

New City Catechism: Question 16

Question: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.

I John 3:4

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- I. What Scripture passages are best suited to helping us grapple with the depth of our sinfulness?
- II. The answer to Q16 ties sin to the “disintegration of all creation.” When that language is applied to OUR sinfulness, what changes about the way we view sin? In what ways have you seen this disintegration occur?
- III. If the effects of sin are as terrifying as described, why do we have such a difficult time resisting sinful behavior?
- IV. In Proverbs 7 there is a description of a young man being seduced and not knowing it will lead to his death, which is always sin’s conclusion. What warning signs do you see in that chapter that could have helped the young man avoid sin and death?

