



- Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)
- 18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
- though your sins are like scarlet,
- they shall be as white as snow;
- though they are red like crimson,
- they shall become like wool.



Children have I reared
and brought up,
but they have rebelled
against me.

Isaiah 1:2

- Isaiah begins dramatically, with Jehovah speaking against his chosen people.
- Isaiah 1:2 (ESV)
 - Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth;
 - for the LORD has spoken:
 - “Children have I reared and brought up,
 - but they have rebelled against me.
- Isaiah 1:1-6, 18

My People Do Not Understand



- 3) Israel does not know, my people do not understand

My People Do Not Understand

- 2) rebelled against me
- 4) forsaken Jehovah
- 4) despised the Holy One
- 4) utterly estranged
- 5) continue to rebel



- 2) but they have rebelled against me.
- 4) forsaken Jehovah
- 4) despised the Holy One
- 4) utterly estranged (backward, turned their backs on him)
- 5) Why will you continue to rebel?

My People Do Not Understand



4) sinful nation

4) laden with iniquities

4) evil doers

4) deal corruptly

- 4) sinful nation
- 4) laden with iniquities
- 4) evil doers
- 4) deal corruptly

My People Do Not Understand



5) head is sick

5) heart is faint

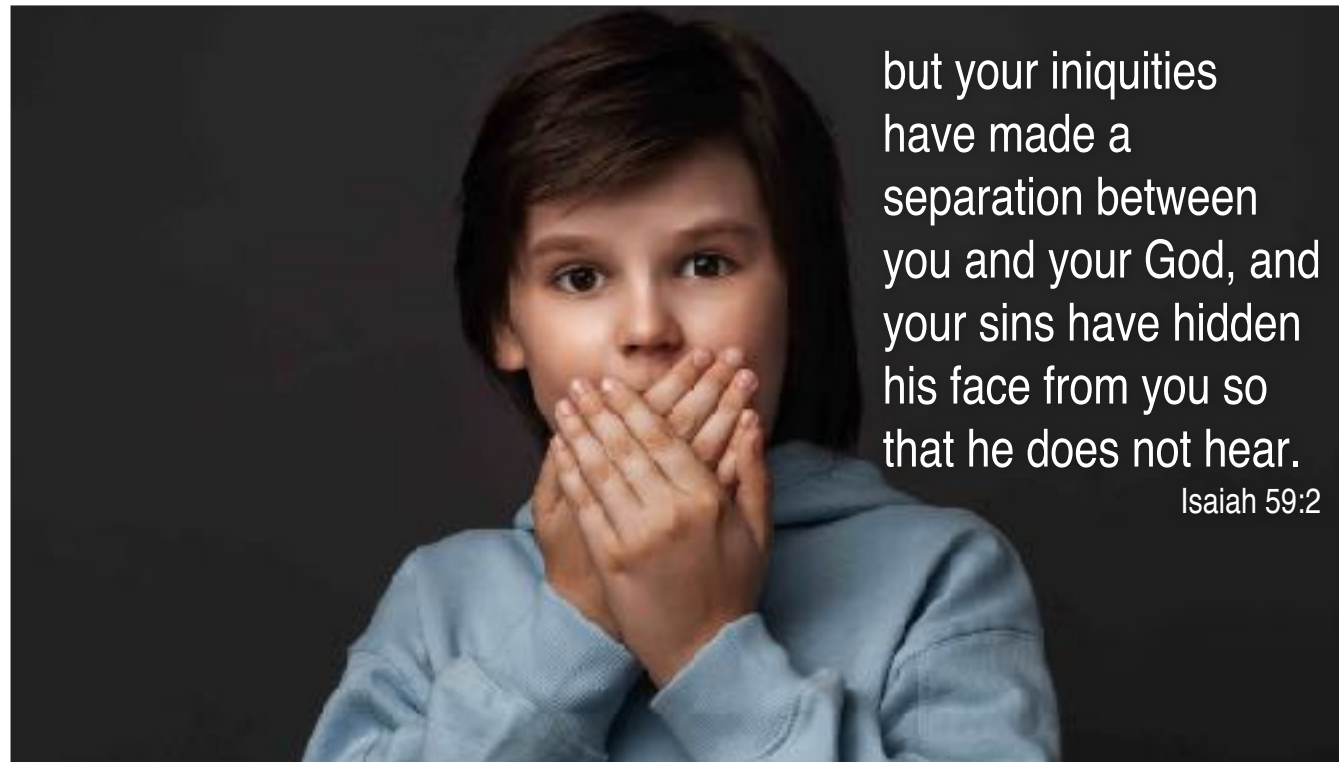
5) feet to head - unsound

5) bruises, sores, wounds

- 5) head is sick
- 5) heart is faint
- 5) feet to head - no soundness
- 5) bruises, sores, wounds

My People Do Not Understand		
<u>RELATIONAL</u>	<u>JUDICIAL</u>	<u>DISEASE</u>
2) rebelled against me	4) sinful nation	5) head is sick
4) forsaken Jehovah	4) laden with iniquities	5) heart is faint
4) despised the Holy One	4) evil doers	5) feet to head - unsound
4) utterly estranged	4) deal corruptly	5) bruises, sores, wounds
5) continue to rebel		

