

## A Fatal Flaw

Sin is the transgression of law or lawlessness (1 Jn 3:4). The New Testament contains the effective law for us today (Matt 28:18-20). The law of Christ contains guidelines, prohibitions and boundaries (Jas 1:25; 2:12). When we fail to live within limits of that law, we sin. God hates the practice of sin (Prov 6:16-19) because it can prevent us from inheriting the eternal kingdom (Eph 5:5).

Sin can be defined as “a missing of the mark” (Vine’s, 576). God’s law is the mark or target, and your life is the arrow. Your thoughts, words and actions must be aimed at God’s target. We sin when miss the mark and **go too far** (2 John 9) by going beyond God’s law. We also sin when we **fall short** of the mark (Jas 4:17) by failing to follow God’s law. Sin is described as being **off to the right or the left** (Deut 5:32). The temptations and difficulties of life may cause us to turn our thoughts away from God’s law. These “off the mark” thoughts may cause us to sin (Jas 1:14-15).

God’s law is based on His character of holiness and righteousness (Psa 119:172), so by sinning we actually turn against God (Psa 51:4). Lawlessness is an insult to the Lawgiver (Jas 4:12).

Sin tragically separates us from God (Rom 6:23; Isa 59:1-2). Do we regularly consult God’s law about everything, whether personal or church related? The good news related to sin is that Jesus was provided to take away our sins and to bestow the gift of eternal life to those who obey Him (Rom 6:23; Acts 3:26; Heb 5:9).

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.