

Theology
THURSDAY



What is Theology Thursday?

- **open seminar, workshop;**
- **safe space to entertain real questions;**
(not necessarily to come to conclusions);
- **respectful, honest discussion**
(we are all learners with our own experiences).



What is the goal?

(RE)THINK & RESPECT

love God & love one another



SIN...

...is not what you think.



EVIL...

...is not what you think.

REVIEW



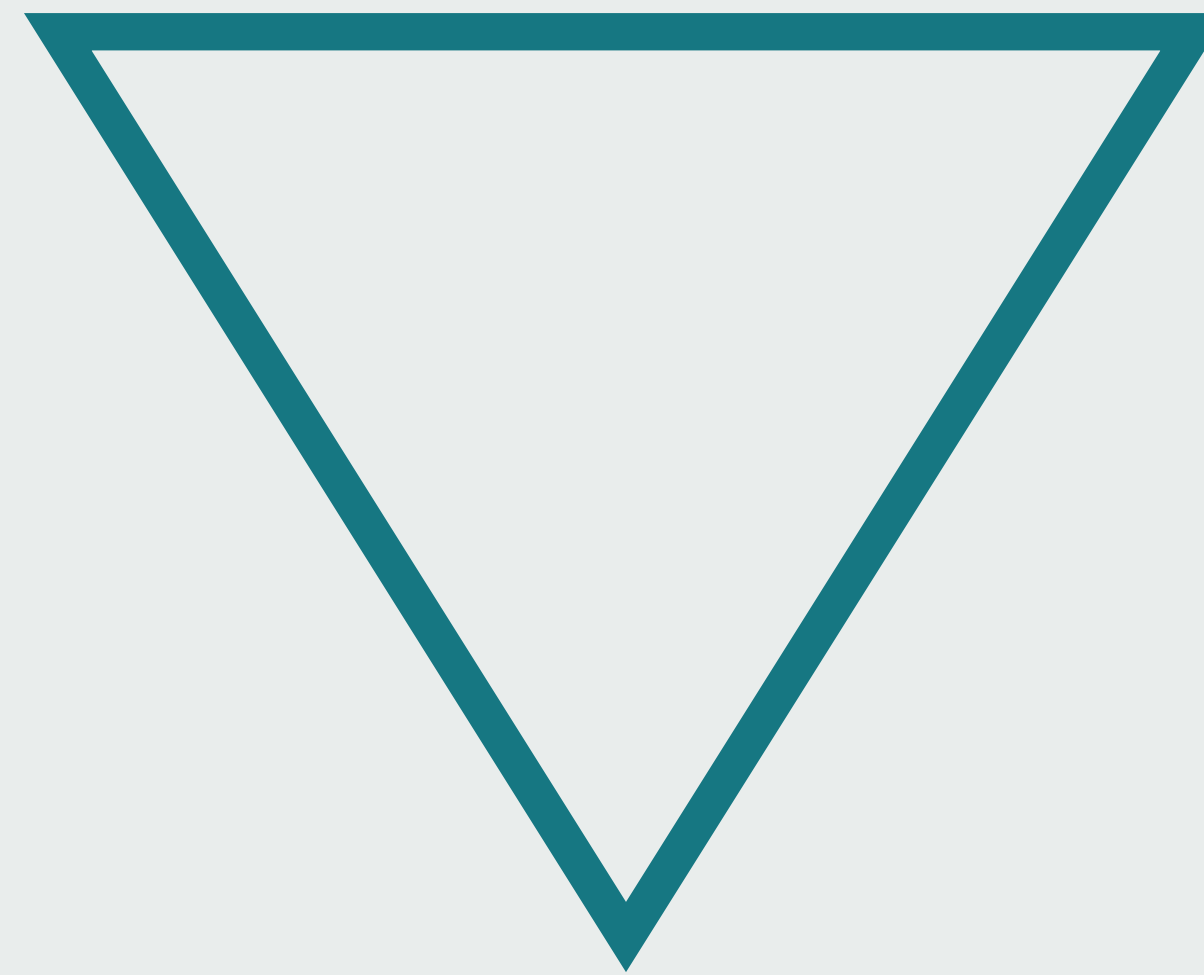
GENERAL CAUSES FOR EVIL IN THIS WORLD

Actions of humans

“flesh” | sin in me

Absence of God

“world” | sin in the world



Activity of Adversary (Enemy)

“devil”

EVIL...

- ... in the Bible's Worldview includes a number of non-human, supernatural entities in conflict with God's kingdom (evil is more what you think);
- ... is personified (and not just abstract), so some of the things happening in our (personal) world might be more complex;
- ... and its presence makes more sense of our experience of the world (reckon that there is a Spiritual War).



SIN...

...is not what you think.



What is Sin?



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpEx2YjUNt0>

VIDEO: WHAT IS SIN?

What understanding about sin
would a child come away with?