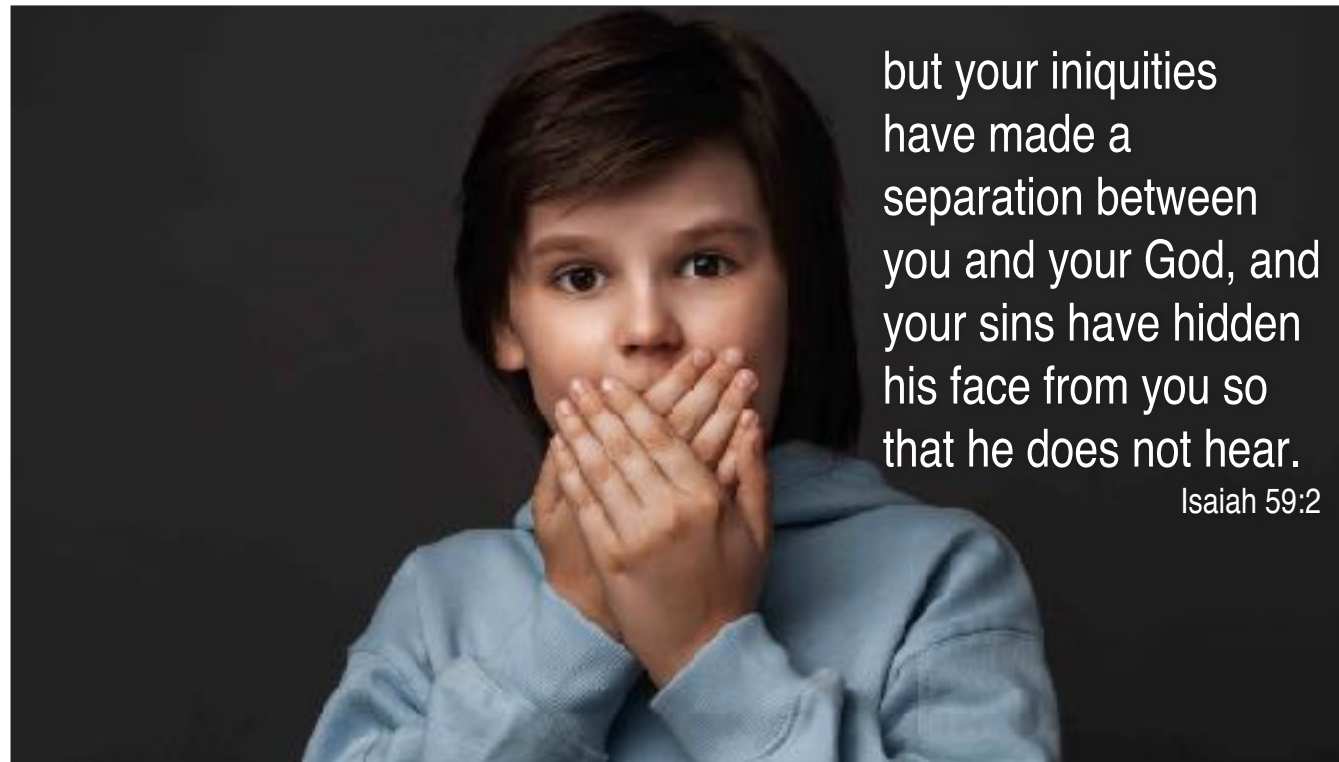
- Israel's sin is described three ways
- As the breaking of a relationship: Relational
- As the break of law: Judicial
- As the break down of the body: Disease



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.

Isaiah 59:2

- Isaiah 59:2: 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.



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Isaiah 59:2

- Often picture God, in His Holiness, turning away from sinful man.
- But that's over simplified

Behold, Jehovah's
hand is not
shortened, that it
cannot save, or
his ear dull, that it
cannot hear

Isaiah 59:1



- Isaiah 59:1: Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

Behold, Jehovah's
hand is not
shortened, that it
cannot save, or
his ear dull, that it
cannot hear

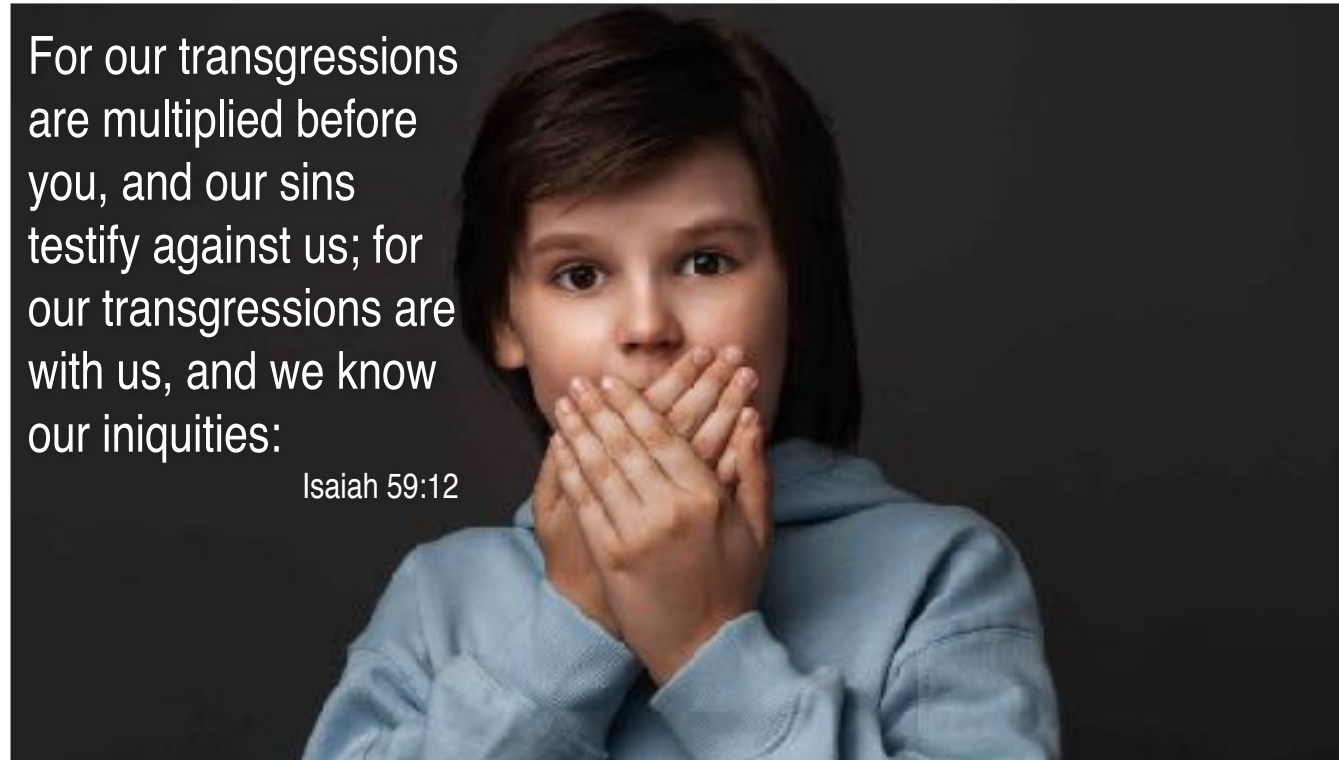
Isaiah 59:1



- It's not God who turns away... it's us! it's me!
- His hand is not shortened... it's long — to save us!
- His ear is not dull... He longs to hear from us.
- But we turn from Him!
 - vital we understand (unlike Israel)
 - We turned first
 - and it takes a lot for him to finally turn from us — and then only for a time

For our transgressions
are multiplied before
you, and our sins
testify against us; for
our transgressions are
with us, and we know
our iniquities:

Isaiah 59:12



- Isaiah 59:12-13: For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:

For our transgressions
are multiplied before
you, and our sins
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Isaiah 59:12

transgressing, and
denying Jehovah, and
turning back from
following our God,
speaking oppression
and revolt, conceiving
and uttering from the
heart lying words.

