

False Alarm

The Saving Siren of Sin

October 12, 2025



Today we're learning **how to hear what sin's trying to say**. Cuz somehow, making mistakes is a part of God's good plan to reach and teach every soul how to get home. And until we see its purpose in that plan, we'll keep trying to deny, justify, or otherwise ignore its ongoing cause and effect. So, to hear how God's using our sin for His good, we gotta ask: **Has sin helped you?**



"Okay 'Pastor' Noah – let's just cool it with the 'sin serves a purpose' sermon. Cuz that's a dangerous idea that could be taken the wrong way and if people mishear the message, it could actually create more sin!"



Fair enough – and you're absolutely right as Paul will point out later. But first, let's just calm down and listen to something else Scripture has to say:

The law was brought in **[by God]** so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more – Romans 5:20 NIV

"There you go again! Y'better take it easy on all the 'God makes sin' stuff!" Well, actually, that was the Bible, but I get it – we can't put God and sin in the same room or we might compromise His character; so let's be clear: God **doesn't encourage sin; but He does expose and exploit sin**. Cuz like everything, He can use it for good – if we're willing to hear Him out. And way back in the Old Testament, He laid out a paradigm-shifting principle of His plan that all of us need to hear:

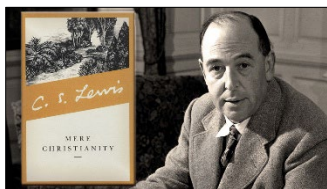
Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. – Jeremiah 2:19 NKJ



Y'see, when we wouldn't listen back in the garden, plan B was to just let our lives teach His truth. Cuz, try as we might, **we can't tune out the discomfort of living in conflict with truth!** Instead, each sin has a way of punishing itself by creating a frustrating dysfunction that urges us to change. So, God didn't add the law to trip us up with more sin, He added the law to train us up with more lessons. Cuz **God's not setting us up to sin; He's waking us up to truth!** But sin makes a great alarm! We just have to hear how it works. But – let me ask, have you ever yanked the batteries out of a chirping smoke detector and thought, **"Problem solved"**? Me too.

Cuz it works ...until you wake up to a house on fire! And in the same way, humans tend to treat the pain and frustration in life as the annoying background noise that we try to unplug or ignore – when in reality, it's trying to help us to hear the warning bell of sin! And every annoying chirp of life is actually the mercy of God in disguise – cuz **the frustration in life alerts us to the presence of sin**.

And that alarm is meant to move us toward safety – not discourage us with the danger. Cuz God gave us a universe that He purposely hardwired with His truth so **whenever we try to live a lie – reality pushes back;** and – so God can use the discomfort of the conflict to call us back.



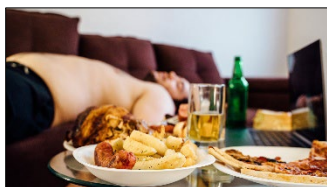
And understanding *that* was a game-changer for not just *my* faith, but C.S. Lewis's *too*! Cuz *he* explains how *pain* actually *proved* God to him when he saw it was trying to *teach* us, *not hurt* us. Like he said in *Mere Christianity*, **"My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?"** Y'see, the very *fact* that pain *feels wrong* means you already know *what's right* – so God **uses irritation as motivation to call out what we know is crooked**; and so we'll start straightening things out.

So, ask, **what's irritating you?** Cuz *comfort* and *joy* are symptoms of strong *faith* but *irritation* and *frustration* are signs of *sin*. And until you ask *God* what's really *causing* the conflict, you're *cooked*!

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their *flesh*, from the flesh will reap *destruction* – Galatians 6:7 – 9 NIV

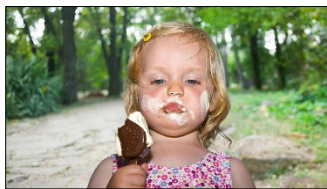
The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of *their sins* hold them – Proverbs 5:22 NIV

They will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of *their* schemes – Proverbs 1:31 NIV



Get it? Our **sin provides its own punishment**. For example, if we give in to *gluttony*, the fruit of our *overeating* schemes will fill us a host of *health issues*; if we *act out of anger*, it'll *ensnare* and *hold us* from having *healthy* relationships; and if we sow the *seeds of greed*, we're gonna reap the *dissatisfaction* of never *having enough*.

