

Not as good as we should be

Romans 3:9-20

Morality Ranking Exercise



A mature Christian means:

With new life from God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we love and join God's works

The Gospel of Jesus Christ in 6 parts

1) One holy Creator God

2) All people are sinful

Romans 3

1-2:

9:

All people are under the power of sin (sin = choosing our path rather than God's)

Guilty before God and separated from Him

Can't stop choosing our path rather than God's

10-18:

Proof to the Jews:

God's revelation repeatedly declares that all people are under the power of sin

Areas: Communication / Action / Basic attitude

19-20:

If those who have God's revelation and favor fail to meet His standard, no one else can either

Nothing connected with us (head, heart, or hands) is as good as it should be

Sin = Taking our way rather than God's way

The Bible's Claim

Every single person...

has known something of God and of morality

has disregarded (and even smothered) that knowledge

in order to go our own way

The Big Idea

Every human is separated from God by sin

which can only be solved by Christ's death in our place

Instruction → Designed to help us grow and learn

Assessment → Designed to find out what we have learned

God's commands and revelation of His character expose our turning away from God

What should we do?

Know that we are by nature sinners who sin

There is no means for “self-salvation”
We have no claim on God’s love or mercy
When we judge others, we condemn ourselves

Accept and rejoice in forgiveness in Jesus!

“The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6

Accept and rejoice in new life in Jesus!

“the new creation has come...the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Confess our sins to God

“If we confess our sins, he...will forgive us” 1 John 1:8-10

Confess our sins to those we sin against

“...First go and be reconciled to them...” Matthew 5:23-24

Mature Christians confess our sin to God and (when appropriate) to each other

Take seriously our vulnerability to sin

The Lord’s Prayer (pray daily)
Put in place good fences and good accountability
See “Confession and Repentance”

<https://www.crosswaymchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Confession-and-Repentance.docx.pdf>

Mature Christians take sin and our vulnerability to sin seriously

Mature Christians remember two things:

That...
and that...

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. In your own words, what is sin? Consider Isaiah 53:6. What other verses are also helpful?
2. “None of us is as bad as we could be, and none of us is as good as we should be.”
What are examples of this statement?
3. Why can’t someone “be good enough” to be approved by God?
4. What are helpful practices for confession in your life?
5. What roles does and should confession to other people play in our lives? What makes it important? What are some risks? When might it be appropriate or inappropriate? When did you last confess to someone else?
6. What is your reaction to this statement of John Newton?
“I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour.”
7. **Exploring more:** Read Luke 18:9-14. Who was Jesus’ audience for this parable? How might that relate to the audience for Paul’s writing in Romans 3:9-20? What was Jesus’ point? How does that relate to Paul’s message? What is different about how Jesus made His point and how Paul made His point? Which one is more compelling to you?
8. **Confession and repentance:** A biblical response to our sin is more than just admitting the wrong we have done.
See <https://www.crosswaymchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Confession-and-Repentance.docx.pdf>

Conversation starters

What is sin? Is sin a helpful concept? Why or why not?