

## Sin All Around Us

Sometimes I ask myself, “Why does God allow sin in the world? Wouldn’t it be a better world if we didn’t have people that commit the horrendous acts we see in the news? Why is there sin all around us?” When we ask these questions, we assume that we are sinless or at least “better” than others. While we know that we aren’t perfect, we consider ourselves above those we accuse of as evil. We may even think of ourselves as self-righteous and even avoid being near those we consider to be beneath us. We are acting as judge and jury, a role reserved for God Himself.

If we realize that we are sinners, we may be tempted to think, “At least I’m not as bad as those guys!” When we compare our sin with others, we miss the point. We all are in need of the Savior. Because of our relationship with God, we know how God wants us to live our lives. His guidance and our relationship with God allow us to be on the path that leads to eternal life. Accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior is absolutely necessary. Then we can ask for and receive forgiveness when we continue to mess up. We receive God’s Grace. *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by Grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5)*



So, why does God allow sin to be so prevalent? God’s ultimate goal is for everyone to be saved. Jesus paid for all the evil in this world – not just ours. The Bible reminds us: *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9)*. Our sins are just as deserving of God’s wrath. Thankfully, we have the example of Jesus Christ to follow, and His forgiveness allows us to continue the quest to spend eternity with Him.

Be encouraging to others around you. Be the catalyst for others to seek a relationship with the Lord so that they may seek the path to salvation. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will open their hearts and minds to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. You may be the person that opens the door for someone.

The evil in this world is distressing, but we must leave the weeding to God. God’s desire to see all people saved leads Him to leave the “weeds among the wheat.” I am thankful that He offers salvation to those who believe in Him as Lord and Savior. My goal is to be on the path to an eternal home and to help others seek that path. We are all a work in progress.

**Question:** Are there people you can encourage to seek a relationship with Jesus Christ around you?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. We are all sinners in need of your Grace. We pray that we can help others to seek a path to salvation, as well as continue to amend our own lives. Amen.