Cuz one way or *another*, all of our *irritation* and *frustration* can be traced *back* to the same *struggle*; **we're fighting against the reality of truth**. If we struggle with *money*, it usually means we're fighting against the *immutable math* behind our *spending*; when we struggle in *relationships*, we're usually fighting against the *required reciprocation* behind our *expectation*; and when we struggle with our *health*, we're usually fighting against the *biological response* behind our *behaviors*.



And God *designed* life to that way so *we'd* see the *change* we *need* – to *correct* each *conflict*. I mean, down here, if you eat ice cream for breakfast, lunch, and dinner *without* seeing the problem, by day three your *body* will sound the *alarm*. Cuz **aches and pains aren't good – but they are good for you**. Those irritations *point us* to a potential *problem* – so we can *admit* the changes we *need* to make. And since *all* struggles have a *spiritual* source, **each change is a small step to realign with God's design**. Like we said a couple weeks ago – because *everything* was created with an intened *purpose*, Misuse **creates misery** – the way a *sandwich* makes a terrible *hammer* if it was *meant* to be a *meal*.

But here's the *good news*: that **misery can create clarity if it inspires correction**; cuz *seeing symptoms* compels us to *find a cure*. So, to *stop* the suffering, we need to become more sensitive to the three *sources* of sin's *annoying alerts*; our *conscience*, our *consequences*, and our *community*.



Conscience – This is the irritating *internal alarm* that indicates we’re trying to *ignore* the *truth* we already *know*.

[Like the Psalmist said:] Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey Your Word... It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn Your decrees. – Psalm 119:67, 71 NIV

You ever try to *ignore* a warning light on your *dashboard*? Well, why don’t you just put a piece of *tape* over it?! You know why – **ignorance might silence the siren, but it won’t alleviate the anxiety.** Cuz you can’t *escape* what you *already know*. And *likewise*, the inner *emotional* and *spiritual conflict* we feel is just a *reminder* that we’re *wandering* from what we *already* believe – and if we would *peel back* the *tape* and start *acting* on the *truth* we *see*, the *anxiety* over our warning would turn off. So, pray *this* dangerous prayer when you feel *inner* discomfort: **“Lord, I hear the warning and ask for You to supply the guidance and courage to confront the true conflict.”** Cuz, if we don’t *confess* what our *conscience* conveys, the *alarm* will *escalate* into *consequences*.



Consequences – These are the painful *external effects* that *expose* the *seeds* we’ve sown and *alert* us to *examine* our decisions better.

[And God gave us fair warning that] There is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. – Luke 8:17 NIV

If we *don’t* confront our *sin* through the *inner conflict* of *emotional* distress, it *will* manifest in a *material* way that we *can’t* ignore. Cuz **God loves us too much to let us “get away” with self-destructive sin.** Do you remember the *Region-Beta Paradox*? It’s the idea in *psychology* that it’s *better* for us to experience *unbearable pain* than *mild misery* – cuz **we can endure a little irritation but we can’t ignore absolute agony!** So until our conflicts *escalate* into inescapable *consequences* – we can *convince* ourselves to *overlook* sin’s subtle *start*. The same way we tolerate a *toothache* until we *can’t* eat; or we *stay* in an unhealthy *relationship* until someone *cheats*; or we don’t *admit* we have a *drinking* problem until we get *arrested*. So, *before* God has to *raise* the volume to *stop* your sin, pray, **“Forgive me for letting sin grow this big and help me hit the brakes before more damage is done!”** Otherwise, we’ll just become *more numb* while those *around us* still suffer through *our sin*.



