## **MY SIN: A CASE FOR GRACE**

## Know Yourself and Know your Enemy—They Are The Same

Our Enemies: The World, the Flesh and the devil

The Bible teaches that all have sinned, which means I am a sinner by nature.

I have the disposition of sin in me since my birth, and it is my natural DNA.

Because of this, I know there is no goodness or righteousness in me.

I am a slave to sin, and I cannot do anything about it.

I cannot fix or redeem myself, and I am spiritually helpless and hopeless.

My sin is not something I do; it is something I am.

My nature is to want to be my own God.

My sin is rooted in pride and an insidious preoccupation with myself.

My sin nature is independent from God and is in outright rebellion against Him.

The result of my sin is death and hostility to a loving God who offers me life.

I am capable of committing the most awful sins, crimes and atrocities.

My sinful heart and mind does not submit to God, nor can it.

In my sin, no matter what I do, I cannot please a holy God.

Not having the Spirit of Christ in me, I am controlled by, and kept in bondage by, the devil and his demons, to do his will.

The devil tempts me to carry out the evil intents of my heart, and then accuses and shames me when I do it.

I ruthlessly defend my selfish, control oriented territory.

I am in a spiritual darkness, and my best efforts will not get me out.

I am in spiritual darkness often thinking that I am in the light.

Left to myself, because of sin, I am set to self-destruct.

I know what is right, but I cannot do it, and usually don't want to.

I know what is wrong, but I cannot keep from doing it because I have no power over it.

Even when I do right, my sinful heart often does it with wrong motives. I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips.

My sin causes me to be afraid and to hide, and in my fear, to shirk my responsibility, and blame others for my wrong doing—even God.

My sin waits for me to entrap me.

Sin is tempting, attractive, harmful, seductive and enticing.

My sin rarely destroys me in a moment, but its accumulative effect of consistent practice brings me down.

My sin basks in denial and flees from the reality of truth.

My sin grows in the darkness like fungus and mold.

My sin hurts me and causes me to hurt others, and sometimes I care.

My sin cringes and recoils when I am rebuked, even if it is justified.

My sin smiles when my opponents suffer.

My sin schemes, connives and cunningly plans to cause damage and harm.

My sin separates me from God and others, because I'm all about me.

My sin breaks hearts, betrays, steals, lusts, covets, murders and lies.

My sin deceives, cons, masks, cheats, manipulates and despises others.

My sin loves things and uses people.

My sin weakens me, makes me dysfunctional, and bankrupts my character.

My sin is ruthless with others and soft on myself.

My sin demands that you are tolerant of me, while I am intolerant of you.

My sin makes up its own rules and imposes them on you.

My sin judges you, comes to conclusions about you, and convicts you, even if it doesn't have all the facts.

My sin slanders you, gossips about you, is jealous of you and seeks to undermine and discredit you, and revels in the effort and result.

My sin excludes, stonewalls, emotionally blackmails and consistently manipulates you, and recruits others to do the same.

My sin fudges on the truth, messes with the numbers, claims what it does not deserve, exaggerates, and lies—because its all about me.

My sin seeks sensual pleasures and finds secret ways to be gratified.

My sin is materialistic, chauvinistic, racist, egotistical, vengeful, angry, resentful, bitter and savage.

My sin is deceitful, giving me a false sense of security.

My sin is insidious, causing me to think that I am safe when I am in grave danger.

My sin is deceptive, making me think I can get away with it without penalty.

My sin makes me vulnerable to temptation, which comes from the devil, who can tempt me, but who cannot make me sin. I sin by my own choice.

My sin makes me feel guilty and ashamed.

My sin makes me ineffective, impotent, feeble, frail, fragile, and it makes me feel pitiful and have contempt for others, and even for myself.

My sin causes me to hide and wear a mask, and that robs me of my dignity, self worth and value.

My sin blinds my eyes so that I cannot see, know or do the truth.

My sin rationalizes my crimes, justifies my actions, and minimizes my guilt.

My sin hardens my heart, is unloving, unforgiving, boastful, proud, arrogant, rude, rash, abusive, disobedient, ungrateful, unholy, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, treacherous, mean, violent, conceited, not teachable and unavailable for anything but self-gratification.

My sin can focus on even a Christian brother or sister's sin against me, to the point that I now see them as a sinner rather than a saint, and I give myself permission to reject them.

My sin can lead to every kind of sexual immorality and perversion, coming from the deception and darkness of a lustful heart that says, "I love me; I want you."

I can declare in my lustful self-deception, that it is good and permissible for me to damage and abuse others, while it is an abomination before a holy God.

My foolish sin is quick to claim my own rights, and any demon will make sure that I get them.

My sin causes me to expect much from others but little from myself.

My sin has me make vows and promises that I cannot and will not keep, because it doesn't serve my selfish purposes. It's all about me.

My sin loves impurity and indecency; it worships idols, practices witchcraft, and sets itself up against every law, command and standard of a holy God.

My sin spreads discord, hate, envy, division, dissension, factions and jealousy that destroys relationships and families.

My sin is marked by selfish ambition and the desire to profit at the expense of others, and use them to get ahead.

My sinful pride will not allow me to make peace by humbling myself, asking forgiveness or making restitution.

My sin defends itself against all righteous, others-centered intents and efforts.

My sin loves to lord it over others and to exercise prideful authority over them.

My sin hates authority in every form and rebels against it to my peril.

My sin has devastating effects on me that make me try to lose my conscience, guilt and shame in things which offer me temporary relief, but long-term bondage and misery, such as drunkenness, orgies, addictions to alcohol, drugs, power, wealth, comfort food, and fame.

My sin seeks revenge on those who have hurt me, and makes me feel right and good about the suffering I put them through.

My sin is critical of others and loves to put them down, which makes me feel better about myself and superior.

My sin costs more than I ever wanted to pay and stays longer than I ever knew it would stay.

My sin makes me miserable, because it deceives me and enslaves me to destructive things, people and philosophies.

My sin can rob me of all things precious to me: My self-esteem, dignity, reputation, job, material wealth, physical and mental health, and even my family.

My sin, un-repented of, will keep me from inheriting the Kingdom of God and all of the blessings He has for me in Christ.

My sin caused God to send His Son to die for me on the Cross, and most times I take that amazing act of unconditional love for granted.

And the worst part of my sin is that in its pride and self-deception, it can cause me to march right into hell, proclaiming my innocence.

My sin causes me to reject God's only plan for my rescue and redemption for my sin, the sacrificial death, burial and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

"Wretched man that I am, who will rescue me from the body of this death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord. There is now, therefore, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

**grace** (*n*.) Unmerited favor, mercy, pardon, approval and acceptance of an amazingly gracious God; the overflowing, immeasurable enjoyment of His favor; free sovereign favor to the undeserving.

Thank God for the amazing grace He has given us in the sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son.