

Some Quotes About Sin

1. Sin will take you farther than you ever thought you'd stray
Sin will leave you so lost, you think you'll never find your way
Sin will keep you longer than you ever thought you'd stay
Sin will cost you more than you ever thought you'd pay
2. **A recent survey of Discipleship Journal readers ranked areas of greatest spiritual challenge to them:**

1. Materialism	4. Laziness	7. Envy
2. Pride	5. (Tie) Anger/Bitterness	8. Gluttony
3. Self-centeredness	6. (Tie) Sexual lust	9. Lying

Survey respondents noted temptations were more potent when they had neglected their time with God (81%) and when they were physically tired (57%). Resisting temptation was accomplished by prayer (84%), avoiding compromising situations (76%), Bible study (66%), and being accountable to someone (52%).
Discipleship Journal, 11–12/92
3. **Quote:** Sin comes when we take a perfectly natural desire or longing or ambition and try desperately to fulfill it without God. Not only is it sin, it is a perverse distortion of the image of the Creator in us. All these good things, and all our security, are rightly found only and completely in him. - Augustine, *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*
4. **Quote:** Once we assuage our conscience by calling something a “necessary evil,” it begins to look more and more necessary and less and less evil. - Sidney J. Harris
5. **Quote:** This was how Susannah Wesley defined “sin” to her young son, John Wesley: “If you would judge of the lawfulness or the unlawfulness of pleasure, then take this simple rule: Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, and takes off the relish of spiritual things—that to you is sin.” - Resource, July/August, 1990.
6. **Quote:** No one knows the one-hundredth part of the sin that clings to his soul. - John Calvin
7. According to sociologist Robert Bellah, “One of our current psychological gurus says that 98 percent of Americans are dysfunctional. No doubt he is right. He has just discovered original sin, though he is mistaken if he thinks 2 percent are without.” - *Our Daily Bread*, April 19, 1995.
8. **Niagara Falls and the Birds:** Dr. Ralph Sockman writes about an experience he had while standing on the edge of Niagara Falls one clear, cold March day. Wrapped in white winter garments, the falls glistened in the bright sun. As some birds swooped down to snatch a drink from the clear water, Sockman’s companion told how he had seen birds carried over the edge of the precipice. As they dipped down for a drink, tiny droplets of ice would form on their wings. As they returned for additional drinks more ice would weigh down their bodies until they couldn’t rise above the cascading waters. Flapping their wings, the birds would suddenly drop over the falls.
Today in the Word, October, 1990, p. 14
9. **Nibbling Their Way to Lostness.** Mike Yaconelli wrote in the Wittenburg Door: “I live in a small, rural community. There are lots of cattle ranches around here, and, every once in a while, a cow wanders off and gets lost. . . . Ask a rancher how a cow gets lost, and chances are he will reply, ‘Well, the cow starts nibbling on a tuft of green grass, and when it finishes, it looks ahead to the next tuft of green grass and starts nibbling on that one, and then it nibbles on a tuft of grass right next to a hole in the fence. It then sees another tuft of green grass on the other side of the fence, so it nibbles on that one and then goes on to the next tuft. The next thing you know, the cow has nibbled itself into being lost.’ “Americans are in the process of nibbling their way to lostness. . . . We keep moving from one tuft of activity to another, never noticing how far we have gone from home or how far away from the truth we have managed to end up.”
Mike Yaconelli, *The Wittenburg Door*
10. **Attention-getter:** The Christian who harbors secret sin in his life is looking for trouble. 1JO 1:8–9—“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we *confess our sins*, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
11. **When a True Christian sins, what happens?**
 1. *His Fellowship with God is severed.* David, when backslidden, mourned, “Day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer” (Psalm 32:4). As *Clouds hide the sun for days*, so **Sin** comes between the soul and God.
 2. *The Joy of salvation is lost.* One loses all relish for spiritual things: the heart is empty. David, in this condition, confessed, “My sin is ever before me” and “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit” (Psalm 51:3, 12).
 3. *Power for service is lost.* The Holy Spirit’s power is **Essential** for any real witness for Christ. It cannot be **Faked**. David prayed, “Thou desirest truth in the inward parts” and “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:6, 10).
 4. *The Christian invites divine chastisement.* Hebrews 12:6–7—“Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth....What son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” (Psalm 89:32–33—“I will visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless, my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.”
 5. *There is loss of reward.* (Read 1 Corinthians 3:11–15.) Out of **Fellowship** means out of **Service**—out of service means that one is *failing to lay up treasures in heaven*. He is building of “wood, hay, and stubble” which cannot endure the test of the rewarding day (1 Corinthians 3:12–15). Many will be chagrined in that day by suffering **Loss of Reward**.
Take the Way Back Now. Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:9.
Keith L. Brooks, *Essential Themes*, (Moody Press, Chicago; 1974), pp. 48-49