SIN IS MORE 1/3

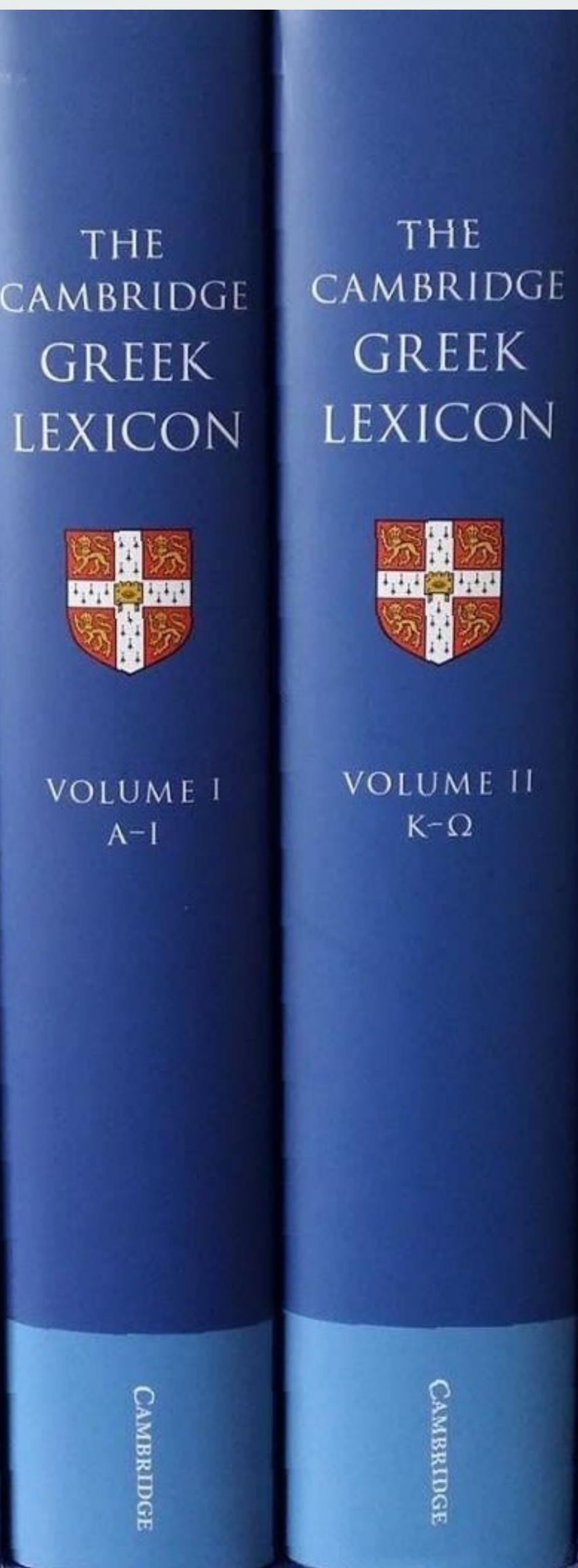


What is Sin?

To sin = *hamartano* [Gk.: ἁμαρτάνω]

1. **fail to hit the mark (in throwing a missile), miss one's target;**
2. **fail to hit upon sth. (i.e. not meet or find);**
3. **fail to achieve or fulfil; to be disappointed;**
4. **fail to take possession of, fail to gain;**
5. **fail to keep possession of, be deprived of, lose;**
6. **fall short, be lacking or deficient;**
7. **fall short in understanding, be mistaken;**
8. **make a mistake, go wrong, err;**
9. **commit an offense, do wrong, offend.**

(Source: CGL)