Isaiah 59:13



- Isaiah 59:13: transgressing, and denying Jehovah, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.
- Do you see them again?
 - Judicial: transgressions; sins; iniquities
 - Relational: denying Jehovah; turning back from following God; speaking oppression and revolt
 - Disease: from the heart
- Is. 59: 9-11
 - Consequences finally realized



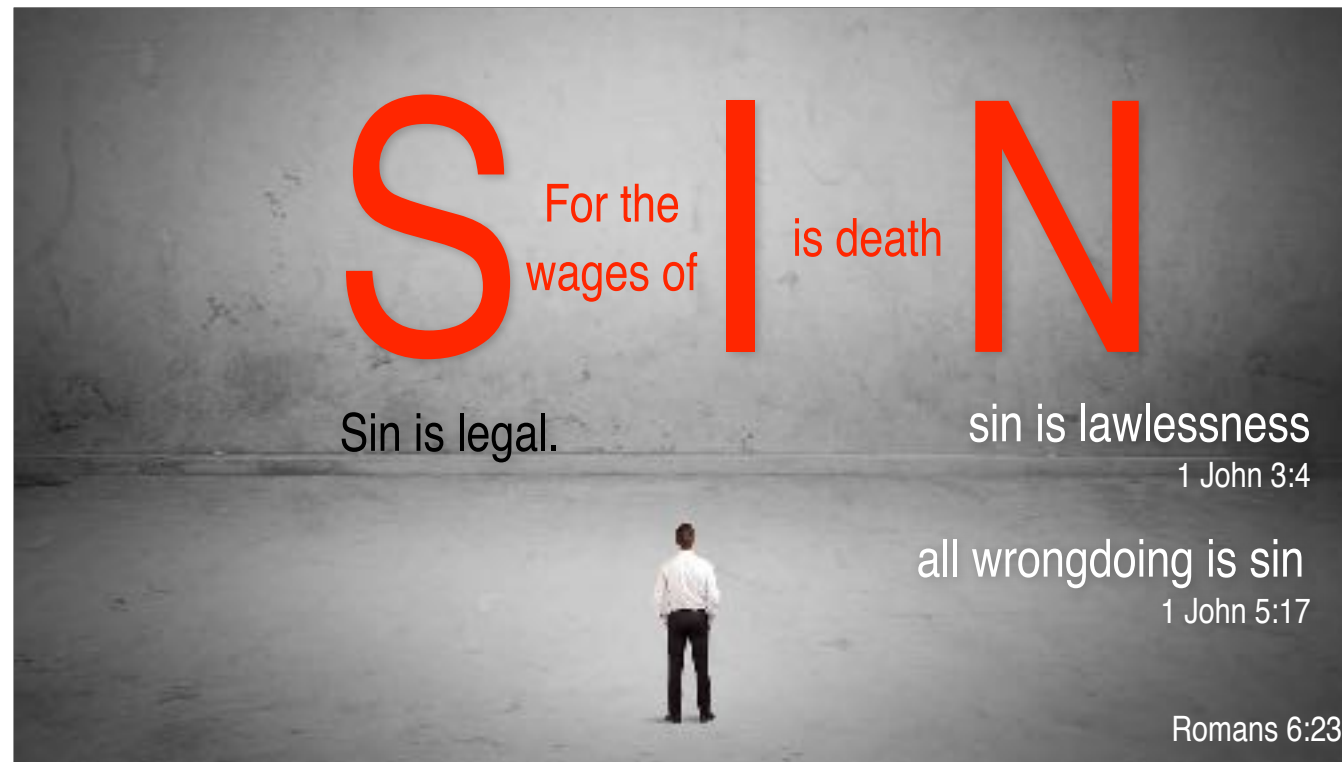
- We have a big problem: sin
 - multiplied
 - testify against us
- Separate us from God
- Hidden his face from us
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death
- LEGAL, DISEASE, RELATIONAL



- Sin is a legal matter:



- Sin is a legal matter.
 - 1 John 3:4: Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.
- What is lawlessness?
 - Violation of law
- Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)
 - 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of **lawlessness**.’



- 1 John 5:17: All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.
 - KJV, ASV: unrighteousness
 - Legal injustice; not being right
- Wrongdoing — implies that there is a distinction between what is right and what is wrong
 - Knowing right from wrong, we have chosen wrong



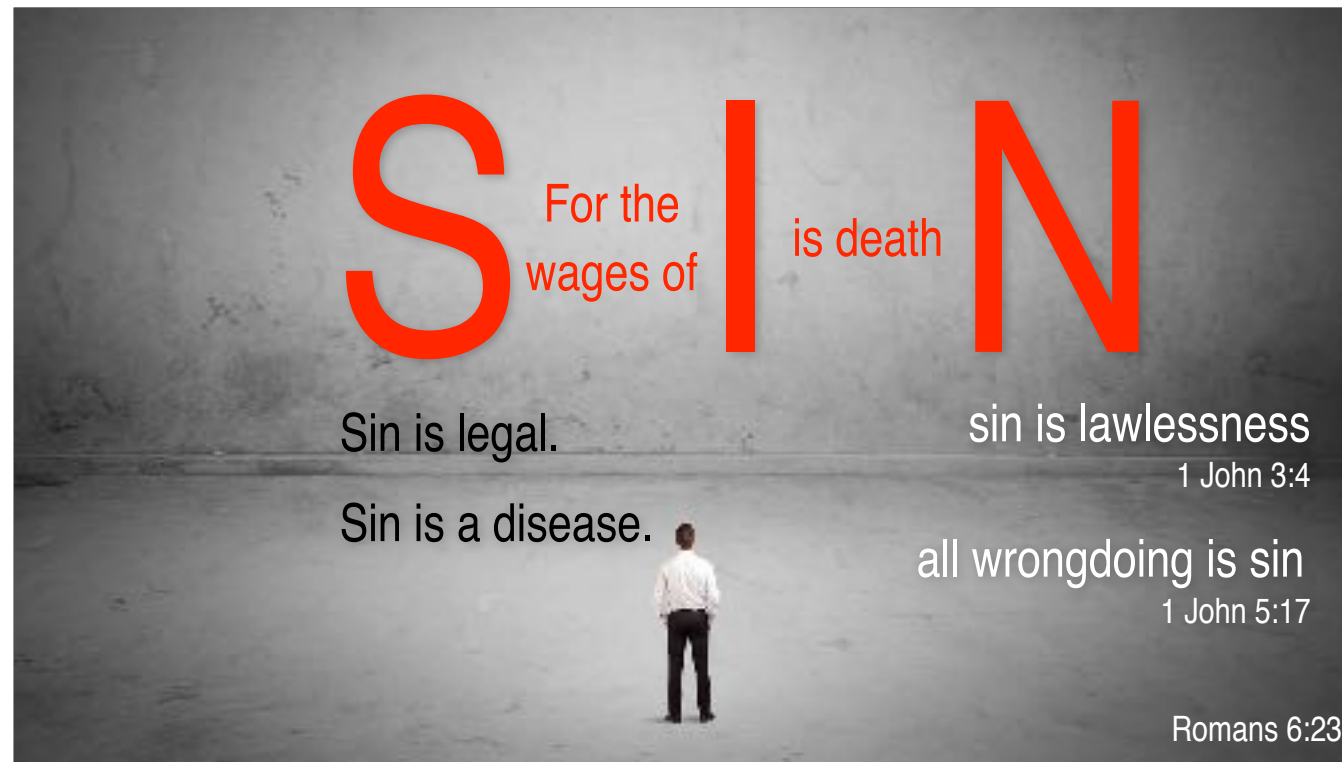
- Salvation requires a judicial solution.
- Sin is the one thing he will not endure, no peace with sin.



