

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SIN AND EVIL

Request: I have you say that Jesus died for sin and not for evil. Would you do a study that shows the difference between sin and evil?

The bible makes a difference between sin and evil. Let me start with a simple definition of sin and evil.

Sin (hamartia) is man's failure to measure up to God's standard of righteousness as outlined in the Bible (1 John 3:4-7; Rom.3:23).

Evil (kakos) is man's embracing of cosmos diabolicus thinking that results in depravity of character as outlined in the Bible (1 John 3:8-12).

**This study will do a comparative study of sin and evil by the following five key words:
Satan, Salvation, Sources, Solutions, and Second Coming.**

1. Sin and evil were already present in the world before mankind because of SATAN (1 John 3:8-12; Isa.14: 12-15).

"He 'has been sinning from the beginning' (here), i.e., from the time he first rebelled against God, before the fall of Adam and Eve (John 8:44). He is the instigator of human sin, and those who continue to sin belong to him (4:3) and has 'the whole world' of unbelievers under his control (5:19). But he cannot lay hold of the believer to harm him (5:18). On the contrary, the Christian will overcome him (2:13-14; 4:4), and Christ will destroy his work." (NIV, 1 John 3:8)

Sin is described as "everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins." (1 John 3:4-5)

Sin associated with evil is described as "he who does what is sinful is of the Devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." (1 John 3:8)

Evil is described as "do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous." (1 John 3:12; Gen.4: 1-12) (Note Gen 4:7; Heb.11: 4)

"The Hebrew word for 'crouching' is the same as an ancient Babylonian word referring to an evil demon crouching at the door of a building to threaten the people inside. Sin may thus be pictured here as just such a demon waiting to pounce on Cain- it desires to have him." (NIV, Gen.4: 7) crouch or lies (rabats / kal ptc) (2 Cor.11: 1-4, 13-15; 2 Thess.3: 2-3)

2. Sin and evil are effected differently by the gospel of grace SALVATION (Col.2: 13-15).

The gospel delivers the unbeliever from the domain of the rulership of Satan (1 John 5:19; Col.1: 13; Acts 26:18; John 3:19-21) – "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify that what it does is evil." (John 7:7)

The gospel pardons the unbeliever from the judicial penalty of Adam original sin (AOS) (Rom.5: 12-21; Eph.1: 7; Titus 2:11-14) – "But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one." (2 Thess.3:3)

3. Sin and evil operate from difference SOURCES within believer.

The source of personal sin in the believer is his old sin-nature (OSN) (Gal.5: 16-17).

“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by **evil**, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to **sin; and sin**, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” (James 1:13-15)

The source of evil in the believer is his heart. “There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil.” (Prov.12: 20) David adultery with Bathsheba is an example of this principle (2 Sam.11: 15 / Uriah / 12:1-10) read.

“For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean.” (Mark 21-23)

4. Sin and evil have different SOLUTIONS for the believer.

Walking by the indwelling Holy Spirit is the solution to OSN and personal sin (Eph.5: 18; Gal.5: 16; 1 Cor.6: 19-20) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Living by the word of God is the solution to cosmos diabolicus evil influence over the Christian way of life (CWL) “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” (Heb.5: 14; Rom.16: 19) (Acts 8:20-23; 2 Cor.10: 4-5; Matt.16: 21-23; Luke 22:31-33; Eph.5: 15-17)

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:21) “Avoid every kind of evil.” (1 Thess.5:22)

5. Sin and evil will be dealt with differently at the SECOND COMING of Jesus Christ (Gal.1: 4; Rev.12: 9; Matt.25: 41; Rom.16: 20).

“So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.” (Heb.9:28)

“He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousands years were ended. After that he must be set free for a short time.” (Rev.20:3)