**Sin**

**Jesus said: “If any of you is without sin,**

**Let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”**

***(St. John 8:7)***

**Acronym for sin: Self Inflicted Nonsense.**

****And for those of us who can admit our faults, there are some modern** aids and incentives. A German organization, the Lazarus Society, released a CD-ROM that lists 200 of the most popular sins, allows you to customize the list to match your particular temptations, and includes suggested penances and links to online priests. Then there’s the Franciscan friar in Somerville, Massachusetts, who gave his parishioners coupons for 50 cents off the sin of their choice. A thrifty sinner could redeem the coupon so that, for example, a 10-novena sin would cost him only 5. Finally, there was the exhibit at an Italian trade show that featured a high-tech confessional to which people could fax their confessions. Apparently, as Oscar Wilde wrote, “it is the confession, not the priest, that gives us absolution.” *(Ben Franklin’s Almanac, p. 295)***

**Radically and basically all sin is simply ingratitude. *(Karl Barth, theologian)***

**Casey went to confession. “Father, I've sinned. I used the Lord's name in vain, while playing golf.” “I understand, my son,” said the priest. “I play the game myself? What happened?” “It was the 13th hole. I teed off, hit the ball 240 yards right down the middle, but it bounced off a sprinkler head into the woods.” “Is that when you swore?” “No, Father. I hit a fantastic shot out of the rough, but it landed deep in a sand trap.” “Ah, that's when you took the Lord's name in vain.” “No,” said Casey. “I hit the ball perfectly out of the trap, and it wound up just four inches from the cup.” “Is that when you blasphemed?” asked the priest. “No . . .” “Dear God! Don't tell me you missed a four-inch putt!” *(Larry Wilde, in The Official Golf Lover's Joke Book*)**

**In Puritan times, to be born on a Sunday was interpreted as a sign of great sin. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 150)***

**“Japanese tradition holds that a man’s soul gets tired bit by bit, day after day during the year,” says prominent sociologist Yasuji Honda. “And by the year-end, it is all worn out and dirty.” So, Japanese homes get their annual winter cleaning on New Year’s Eve. Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples bestow personal purification on an estimated 60 million Japanese. At midnight New Year’s Eve, Buddhist bells bong 108 times for man’s 108 sins. *(Andrew H. Malcolm, in New York Times)***

**We are not punished for our sins but by them. *(J. Sig Paulson, Unity minister)***

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**There are two cardinal sins from which all the others spring: impatience and laziness. *(Franz Kafka)***

**The youngest of the new group of Catholic cardinals appointed last May was Jaime Sin, 47, the archbishop of Manila. (His first name is Spanish; his last, Chinese. His elevation has ruined his best one-liner. “The Sacred College,” he used to joke, “would never admit a Cardinal Sin.” *(Diana McLellan & Louise Lague, Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate)***

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**Monk: “You must change your sinful ways, Hagar!” Hagar: “I’d like to cooperate, but I don’t know which of my ways are sinful.” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar comic strip)***

**You will not become a saint through other people’s sins. *(Anton Chekhov)***

**Two elderly women were sitting together in the front pew of a church, listening to a fiery preacher. When the preacher condemned the sin of lust, these two ladies cried out, “Amen, Brother!” When the preacher condemned the sin of stealing, they yelled “Preach it again, Reverend!” And when he condemned the sin of lying, they jumped to their feet and screamed, “Right on, Brother. Tell it like it is! Amen!” But when the preacher condemned the sin of gossip, the two got quiet, and one turned to the other and said, “He’s done quit preaching and now he’s meddlin’!” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Good week for: Confession, after the Vatican announced that men who go to hell – likely for sins of lust – will have their souls pelted with fire and brimstone, while women’s souls will be punished – probably for sins of pride – by being “broken on a wheel.” *(The Week magazine, February 27, 2009)***

**In 1912 the archbishop of Paris declared dancing the tango a sin. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 65)***

