



Introduction

Last week as we began our series *Big Story*, we learned God created people in His own image, perfect and able to live in right relationship with Him, each other and creation. This week, Pastor Chip's message entitled "Ruined" shows us how sin, entering the world through Adam and Eve, has broken each person's relationship with God, other people and creation. Uncomfortable as it is to look at our sin and reflect on its real consequences in our lives, doing so reveals our need to be reconciled with God and our inability to do that for ourselves.

Discussion

1. **James 1:13-15** looks at the relationship among temptation, sin and death. According to these verses, where does temptation arise? Is temptation sin? What truth do these verses reveal to you?
2. Sin tends to make us want to hide from God and blame others while making excuses for ourselves. Read **James 4:6-10**. What does God want us to do when we sin? Why is that so hard?
3. Read **Romans 3:9-20**. It's clear no one can live up to God's standards – all have sinned (broken His Law) and deserve death. If we cannot keep God's standards, what is the purpose of the Law with regard to sin? What does **Romans 7:7-13** have to say about this?

Think About It

Pastor Andy Stanley (North Point Ministries) once said people avoid confessing and repenting of sin in their lives for fear of bringing shame on themselves, hurting their loved ones or losing their "favorite" sin. Think of a sin pattern in your life that seems to crop up over and over. Which of the reasons above keeps you from really confronting it and seeking God's forgiveness and renewal? 1 John 1:8-9 states, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." What a promise! What is holding you back from drawing near to God?

Do Something

1. *Reflect.* Why do people who have crossed the Faith Line, who trust Christ has saved them from sin and have received the Holy Spirit, continue to struggle with sin? Read **Romans 7:7-25** where the apostle Paul describes his own struggle with sin. Do these verses describe your own experiences? If so, in what way?
2. *Examine Yourself.* How does your personal struggle with sin affect your willingness to read the Bible or meet with God for personal devotions? Your relationships at home? Your ability to be a witness or example to others of what it means to be a Christ-follower?
3. *Respond to God.* Read **Galatians 6:7-10**. Humble yourself, pray and draw near to Him. First confess your sin. Then, ask Him to forgive you and renew within you a commitment to turn from sin and listen to His Spirit. If you have not yet put your faith in God, you can still pray to Him and ask Him to reveal Himself to you.