

- When was the last time you saw the actions of another person and just thought within yourself, “why in the world would a person do that??” Unfortunately, it seems as if I find myself thinking this far more often that I used to. I look at the actions of others and just have to wonder what would possess them to behave in such a way. As I have thought about that over time, I think I might have figured out a little something as to why people do just ridiculously foolish things. I think people are willing to do things that no sane or logically thinking person would do because they are not worried about the consequences. Without the worry of consequences, what is to stop anyone from doing just about anything? If I can just do what I want and continue my life just as I want, then you best believe I am going to do whatever I want to do and not think twice about it.
- Certainly, by now you are shaking you head and thinking that this just isn’t how life works. We don’t get to live life just however we want to without any sort of consequences. All of our actions come with results, consequences, ramifications, or whatever other word you’d like to use to describe. We do not get to behave in a vacuum. That seems to be something that we should understand pretty easily. However, it might seem as if we don’t always understand that. We don’t understand that our actions, particularly our sinful actions have consequences. Not just immediate consequences here in this physical life, but they also have far reaching spiritual consequences. As we study and read through the Bible, it should be impressed upon us that sin is a serious matter before God. God takes sin very seriously. We must be a type of people that take sin seriously, ourselves. We shouldn't be like those of the world who think that they can act, behave, and sin just however they want and suffer no consequences. Most people who think that way at some point, usually don’t think that way for long. We shouldn’t think that way at all whenever it comes to sin.
- This evening, I’d like for us to study about 3 disastrous consequences of sin. Throughout the Bible, we see the consequences of sin warned against and talked about time and time again, and it it always good for us to take some time to remind ourselves of the serious nature of sin and its serious consequences. Of course, just for clarities sake, we are discussing actions that fail to glorify God. God is glorified through out love, devotion, and obedience, so therefore when we sin, we are failing to love, devote ourselves, and obey God. As humans, this is something we must deal with. We have desires that do not always line up with God’s desires for us, so it comes down to the decision of who I will serve. Will I serve God or will I serve myself? Through serving self, we sin and we suffer these 3 consequences that we will discuss this evening.

### **I. Separation from God**

- A. The consequence of separation from God because of sin has been seen since the very beginning.
  1. When God created Adam, Eve, and all other things, he recognized them as being good. **(Gen. 1:31)** All things were pure, innocent, and blameless before God in all respects.
  2. They were warned that if they disobeyed God’s command to not eat of the tree then they would die. **(Gen. 2:15-17)**
  3. Upon the sin of Adam and Eve, their innocence was destroyed, they spiritually died, and they could no longer have that perfect and intimate fellowship with God. They were banished from the very presence of God. **(Gen. 3:6,7, & 24)**
  4. We can come to understand why God had to do this when we consider the writings of the Prophet Habakkuk.
  5. *“Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You can not look on wickedness with favor.”* **(Hab. 1:13)**
  6. God is perfectly pure and holy and He cannot be associated with sin.
- B. God’s relationship with Israel perfectly shows God’s disapproval and refusal to be with a people who turn their back on God and His righteousness.
  1. God chose the Israelites as His people. They were to have a special relationship with God based upon their willingness to follow His Law and obey His commandments. He was their God and They were His people.
  2. As long as they were obedient and faithful they prospered, but as soon as they turned away from God, they began to suffer at the hands of the nations around them because God was no longer with them.
  3. They were essentially committing spiritual adultery against God through their sins.
  4. Hosea lays strong accusations at the feet of Israel for their sins and spiritual harlotry. **(Hosea 4:1-3, 15; 3:1)**
  5. Their sins had separated them from God, and He refused to be with them while in the spiritually dead state. **(Isa. 59:2,3)**
- C. Our sins have the same terrible consequence. We cannot have fellowship with God if we continue in sin. **(I John 1)**
  1. We can have fellowship with the Apostles, the Father, and Jesus Christ His Son **.(v.3)**
  2. That fellowship is contingent on our willingness to walk in the light and not in the darkness. **(vv.4,5, & 9)**
  3. If we walk in darkness then we cannot have fellowship with God and we are dead spiritually. **(vv.6-8)**

## II. Enslavement to Satan

- A. In this life we will serve a master. That master will either be Satan or God.
  - 1. We sometimes try to fool ourselves by thinking that we can live this life by riding the fence and not taking sides, but that just isn't the case. We are always serving a master.
  - 2. We cannot live both in darkness and light as we saw back in **I John 1**.
  - 3. Jesus was upfront with the people during the sermon on the mount by making the point that you can't serve two masters at once. (**Matt. 6:24**)
- B. Paul gives us a little more inside into the life outside of Christ. (**Eph. 2:1-3**)
  - 1. We are dead in our sins. (**v.1**)
  - 2. We are walking with the world and Satan. (**v.2**)
  - 3. We are fulfilling the desires of the flesh and not of the Spirit. (**v.3**)
  - 4. We may think that we are just serving our own desires, but in reality we are a slave to Satan and wickedness.
- C. Our life doesn't have to be a life of enslavement to Satan. (**Romans 6**)
  - 1. While we are sinning, we are obeying Satan. (**v.16**)
  - 2. We are slaves to sin and Satan. (**v.20**)
  - 3. We have the ability to leave this enslavement to Satan and instead become a slave of God. (**vv.17-22**)
  - 4. However, if we fail to switch our allegiance then we will suffer the eternal consequence of sin...

## III. Eternity of Punishment

- A. Those who continue in their sins will receive the reward for their actions.
  - 1. We must remember that our actions have consequences, not just presently but in the long run as well.
  - 2. If we refuse to repent of our sins then we will die in them and we will receive our reward. (**Rom. 6:23**)
  - 3. We will all have give an account for what we do in this life. (**II Cor. 5:10**)
  - 4. If we continue to live in our sin then we will reap the appropriate result. (**Gal. 6:7,8**)
- B. The descriptions of hell are not something that I would like to have any part in.
  - 1. Unquenchable fire where the worm does not die (**Mark 9:43-48**)
  - 2. Everlasting destruction (**II Thess. 1:9**)
  - 3. Eternal fire (**Jude 7**)
  - 4. Black darkness (**Jude 13**)
  - 5. Lake of fire (**Rev. 20:10, 14, & 15**)
- C. Hell is reserved for those who do not obey God. They will spend eternity with their master, Satan.
  - 1. The Apostle Paul, in discussing the return of the Lord, details the horrible nature of hell for those who are not of God. (**II Thess. 1:5-10**)
  - 2. Those who do not know God or obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus will pay the penalty for their sin. (**v.9**)
  - 3. They served Satan in this life, and they will be able to continue to serve Satan for all eternity.

Too many people today are living their lives as if there will be no consequences for their actions. They think that they have no one to answer to, and because of this they can do as they please without having to worry about the outcome. We must never forget that we will have to give an account for all that we do in this life. We are not able to sin in a vacuum and it not matter. All sin matters in the sight of God, and we cannot expect to be able to escape His judgement of anything that we do in this life. Yes, we will all make mistakes from time to time, but the number of mistakes we make can be determined by how seriously we take our sin and how seriously we consider the consequences of our actions. May God help us to always remember that we will have to answer for our actions, and may He help us to be a type of people who strive to live for Him and glorify Him in all that we do.