

# What Every Christian Should Know



**Core Beliefs to Help You  
Stand Strong in a Shifting World**

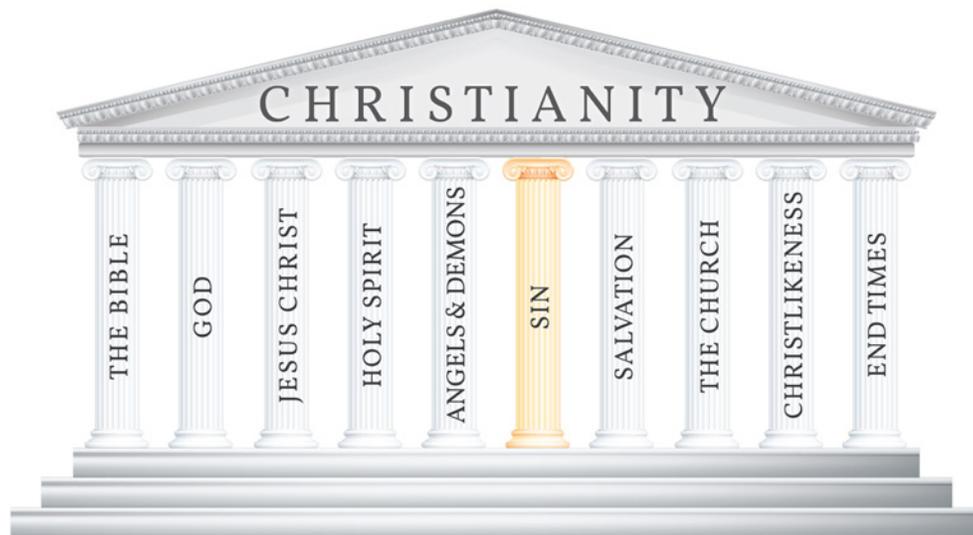
**DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS  
AUGUST 28, 2022**

## “What Every Christian Should Know About Sin”

ROMANS 5:12

**Introduction:** Someone has said, “What you believe about sin determines what you believe about salvation.” Before we can fully understand and appreciate the salvation Jesus offers, we must understand why we need salvation. Today, we are going to explore how one wrong choice by the First Couple long ago has impacted every single person who has ever lived.

### 10 PILLARS OF HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY



#### I. **The Way We Were** (Genesis 1-2)

Psalm 19:1 “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.”

Psalm 89:5 “The heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones.”

Genesis 1:28a “God blessed them [Adam and Eve] and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it.’”

Genesis 2:15 “Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”



Core Beliefs to Help You  
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

## “What Every Christian Should Know About Sin” ROMANS 5:12

### II. The Way It Ended (Genesis 3)

Genesis 2:16-17 <sup>16</sup> “The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; <sup>17</sup> but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’”

#### Why did God plant the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden?

The Bible doesn't spell out God's reasons for planting the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—the tree from which He forbade Adam and Eve to eat—in the Garden of Eden. But this tree gave Adam and Eve an opportunity to honor God in a meaningful way.

Imagine you're walking on a beach with your spouse. Up ahead you see a good-looking person, dressed to show off—a potential object of lust for your spouse. As other couples pass by, you notice various spouses reacting to the person, some obviously, some less so. As you approach, your spouse glances at the would-be temptation and then turns his or her full attention to you, not giving the person a second look or thought.

By resisting temptation, your spouse honored you and your relationship in a way that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. The same goes for the tree in the Garden. Every time Adam and Eve walked past it and chose not to eat from it, they honored God.

Genesis 3:1-5 <sup>1</sup> “Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’ <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; <sup>3</sup> but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’ <sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”

#### Satan's strategy worked so well with Eve that he continues to use variations of it today:

- “God never lets you do any fun stuff, does He?”
- “Being made in the image of God means you can make your own decisions and find your own meaning in life.”
- “Does God really need to micromanage every aspect of your life? Is He that insecure?”

Genesis 3:6 “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”



Core Beliefs to Help You  
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

## “What Every Christian Should Know About Sin” ROMANS 5:12

Romans 5:16-17 <sup>16</sup> “The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. <sup>17</sup> For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

### III. The Way It Is (Romans 3:10-12)

Romans 3:10-12 <sup>10</sup> “As it is written, ‘THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; <sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; <sup>12</sup> ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.’”

Genesis 6:5 “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

#### The Results of the First Sin

##### 1. “No one is righteous.” (Romans 3:10)

Romans 3:10 “As it is written, THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;”

##### 2. “No one understands.” (Romans 3:11a)

Romans 3:11a “THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,…”

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

##### 3. “No one seeks for God.” (Romans 3:11b)

Romans 3:11b “...THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;”

John 6:44a “No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him.”



Core Beliefs to Help You  
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

## “What Every Christian Should Know About Sin” ROMANS 5:12

### Scripture offers no shortage of dire warnings about this infection of sin:

- “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5).
- “They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. . . . They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one” (Ps. 14:1, 3).
- “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9).

#### A. **A Holy God** (Isaiah 6:3)

Isaiah 6:3 “And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.’”

Habakkuk 1:13a “Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with favor.”

#### B. **A Vast Chasm** (Isaiah 59:1-2)

Isaiah 59:1-2 <sup>1</sup> “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

#### C. **A Plan for Redemption** (Romans 5:8)

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

### Like Father, Like Son

Even before Jesus died for us, He gave us tangible evidence of God’s love for sinners.

Jesus spent so much time with despised members of Jewish society that the religious leaders of the day referred to Him as “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Matt. 11:19). They thought they were leveling a devastating criticism. They didn’t realize Jesus would embrace the title.

Jesus was a friend of sinners. He cared about their well-being. He showed them a different way. And when they crucified Him, He said, “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34). Jesus loved sinners because God loves sinners. And our redemption begins with that amazing truth.



Core Beliefs to Help You  
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

## “What Every Christian Should Know About Sin” ROMANS 5:12

Genesis 3:7 “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.”

### The Old Testament Sacrificial System

- The Old Testament sacrifice system was perpetual. The offerings and sacrifices had to be made continually. But Jesus Christ was offered once, through His crucifixion.
- The Old Testament sacrifices were made by sinful priests who first had to atone for their own sins. Christ was the perfect, sinless High Priest who had no sin of His own to atone for, so He could present Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.
- The Old Testament sacrifices provided temporary reconciliation with God. Christ's sacrifice offered eternal redemption for those who believe (Heb. 9:11-12).

#### IV. A Final Reminder About The Reality Of Sin

Conclusion