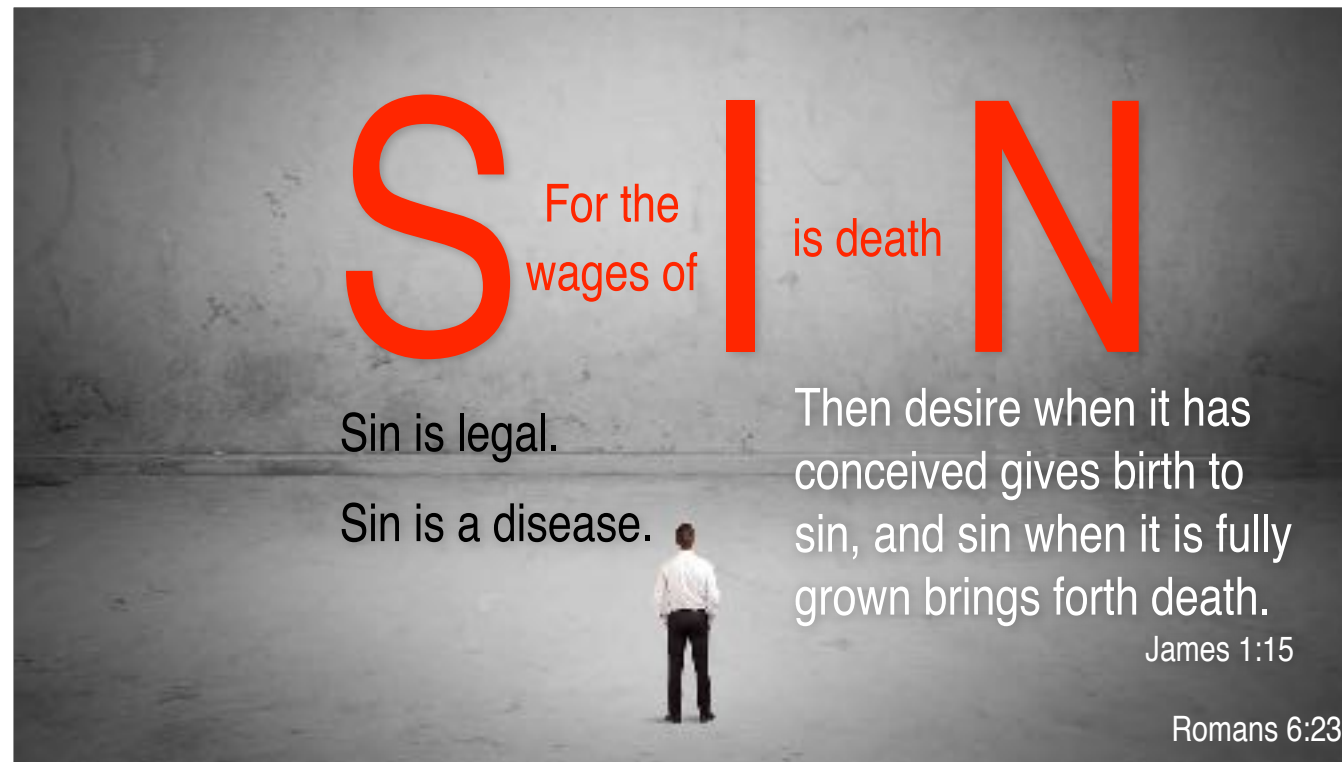
- Of course, to some extent this makes our view of God as always being angry,
 - A caricature
 - always having to be satisfied by judicial means
 - always looking for error and holding it against us.
- In this sense, we have violated the law and despised the lawgiver
- Is our God a “hanging judge” or a forgiving judge?



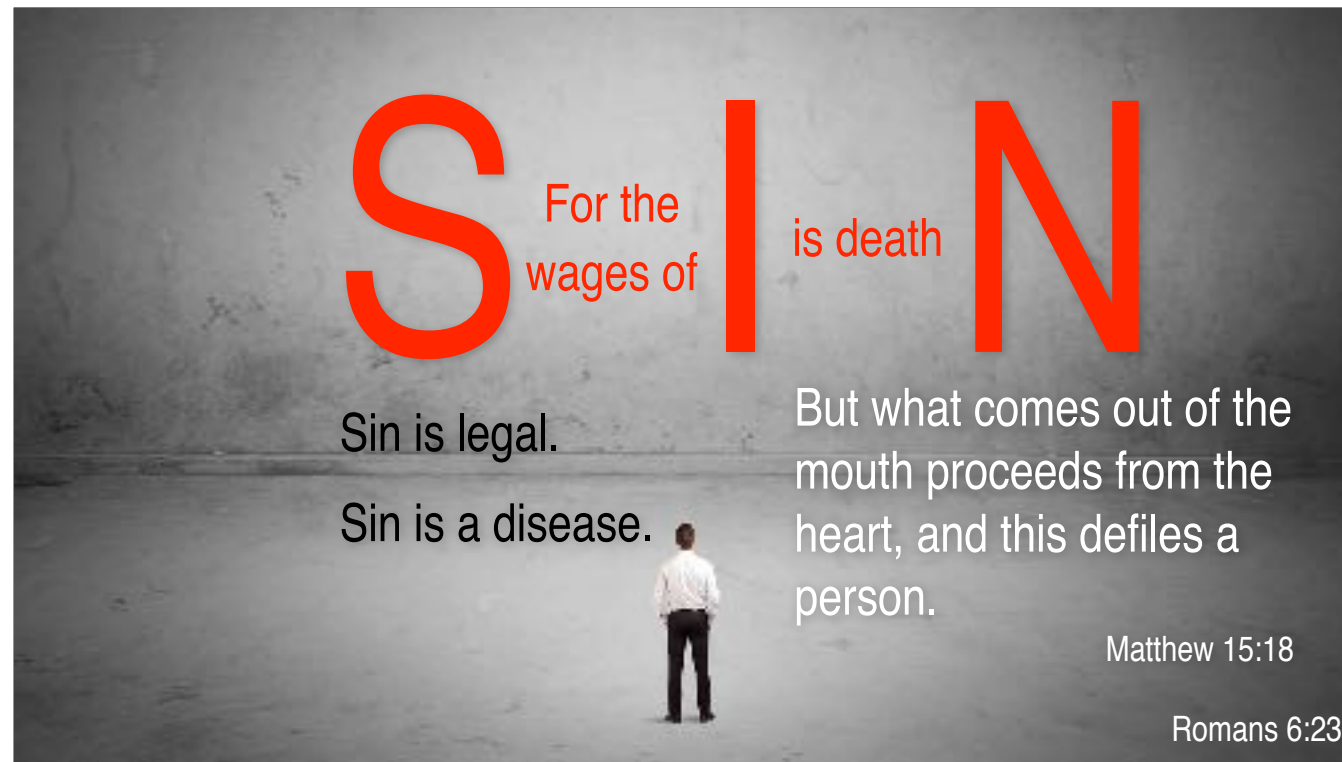
- Rather, a caring judge.
 - Not just about law, but about me (us)
- Psalms 103:3 who forgives all your iniquity,
- Psalms 103:4 who redeems your life from the pit,