Community – This is the *relational feedback* that warns us we’re *blind* to the fact that we’re *not* living in *harmony* with *reality*:

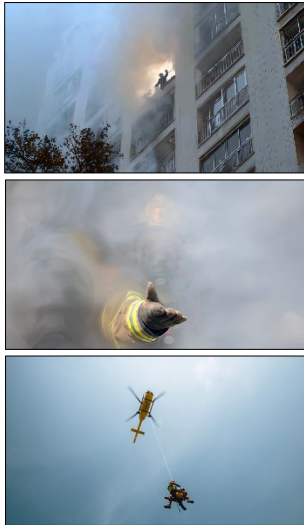
[But] No *discipline* seems *pleasant* at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. – Hebrews 12:11 NIV

Even if we manage to *ignore* our *inner conflict* and *excuse* the *outer effect* – our *dysfunction* will still provoke *others* to *intervene* as our failure spreads to affect *their* lives. But since *discipline hurts now* and *heals later*, **it’s hard to see how correction from our community is caring.** But, God will use every *brother*, *sister*, and *friend* who you *value* to *tell* you the *hard truths* you *refuse* to hear. So make yourself *attentive* not *argumentative* to hear the *caution* from your *community* and *practice* praying, **“Lord, help me to see past myself so I can hear Your caring correction in the words of others.”**

“Okay, I’ve waited, but it *still* sounds like you’re saying we should *welcome* sin! Explain yourself!”
Sure thing! Cuz you’re not alone; and when Paul explains *similar* principles, he *knows* how it *sounds*:

[And echoes the concern] Why not say – ‘Let us do *evil* that *good* may result’? – Romans 3:8 NIV

What *shall* we say, then? Shall we go on *sinning* so that *grace* may increase? *By no means!*
We are those who *have died to sin*; how can we *live in it* any longer? – Romans 6:1–2 NIV



So, **thinking any of this justifies sin is false logic** – the way it would be *ridiculous* to argue that we should spread more *disease* so *doctors* can *cure* more *people*; that’s *stupid*. And it should be *obvious* to everyone that *alarms* are *good* but *fires* are *not*; even if they *trip* the *alarm*. Cuz the **sting of sin doesn’t make it safe, it makes it seen!** And when we see each *sin* – it just gives us a *new chance* to *recognize* and *receive* God’s *grace* and *forgiveness*. And *that’s* how *sin* helps us – **sin doesn’t save us, but it proves we need saving!** And **we won’t get saved until we know we need it!** So our *sin* *exposes* the dangerous *deficiency* in every *human* life that provides the *opportunity* for us to *see*, *believe*, and *receive* God’s *supernatural* love.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still *powerless*, Christ *died* for the *ungodly* ... God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:6-8 NIV

And when we see how *He* loved *us* at our *worst*, *that* revelation isn’t meant to merely *comfort* us; **God’s love is meant to *commission* us.** Cuz He *proved* His *love* can save a sinner like *you* so *you* can *share* the secret with everybody *else* still trying to *ignore the alarms* that are warning them of their conflict with truth. And that’s why our instinct to *punish*, *shame*, or “*set them straight*” must *die* at the *foot* of the *cross*. Cuz *we*, of *all* people, should *know*: **God’s plan for their sin is already at work!**

Their engine light is on. Their pain is escalating. And everybody’s wickedness is already in the process of correcting them. That’s how *God* designed it – *sinners* need assistance; *God* *doesn’t*. Which means our **job isn’t to add pain; it’s to add help.** And Scripture calls *this* posture out plainly:

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, *you* who **[have learned how to silence sin and]** live by the Spirit should restore that person *gently*. – Galatians 6:1 NIV

In other words, **we don’t decide eternal law and order, we work in spiritual search and rescue.** And we’re only allowed to *throw life lines* – *not stones*! So, when *you* walk around *this* world, *this* week – share God’s truth like it’s *oxygen* instead of *delivering* it like a *citation*. *That’s* how *alarms* become *comfort*, *frustration* becomes *salvation*, and *enemies* become *family* – not by minimizing *sin*, but by maximizing *mercy*; the *same* mercy that found *us* “while we were still sinners.”

Because **whenever sin shows up, it’s an opportunity for grace to show off.** So when the alarms go off in *your* life – *you* still need to *heed* the *warning* and *head* to *safety* – but *remember*, while *you’re* on the way out, *you* gotta grab a hand and help someone else *hear* what *their* sin’s trying to say. Cuz in the end, it’s the *same* message for *all* of us, **“Don’t you have somewhere better to be?”**