**The Seven Deadly Sins:**

**Truth, if it becomes a weapon against persons.**

**Beauty, if it becomes vanity.**

**Love, if it becomes possessive.**

**Loyalty, if it becomes blind, careless trust.**

**Tolerance, if it becomes indifference.**

**Self-confidence, if it becomes arrogance.**

**Faith, if it becomes self-righteousness. *(Ashley Cooper, American columnist)***

**Dolly kneels and prays: “. . . And please forgive the dessert Grandma had at the restaurant. She said it was sinful.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The Devil’s sin, some claimed, was jealousy of man, whom God had made in his own image, giving him “dominion over all the earth.” Others taught that the sin was pride – he wished to be God’s equal. Rallying lesser renegade angels to his standard, Satan spearheaded a cosmic rebellion. But loyal angels overpowered him and cast him into darkness. “And there was war in heaven,” recounts the Book of Revelation, “and that old serpent, called the Devil, was cast out into the earth.” (Ernest O. Hauser, in Reader’s Digest)**

**A minister told his congregation that there are 700 different sins. He has already received 46 requests for the list. (Springville, Utah, Herald)**

**Up to about a hundred years ago the custom of “sin-eating” was widespread in England and in the Highlands of Scotland. When someone died, the official village sin-eater was notified. He went at once to the house of the deceased, sat on a stool near the door, and consumed a groat, a crust of bread, and a bowl of ale. When finished he would rise and announce the peace of the departed soul, for whom he thus had just traded his own soul. For some people I can think of, it would take a lot more than a groat and a crust of bread! (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 7)**

**God holds each of us by a string. When we sin, we cut the string. But God ties it up again, making a knot. Each time our wrongdoing cuts the string, God ties another knot – drawing us up closer to Him. *(Meister Eckhart)***

**Early Egyptians believed in the confessional, too. Except they confessed sins they hadn’t committed, even. To build up good will in the afterlife. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 65)***

**All error is misqualified energy. *(Albert Einstein)***

**That which we call sin in others is experiment for us. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**We have only one evil to fear and that is sin. *(St. Alphonsus Liguori)***

**All sins are attempts to fill voids. (Simone Weil, French philosopher)**

**The Dean of Blechley, the Reverend Wheeler, was conducting a service at Leighton Buzzard parish church, Bedfordshire, when the back of his surplice caught fire after brushing against a candle. At the time the congregation was singing a hymn about “the consuming flames of sin.” *(Geoff Tibballs, in The Giant Bathroom Book of Dumbology, p. 201)***

**During a Sunday school class, a group of five-year-olds watched an animated video of creation and the fall into sin. One child in particular sat enthralled by the unfolding account of Adam and Eve’s disobedience. As Eve offered the forbidden fruit to Adam, the young boy whispered in horror, “Adam, don’t!” *(Carol Geisler, in Portals of Prayer)***

**A Sunday school teacher once asked her class of young boys, “What must we do before we can expect forgiveness of sin?” One little lad, with a gleam in his eye, said, “We must sin!” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 70)***

**The first and worst of all frauds is to cheat one’s self. All sin is easy after that. (*Philip James Bailey, poet)***

**Mohandas K. Gandhi’s list of seven deadly sins: Wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, business without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice and politics without principle.**

**Dick Cavett once asked Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame, if he thought practicing birth control was a mortal sin. “I hope not,” replied Hesburgh. “I’ve been practicing it for years.” *(“Dick Cavett Show,” PBS)***

**Society does not punish those who sin, but those who sin and conceal not cleverly. *(Elbert Hubbard)***

**There is no sin but ignorance. *(Christopher Marlowe)***

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**One says to another in hell: My sin? I invented call-waiting!” *(The Saturday Evening Post cartoon)***

**The idea that man was born in sin was an invention by none other than Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo. One of the most interesting political battles in history occurred between Augustine and Pelagius in the fifth century. You may find a blow by blow account of this in the 1954 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica on page 447, volume 17. (Jack E. Addington)**

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**On the cross Jesus died to our sins not for them. *(J. Sig Paulson, Unity minister)***

**It was very evident to me that Jesus considered that man invented his own sins. Did he not say: Your sins are forgiven you. Go and sin no more? (Jack E. Addington)**

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**According to Leviticus, shaving one’s beard is a sin. Getting a tattoo or wearing a cotton-poly T-shirt (or any garment of mixed fiber) will also incur God’s wrath. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 85)***

**He-who-lives-in-a-glass-house should never invite over he-who-is-without sin. (Current Comedy for Speakers, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Everything that used to be a sin is now a disease. *(Bill Maher)***