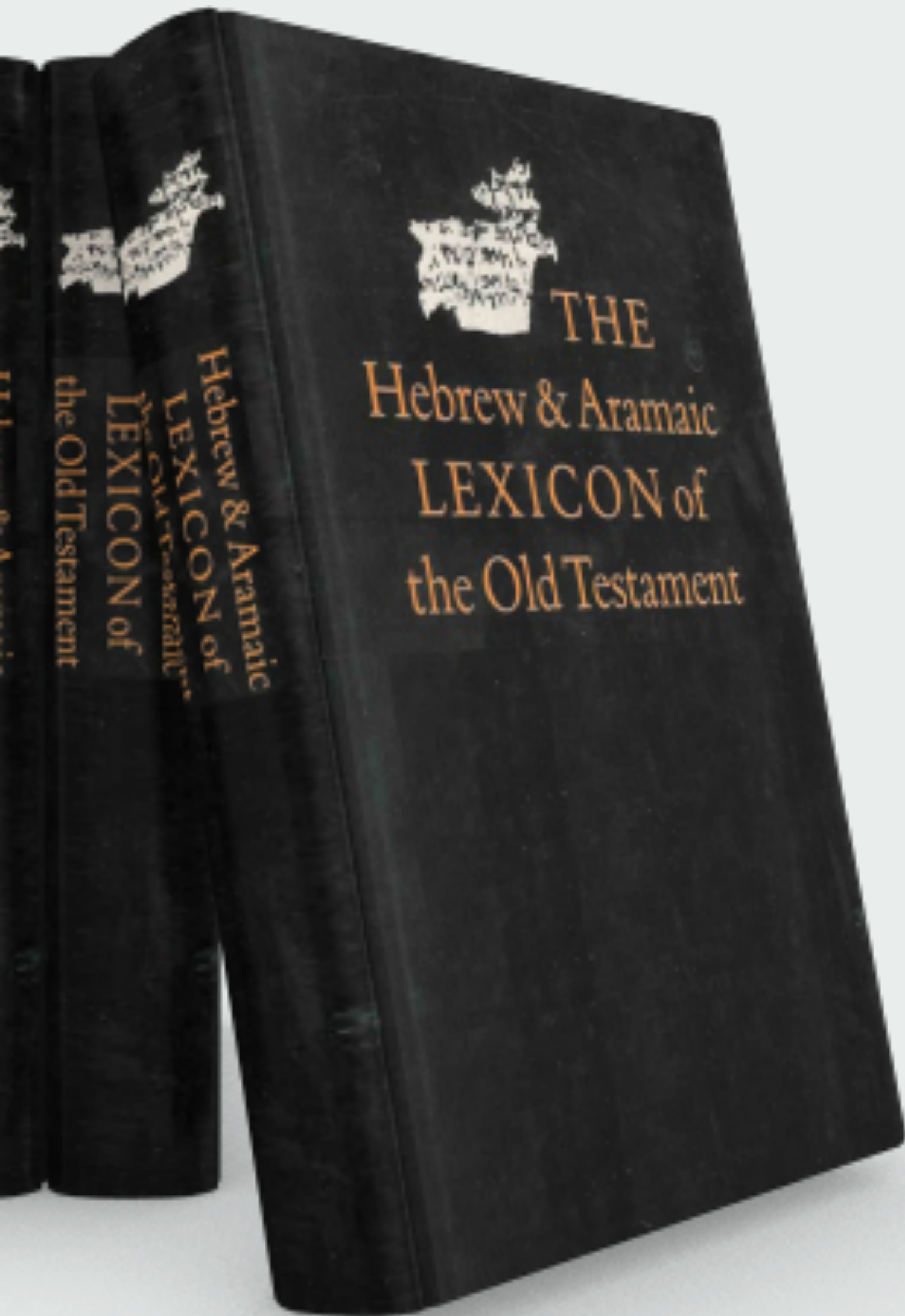


What is Sin?

SIN = *ḥaṭ'a* [Heb.: חטא]

1. **To miss (a mark);**
2. **To wrong (morally), offend;**
3. **To be culpable before someone;**
4. **To do wrong, sin;**
5. **To sin;**
6. **To commit a sin.**

(Source: HALOT)





What is Sin?

- most basic meaning: “failure to hit the mark/target;”
- the word does not describe an essential quality, but the absence thereof;
- sin is not a “thing,” it is the absence of what should be there, like darkness to light;
- in some sense, sin is a lack, an inability or disability;
- it designates what you have failed at, what you are not!

TABLE ACTIVITY: ROMANS 7

How does Paul describe SIN,
what attributes, activities,
or abilities does SIN have?

Make a list and/or circle key words.



SIN IS MORE 2/3



Romans 6 (NASB)

6 ... knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be **slaves to sin** ...

16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are **slaves** of the one whom you obey, either **of sin** resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were **slaves of sin**, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ...

20 For when you were **slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness.

John 8:31–34 (NET)

Then Jesus said to those Judeans who had believed him, “If you continue to follow my teaching, you are really my disciples and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” “We are descendants of Abraham,” they replied, “and have never been anyone’s slaves! How can you say, ‘You will become free’?” Jesus answered them, “I tell you the solemn truth, everyone who practices sin is **a slave of sin**.

- SIN is personified as a slave master;
- SIN is more than a judicial/forensic problem.

Genesis 4:6–7 (NET)

Then the LORD said to Cain,

“Why are you angry, and why is your expression downcast?
Is it not true that if you do what is right, you will be fine?
But if you do not do what is right, **sin is crouching at the door.**
It desires to dominate you, but you must subdue it.”

- SIN is personified as a slave master;
- SIN is more than a judicial/forensic problem.

Hebrews 12:1 (NASB+)

Therefore,
since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,
let us also lay aside every **encumbrance (bulk, burden)**,
and the sin which so easily **entangles (ensnares, obstructs)** us,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

- SIN is described as something that burdens & entangles;
- This is more than a judicial/forensic problem.

Acts 8:23 (NASB+)

**For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the
bondage (binding, fastening) of iniquity.”**

- **SIN is understood as bondage**

Revelation 1:4–5 (NASB+)

...Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne; and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and **released (or loosened) us from our sins by His blood,...**

- **SIN is understood as bondage**

WHAT IS SIN?

JOHN PIPER

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DmBtGGci2g>

VIDEO: WHAT IS SIN?

Contrast the Bible passages
we studied and read with the video.

What stands out?

What is good?

What is problematic?

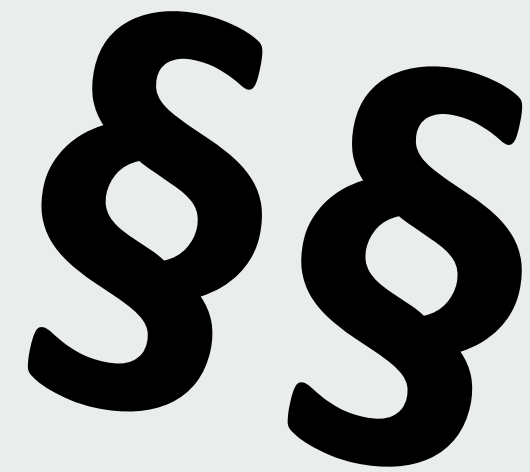


SIN IS MORE 3/3



SIN as...