- Sin is not just outside us...
 - Sin is not just something that we do
- It's inside, it changes us (not physical, character) (Internal)
- How we see life, how we see God.



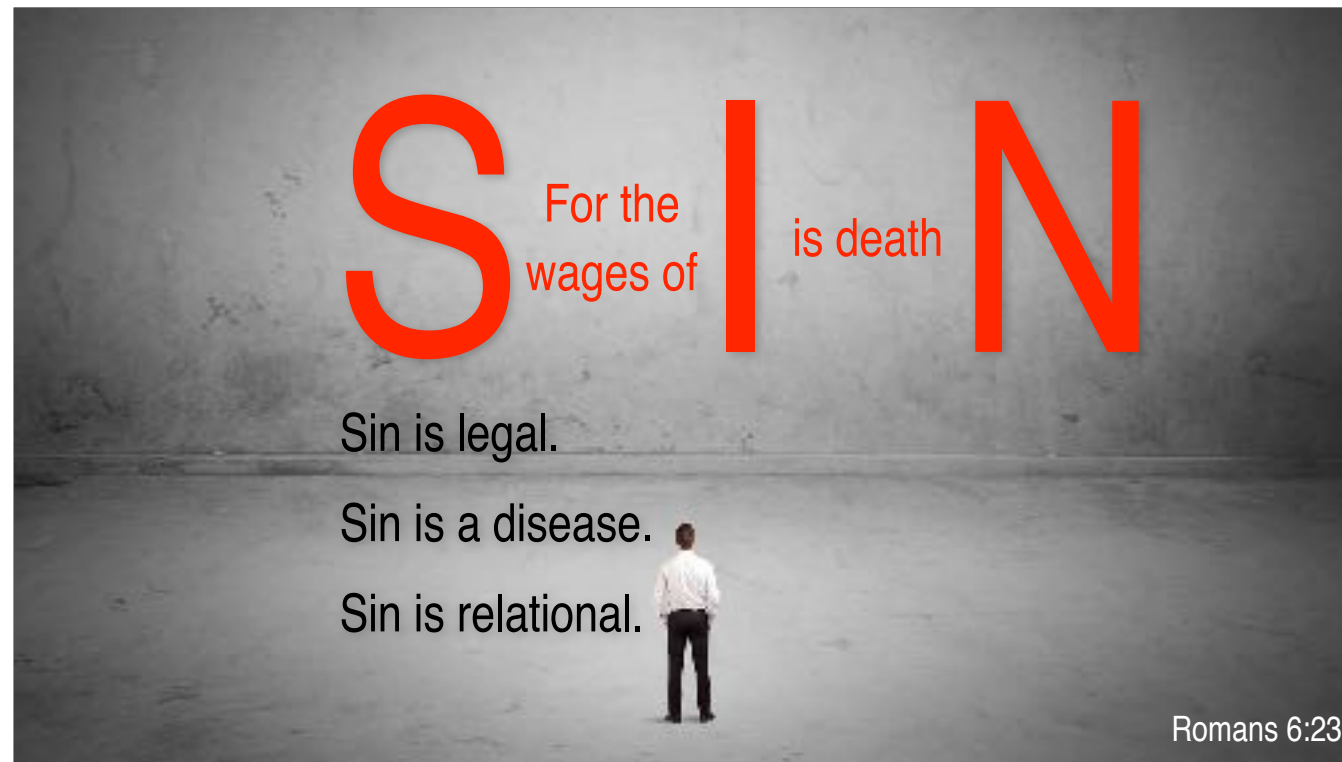
- James 1:14-15:
 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
 - Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin,
 - and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
- Sounds a lot like a cancer: a corruption of our cells that grows and overwhelms



- Matthew 15:18-20 (ESV)
 - But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”



