant, how to dilute its power over you, and how to see yourself the way God sees you. Get ready to employ the solution to one of life's greatest challenges.

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