LEGAL ISSUE

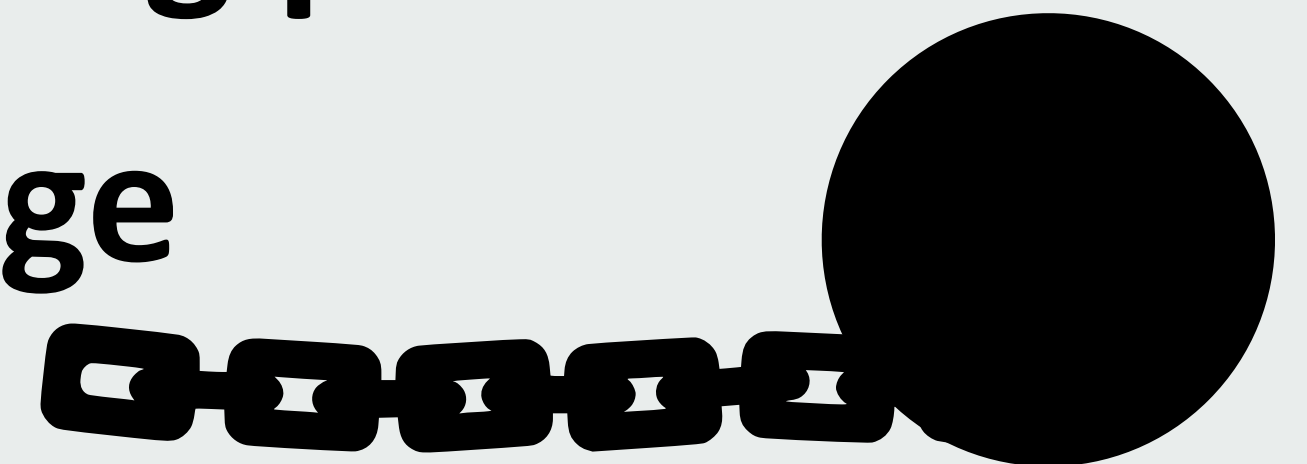


- doing wrong
- missing mark (= glory)
- breaking the Law
- leading to condemnation
- deserving of death

SIN as...

DOMINEERING ENTITY

- doing wrong
- missing the mark
- entanglement
- enslaving power
- bondage



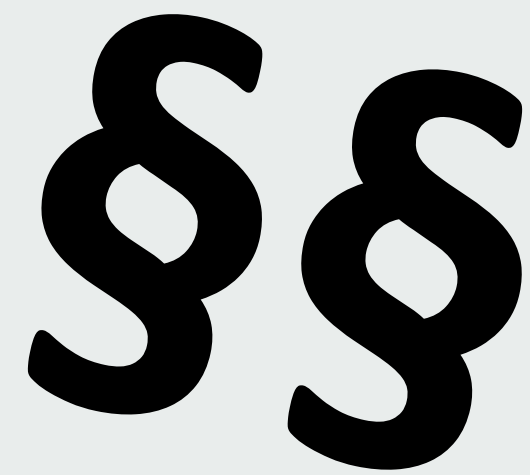
Mark 7:20–23 (NASB))

And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and **defile the man.”**

- **SIN is understood as defiling, or polluting**

SIN as...