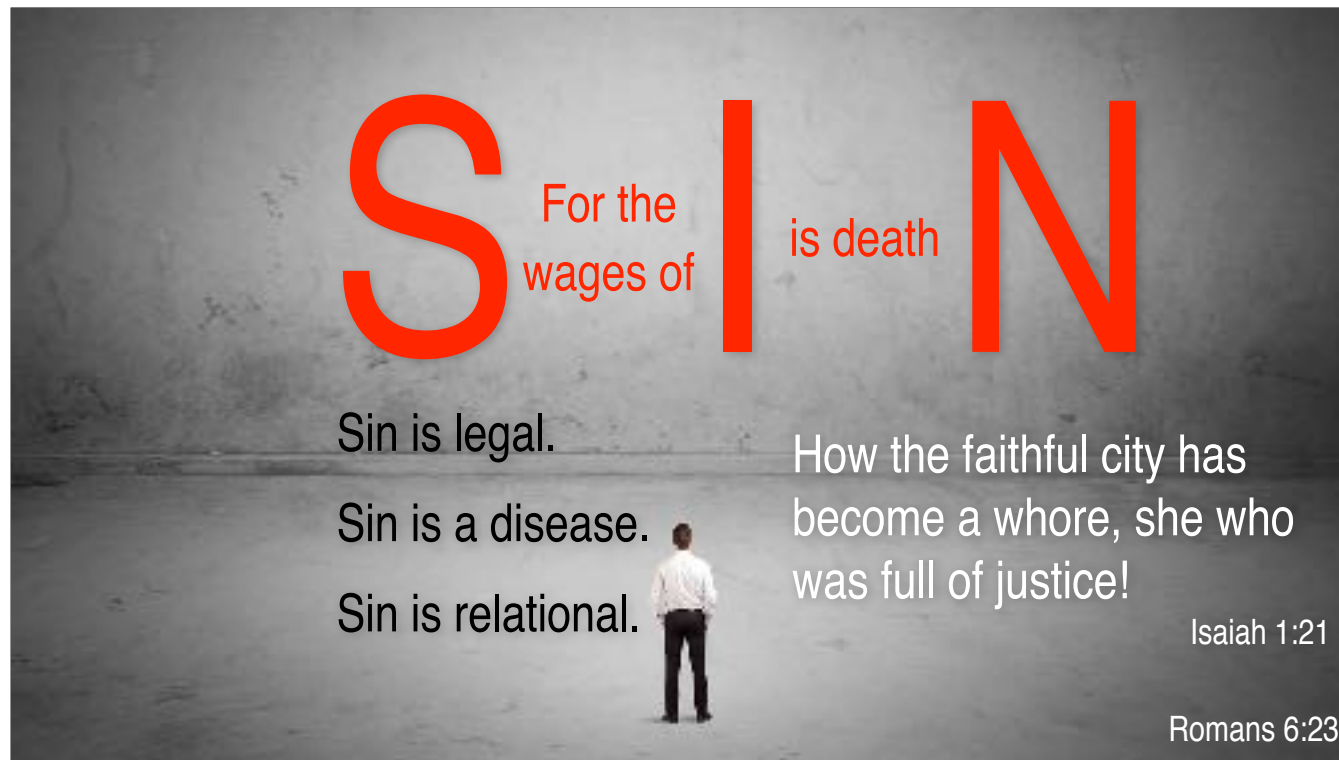
- Good surgeon acts against disease, cuts it out to save the patient!
- Psalm 103:3: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases



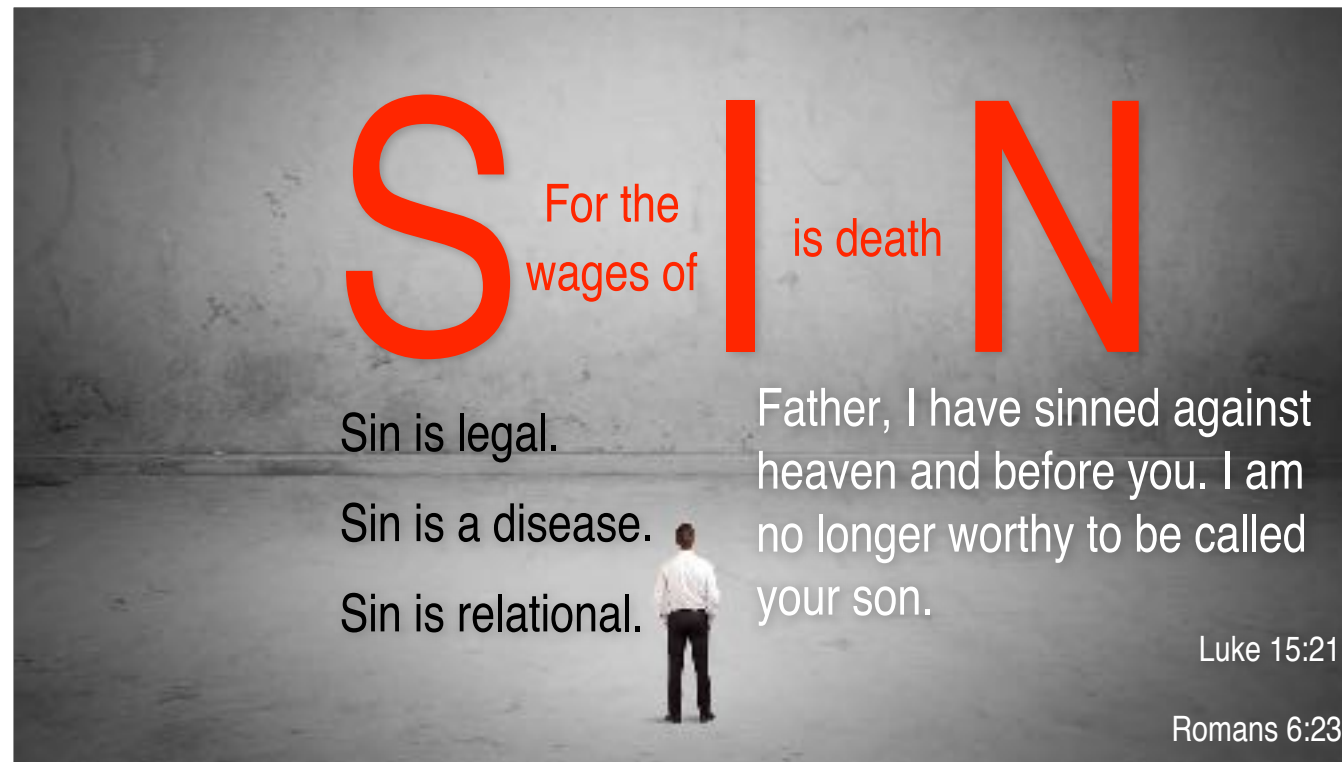
- Sin is relational: It's the breaking of a relationship.
 - A child willfully forsaking a relationship.
- We've seen it with our own children, leaving home and seeking something new, different (better in their eyes).