**The word “sin” actually means “to make a mistake,” to injure another needlessly and carelessly, or to condemn another. The literal definition of sin is: “missing the mark.” (Jack E. Addington)**

**There is no sinner like s young saint. *(Aphra Behn, playwright)***

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**A Sunday school teacher asked her class, “Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?” A small girl in the class replied, “Aren’t those the sins we should have committed, but didn’t?” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

*****The*** sins of omission are those sins we should have committed, but haven’t. *(Rev. Patrick Berryhill)***

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**The only sin is mediocrity. *(Martha Graham, choreographer)***

**Original sin = man not knowing who his source is. *(Margaret Putz)***

**Sin has been made not only ugly but passe. People are no longer sinful, they are only immature or under privileged or frightened or, more particularly, sick. *(Phyllis McGinley, American poet)***

**The wages of sin are death, but by the time taxes are taken out, it’s just sort of a tired feeling. *(Paula Poundstone)***

**Fifty-four-year-old Ellsworth Donald Griffith told a Des Moines, Iowa judge that he was too old to go to prison, and asked instead for a public stoning for his conviction for terrorizing his former employer. His one condition was that only those without sin be allowed to cast stones. The judge sentenced him to 5 years in prison. (The World Almanac & Book of Facts)**

**Man is not punished for his sins, but by them. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 82)***

**Every sin is the result of a collaboration. *(Stephen Crane, author)***

**In ancient Rome it was a sin to eat woodpeckers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Boredom is a vital problem for the moralist, since at least half the sins of mankind are caused by the fear of it. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**As a visiting preacher, D. L. Moody was warned that some of the congregation usually left before the end of the sermon. When he rose to begin his sermon, he announced, “I am going to speak to two classes of people this morning; first to the sinners, then to the saints.” He proceeded to address the “sinners” for a while, and then said they could leave. For once, every member of the congregation stayed to the end of the sermon. (Viola Walden, in Sword of the Lord)**

**When authorities warn you of the sinfulness of sex, there is an important lesson to be learned: Do not have sex with the authorities. (Matt Groening, The Simpsons creator)**

**The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that’s the essence of inhumanity. *(George Bernard Shaw, playwright)***

**In brief, put yourself in the shoes of the people who have made the error. If it were you, what would make you want to do better in the future? That’s the key to the situation. If you approach mistakes in this manner, if you don’t let indignation and anger dictate what to do, you’ll have a much better chance of making some real progress. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Dolly: “Is it a sin to sing Christmas Carols before Thanksgiving?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**Which sloth came first, the deadly sin or that South American tree beast? The animal was name after the sin. It sleeps 18 hours a day. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 169)***

**Merle in a phone conversation says: “Reverend Meeks? This is Merle Sisson and we were just discussing the seven deadly sins, and we were wondering exactly how slothful you’d have to be before it killed you?" Merle then says to the other man: “He said we should sleep on it and he’ll call us back later.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

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**According to an English clergyman there are seven social sins. They are . . .**

**1. Politics without principles.**

**2. Wealth without work.**

**3. Pleasure without conscience.**

**4. Knowledge without character.**

**5. Business without morality.**

**6. Science without humanity.**

**7. Worship without sacrifice. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**So long as we are full of self we are shocked at the faults of others. Let us think often of our own sin, and we shall be lenient to the sins of others. *(Francois Fenelon)***

**A sin used to be called a sin; now it’s called a complex. *(Eva Bartok, Weltbild, Munich) Quote translation***

**Listen to some of these amazing prayers. In this first one, George Washington confesses one of his “heinous” sins. (The network passed this juicy tidbit by! They could have taken this and really run with it in their mini-series!): “O most Glorious God, in Jesus Christ my merciful and loving father, I acknowledge and confess my guilt, in the weak and imperfect performance of the duties of this day. I have called on thee for pardon and forgiveness of sins, but so coldly and carelessly, that my prayers are become my sin and stand in need of pardon . . .” His sin was what he perceived to be a lack of fervency in his own prayers. *(Dr. D. James Kennedy, in Let Us Remember)***

**There is no sin except stupidity. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**St. Peter says to the man just entering heaven: “No, no, that’s not a sin, either. My goodness, you must have worried yourself to death.” *(The Saturday Evening Post cartoon)***

**Billy asks: “Two wrongs don’t make a right. Well, how many wrongs DO make a right?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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