LEGAL ISSUE

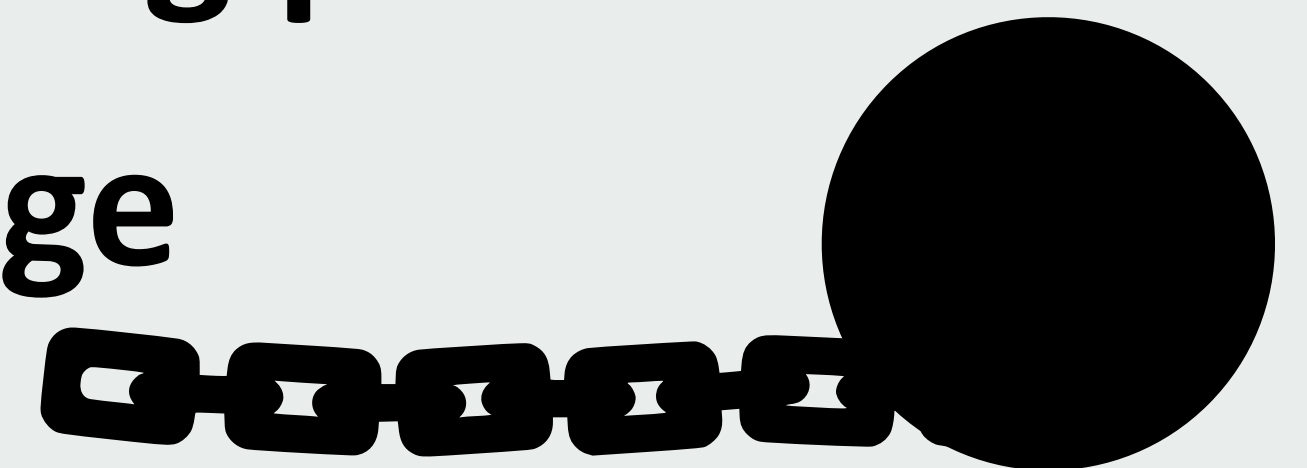


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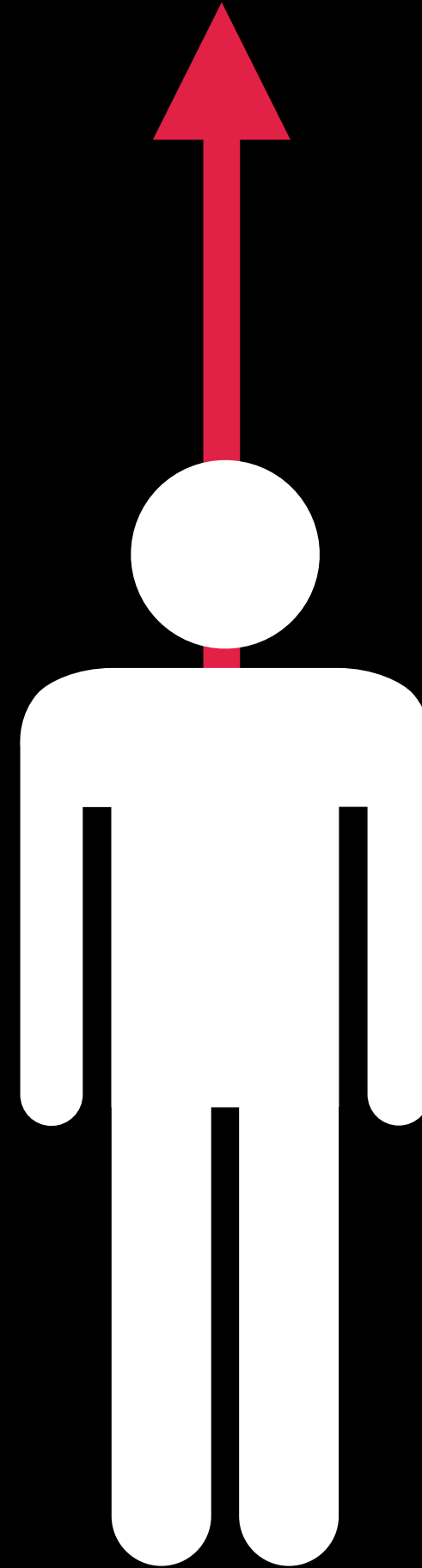
SIN as...

DOMINEERING ENTITY

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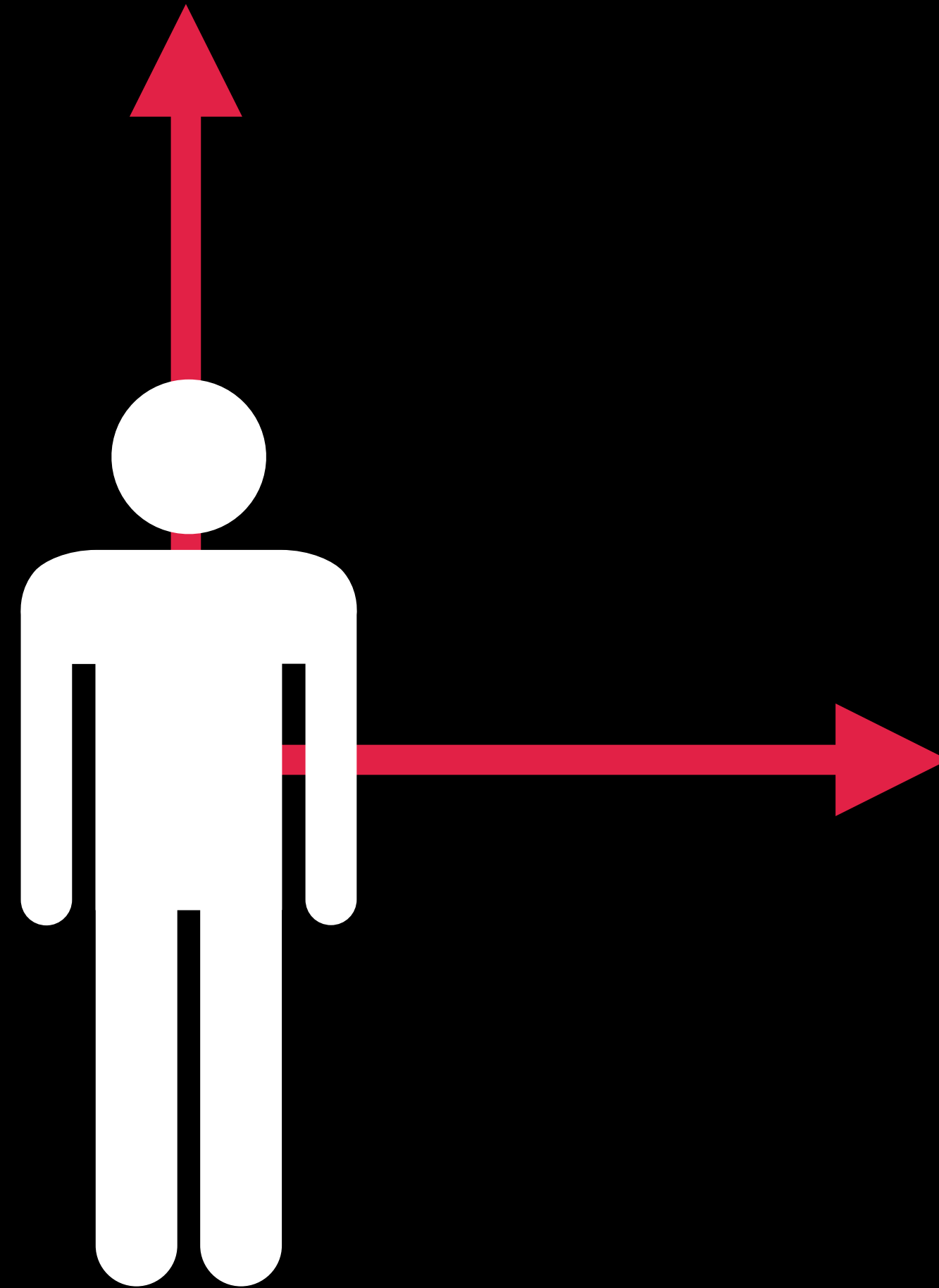