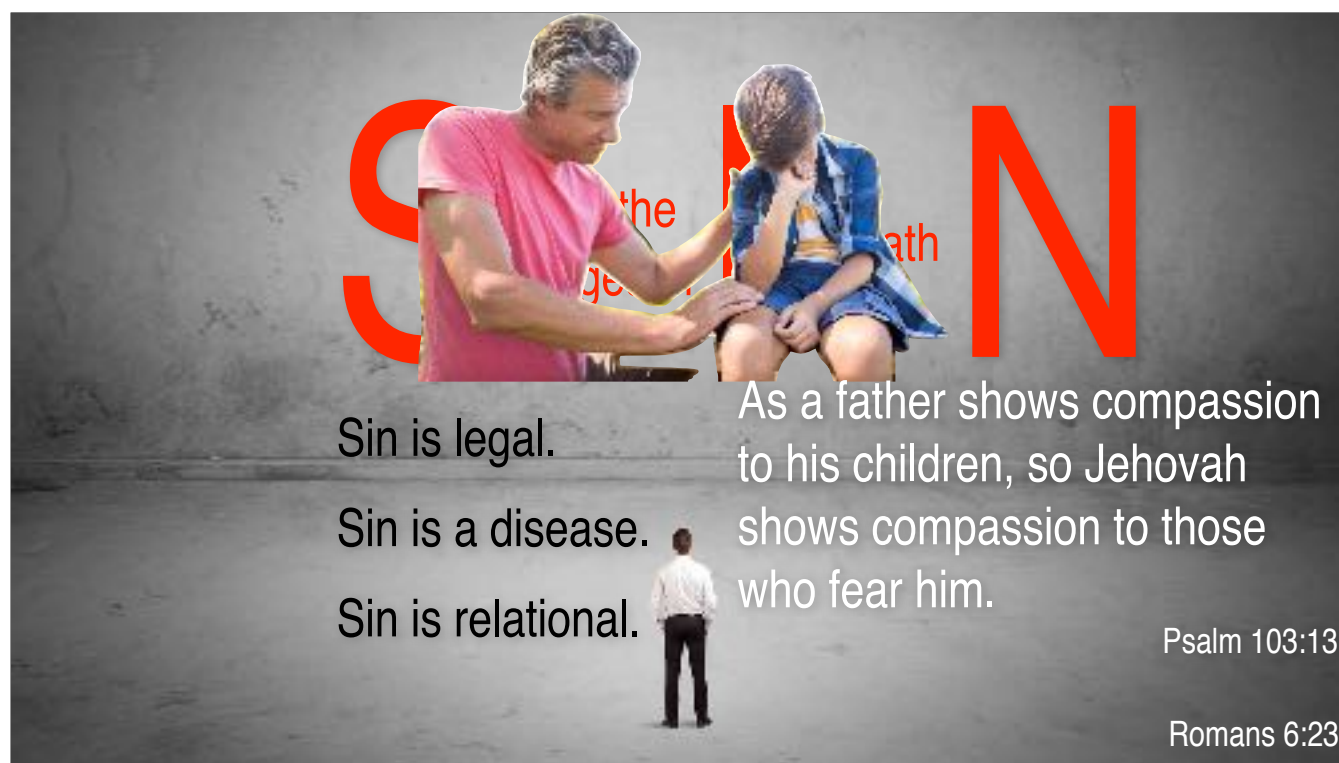
Isaiah 1:2: Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.



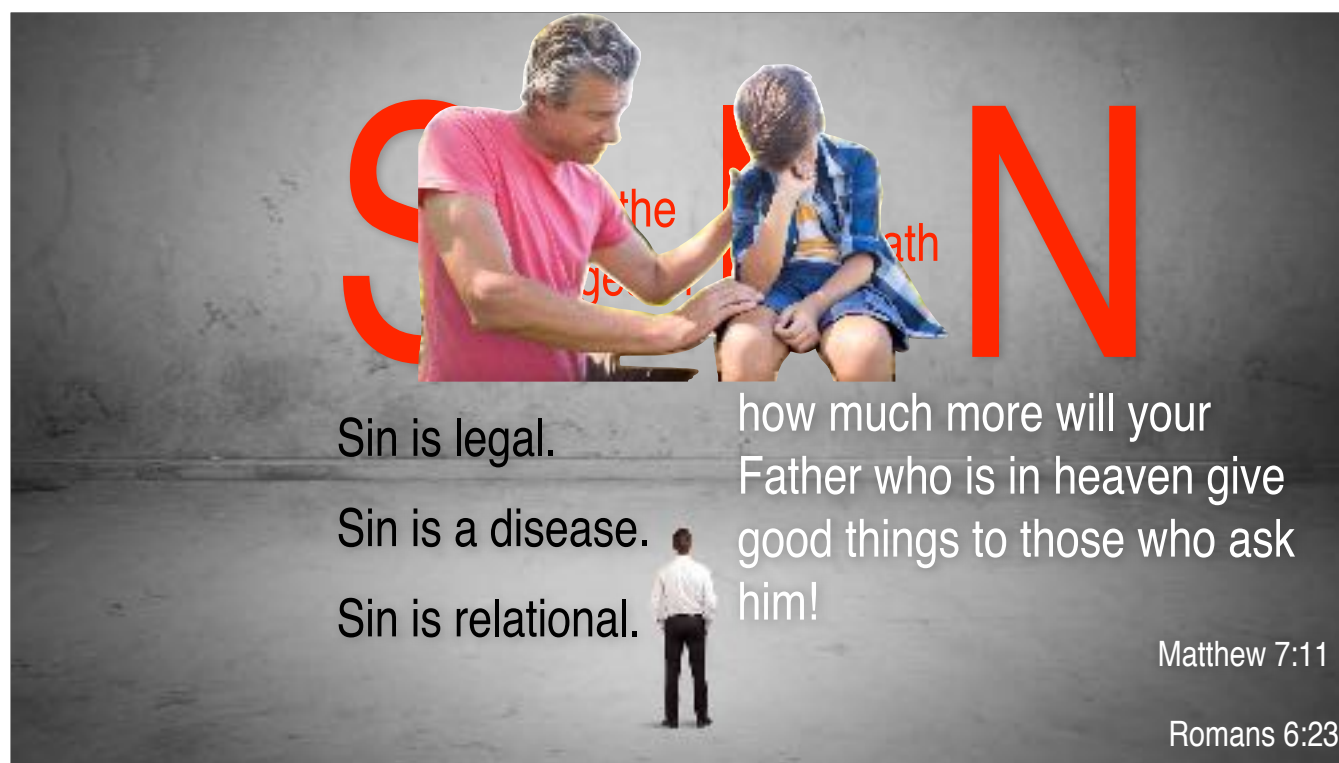
Isaiah 1:21 How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers.