12. **Quote:** “Ah! If our likeness to God does not show itself in trifles, what is there left for it to show itself in? For our lives are all made up of trifles. The great things come three or four of them in the seventy years; the little ones every time the clock ticks.” - Alexander Maclaren
13. **Weeds.** It’s like a World Series of weeds, a Hula Bowl of herbicides, with agriculture students from U.S. and Canadian universities competing to identify problems in farm fields. This year, Iowa State took top honors in the Collegiate Weed Science Contest, which tests students’ abilities to identify weeds and the right chemical to kill them and diagnose herbicide failure. “They need to be able to recognize weeds when they are tiny,” said James Worthington of Western Kentucky University, president of the North Central Weed Science Society. “When they get big enough that anybody can recognize them, it’s too late to do anything about them.” Spokesman Review, July 27, 1989, p. A9
14. **Augustine’s Stages with Sin**
 1. Lord make me good, but not yet.
 2. Lord make me good, but not entirely.
 3. Lord make me good.
15. **Sin, of omission: Misdeeds and Missed Deeds**
 It isn’t the thing you do;
 It’s the thing you leave undone,
 Which gives you a bit of heartache
 At the setting of the sun.
 The tender word forgotten,
 The letter you did not write,
 The flower you might have sent,
 Are your haunting ghosts tonight.
 The stone you might have lifted
 Out of a brother’s way,
 The bit of heart some counsel
 You were harried too much to say.
- The loving touch of the hand,
 The gentle winsome tone,
 That you had no time or tho’t for
 With troubles enough of your own.
 The little acts of kindness
 So easily out of mind;
 Those chances to be helpful
 Which everyone may find.
 No, it’s not the things you do,
 It’s the thing you leave undone
 Which gives you the bit of heartache
 At the setting of the sun.
 - Margaret Sangster Resource, Sept/Oct, 1992, p. 2
16. **Quote:** “What’s wrong with the world?” a newspaper editorial once asked. G.K. Chesterton wrote in reply, “I am.”
17. **Consumed by Their Own Lust:** Radio personality Paul Harvey tells the story of how an Eskimo kills a wolf. The account is grisly, yet it offers fresh insight into the consuming, self-destructive nature of sin. First, the Eskimo coats his knife blade with animal blood and allows it to freeze. Then he adds another layer of blood, and another, until the blade is completely concealed by frozen blood. Next, the hunter fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. When a wolf follows his sensitive nose to the source of the scent and discovers the bait, he licks it, tasting the fresh frozen blood. He begins to lick faster, more and more vigorously, lapping the blade until the keen edge is bare. Feverishly now, harder and harder the wolf licks the blade in the arctic night. So great becomes his craving for blood that the wolf does not notice the razor-sharp sting of the naked blade on his own tongue, nor does he recognize the instant at which his insatiable thirst is being satisfied by his OWN warm blood. His carnivorous appetite just craves more—until the dawn finds him dead in the snow!”
 Dr. George Sweeting wrote in **Special Sermons For Special Days**, ‘It is a fearful thing that people can be ‘consumed by their own lusts’.’ Only God’s grace keeps us from the wolf’s fate. Chris T. Zwingelberg
18. **A Prisoner of His Own Appetite.** Thomas Costain’s history, *The Three Edwards*, described the life of Raynald III, a fourteenth-century duke in what is now Belgium. Grossly overweight, Raynald was commonly called by his Latin nickname, Crassus, which means “fat.” After a violent quarrel, Raynald’s younger brother Edward led a successful revolt against him. Edward captured Raynald but did not kill him. Instead, he built a room around Raynald in the Nieuwerkerk castle and promised him he could regain his title and property as soon as he was able to leave the room. This would not have been difficult for most people since the room had several windows and a door of near-normal size, and none was locked or barred. The problem was Raynald’s size. To regain his freedom, he needed to lose weight. But Edward knew his older brother, and each day he sent a variety of delicious foods. Instead of dieting his way out of prison, Raynald grew fatter. When Duke Edward was accused of cruelty, he had a ready answer: “My brother is not a prisoner. He may leave when he so wills.”
 Raynald stayed in that room for ten years and wasn’t released until after Edward died in battle. By then his health was so ruined he died within a year. . . a prisoner of his own appetite. Dave Wilkenson
19. **Harvest of Ones Own Sowing.** This is the bitterest of all—to know that suffering need not have been; that it has resulted from indiscretion and inconsistency; that it is the harvest of one’s own sowing; that the vulture which feeds on the vitals is a nestling of one’s own rearing. Ah me! This is pain! There is an inevitable Nemesis in life. The laws of the heart and home, of the soul and human life, cannot be violated with impunity. Sin may be forgiven; the fire of penalty may be changed into the fire of trial: the love of God may seem nearer and dearer than ever and yet there is the awful pressure of pain; the trembling heart; the failing of eyes and pining of soul; the harp on the willows; the refusal of the lip to sing the Lord’s song. F. B. Meyer in *Charles Swindoll, Living Above the Level of Mediocrity*, p. 246
20. **Effects of Sin.** How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps you think the worm burrows in from the outside. No, scientists have discovered that the worm comes from inside. But how does he get in there? Simple! An insect lays an egg in the apple blossom. Sometime later, the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eats his way out. Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through a person’s thoughts, words, and actions. (Heaven and Home Hour Radio Bulletin)