**Sin does something
to your relationship
with God**



Sin does something
to your relationship
with God

**THE *HORIZONTAL*
& *VERTICAL*
ARE CONNECTED**



Sin does something
to your relationship
with others

John 13:34–35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Matthew 6:12, 14–15

12 “And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

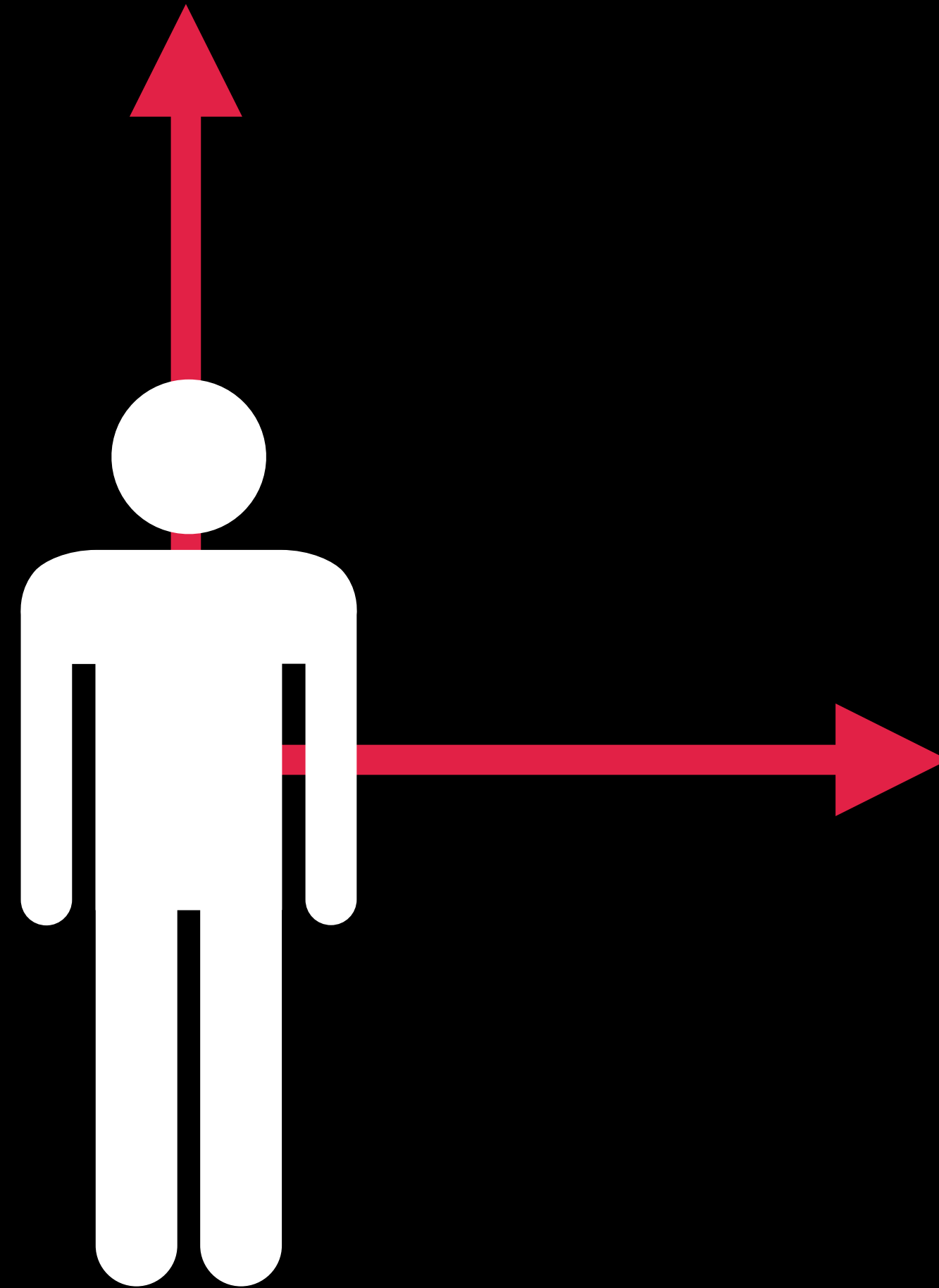
14 “For if you forgive men for their transgressions,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 “But if you do not forgive men,
then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

Matthew 18:21–35

21 Then Peter came to him and said, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother who sins against me? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times! 23 “For this reason, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. (...) 32 Then his lord called the first slave and said to him, ‘Evil slave! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me! 33 Should you not have shown mercy to your fellow slave, just as I showed it to you?’ 34 And in anger his lord turned him over to the prison guards to torture him until he repaid all he owed. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to you, if each of you does not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Sin does something
to your relationship
with God