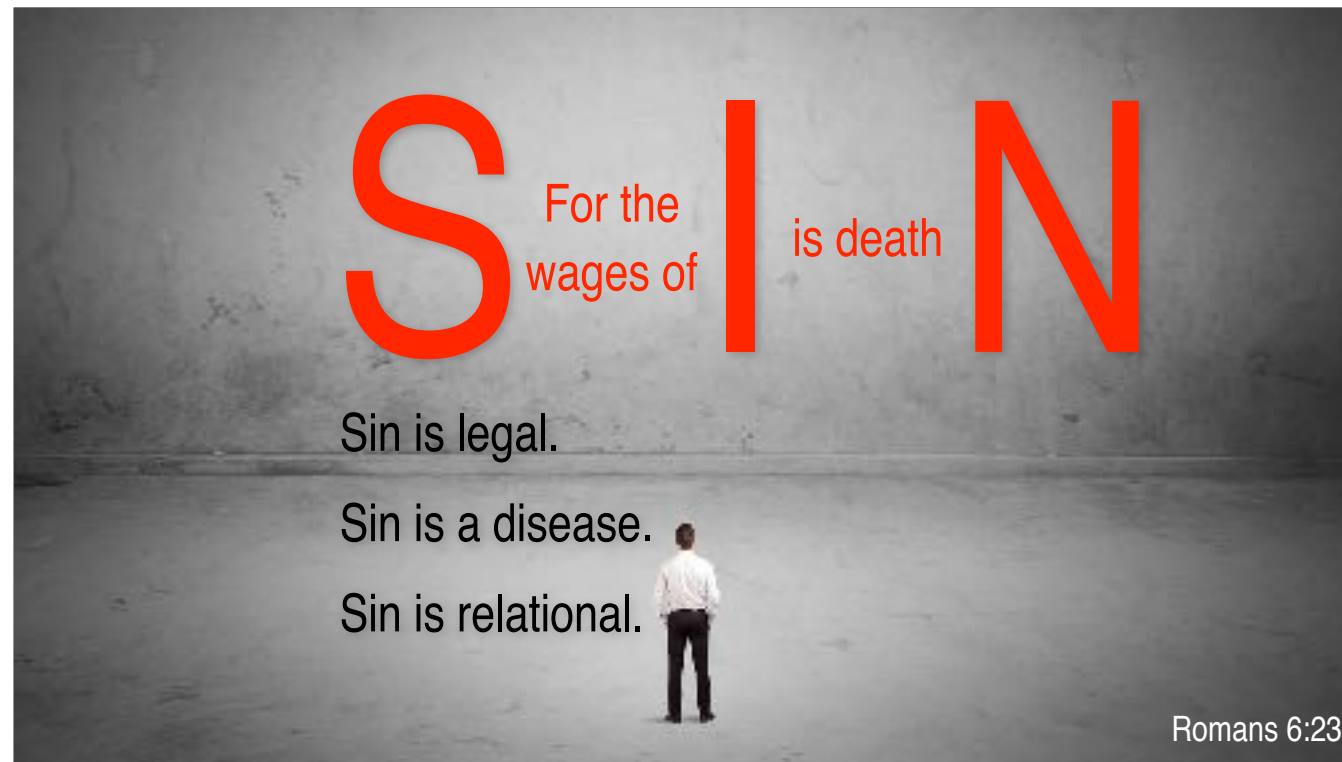
- Luke 15:21: And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’
- After son took inheritance, and went far away, and wasted it all
- Realized what he had done and went home
 - humbly



Psalm 103:13: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.



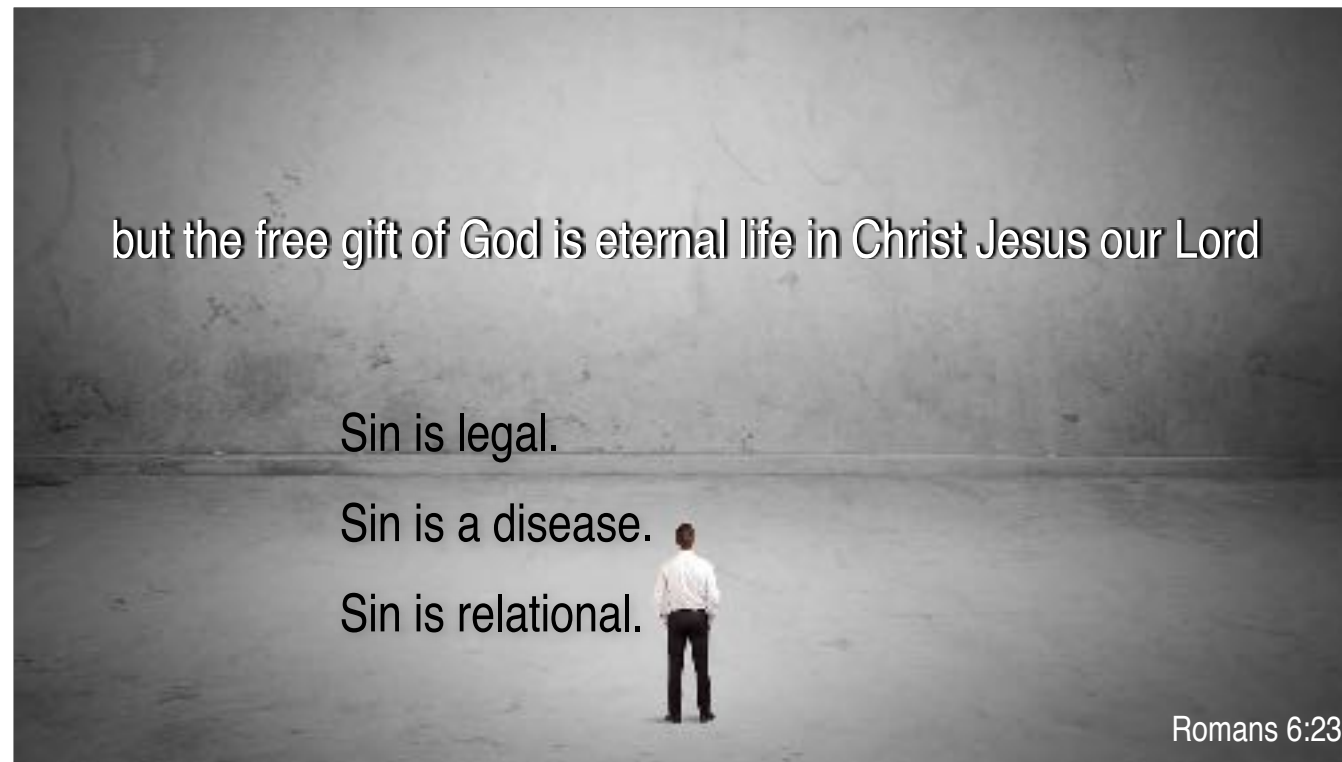
- Matthew 7:9-11 (ESV)
 - 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?
 - 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?
 - 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
 - how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!



- All of these are true. Judicial, Disease, and Relational.
 - Judicial: we need an advocate — Jesus Christ
 - Disease: we need healing — the great physician
 - Relational: we need reconciliation —
- All too often I have focused more on the judicial
- It's important that we keep these all in mind, proper perspective and balance.



- Isaiah 1:18-20 (ESV)
 - “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
 - though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.
 - 19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;
 - 20 but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword;
 - for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
- Our God gives us hope!.
 - Sin can be dealt with.



- Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Though Your Sins Be As Scarlett

Synopsis: Jehovah speaks against Israel's sin, providing us a better understanding of how our God views sin. Sin is discussed as being relational, judicial, and disease. But Jehovah also gives hope stating that no matter how bad our sin is, we can be white as snow.

Many of these thoughts were inspired and borrowed from Jim McGuiggan's book: **The Dragon Slayer**, chapter 2: The Road leading to Bethlehem and Golgatha.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”