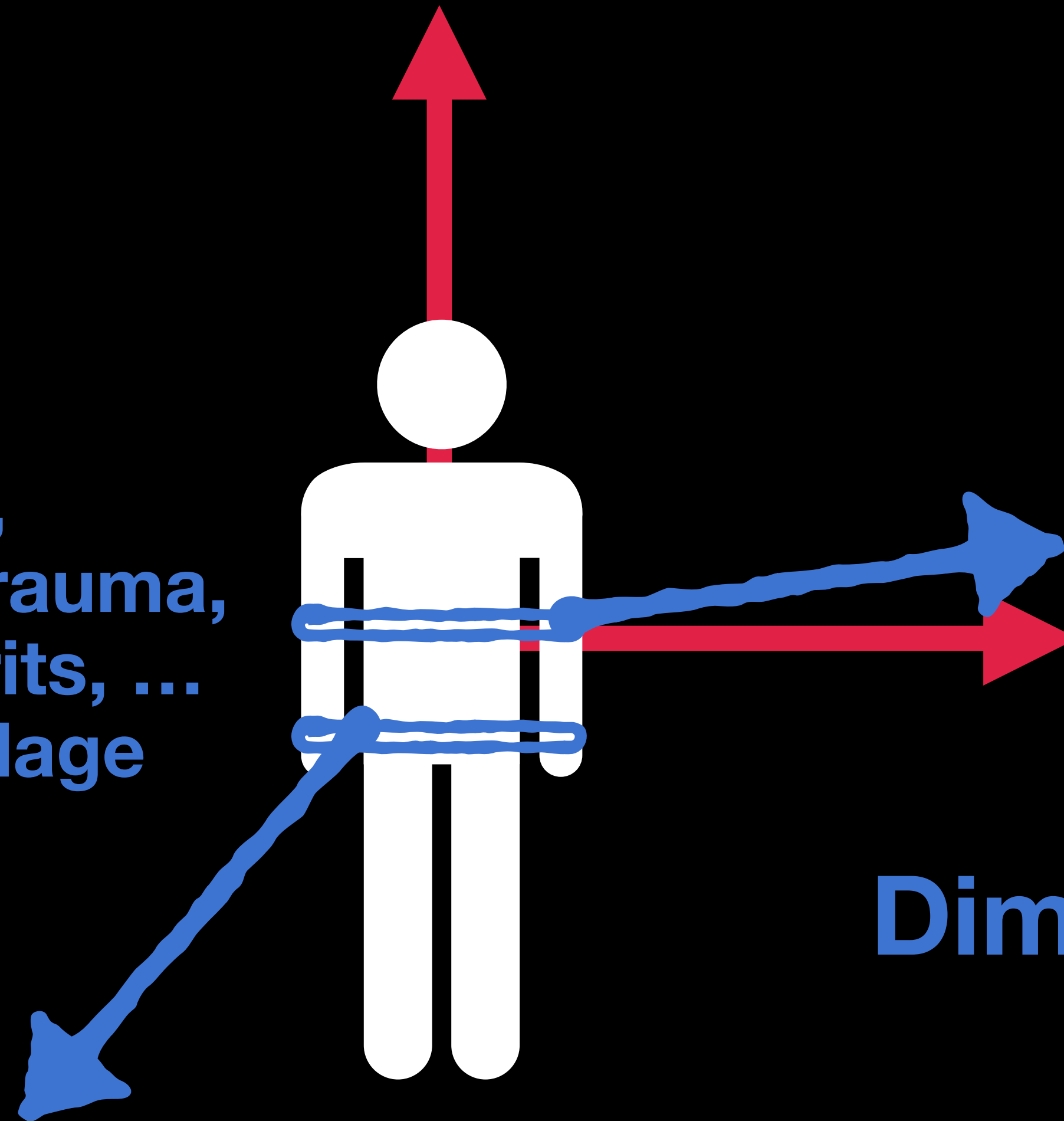
**THE *HORIZONTAL*
& *VERTICAL*
ARE CONNECTED**

Sin does something
to your relationship
with others

**Sin does something
to your relationship
with God**

**our own actions,
people, experiences, trauma,
vows, curses, evil spirits, ...
may keep us in bondage**

**Sin does something
to your relationship to
this world & its ruler**



**Sin does something
to your relationship
with others**

**Dimensions of Sin
& Its Effects
(of Bondage)**

Jesus' Mission Statement Luke 4:18–19 (Isaiah 61)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim **release to the captives**
and the regaining of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

1. BE REAL WITH SIN

2. DEAL WITH SIN & ITS EFFECTS

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

1. BE REAL WITH SIN

A. CONFESS

B. FORGIVE

THE NEED & POWER OF CONFESSION

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:15–16

And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

THE NEED & POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:12, 14–15 (*see also especially Matthew 18*)

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (...) For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Mark 11:25

And whenever you stand praying, **forgive**, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

1. BE REAL WITH SIN

2. DEAL WITH SIN & ITS EFFECTS

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

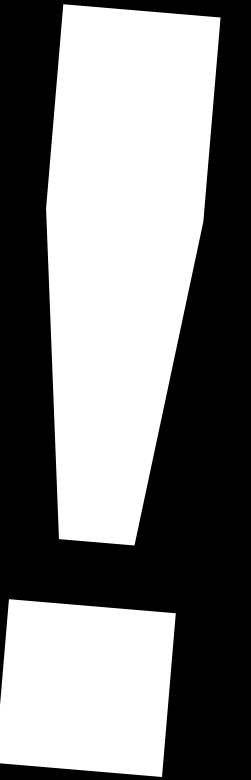
2. DEAL WITH SIN & ITS EFFECTS

A. APPLY TRUTH

B. RENOUNCE, e.g., BREAK VOWS

C. PRAY INTO/AGAINST BONDAGES

A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT DEALING WITH THE EFFECTS OF SIN



This usually only works if you have dealt with sin first. You have to get **REAL** with sin to **DEAL** with the effects of sin. If you skip step one and leave people with unconfessed sin and un-forgiveness, then you cannot do much about the effects of sin, because people hold on to their sins. They effectively have given permission for evil to remain because they essentially resist God and His love. As long as we make space for sin, the darkness does not have to leave and we are spiritually ineffective. (see e.g., Eph 4:27, Luke 11:34–26, John 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7).

BIGGEST WEAPON IN DEALING WITH SIN & ITS EFFECTS:

**BELIEVE IN & CLAIM THE TRUTH,
ESPECIALLY THAT GOD LOVES YOU**

John 8:32

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Romans 5:18

But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:17

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.

Armour of God

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:13 KJV).

← **Helmet of Salvation**
(Ephesians 6:17)

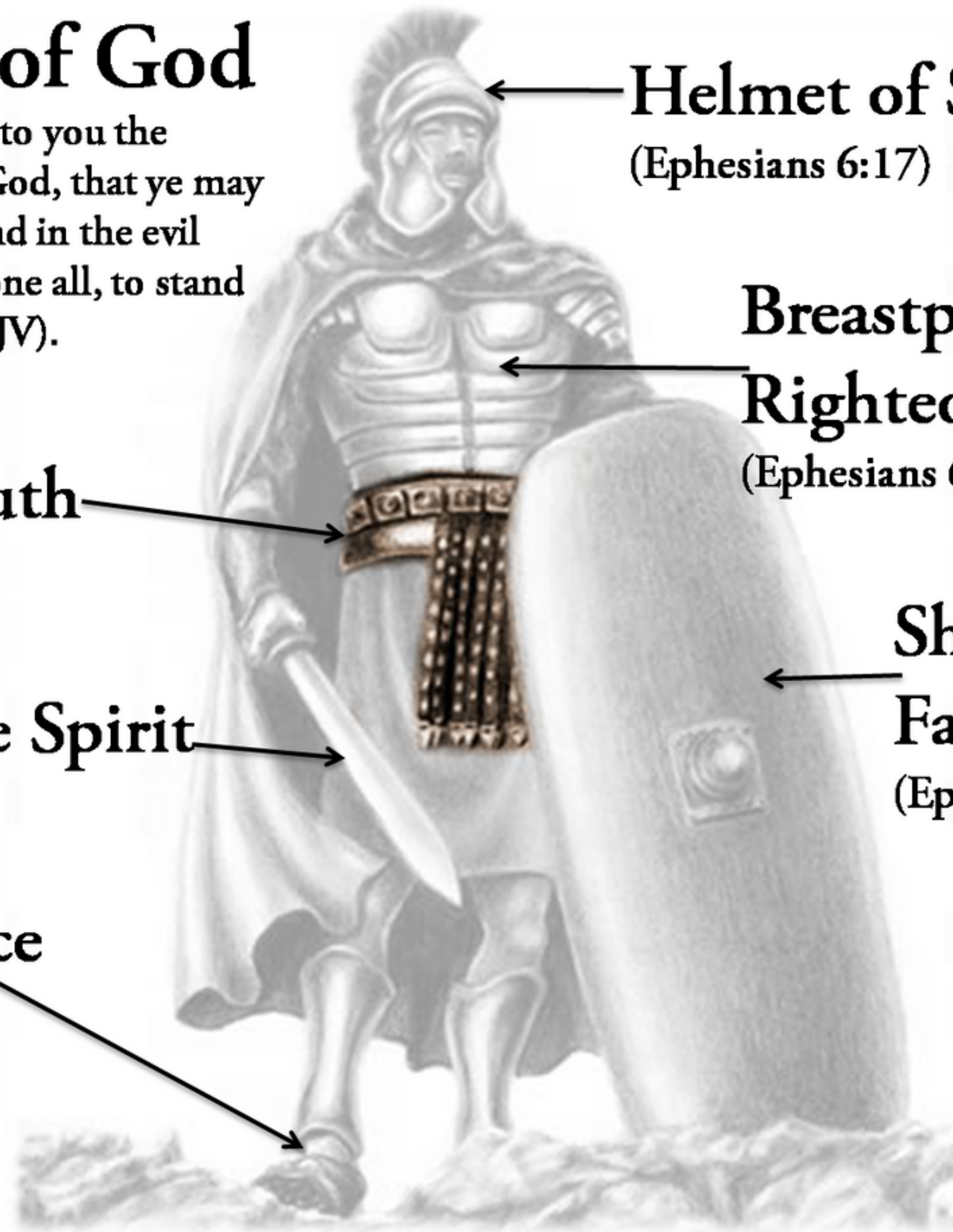
← **Breastplate of Righteousness**
(Ephesians 6:14)

Belt of Truth
(Ephesians 6:14)

← **Shield of Faith**
(Ephesians 6:16)

Sword of the Spirit
(Ephesians 6:17)

Feet of Peace
(Ephesians 6:15)



SIN...

- ... in the Bible is more than just a legal transgression that separates you from God and more than failing to meet God's standard (sin is more);
- ... in the Bible is often understood as an enslaving entity, as a bondage, from which Jesus has come to set us free;
- ... can to be dealt with by confession, forgiveness, applying truth, and praying into our bondages.



Q&A



SALVATION...

...is not what you think.

Next Week, 5 June 2025
19:00 @ Worldview

