

SIN

What is, what isn't. How can we be blameless?

Finding the Ancient Path

Why study sin?

The Teaching is designed as an educational study rather than a condemnation-focused message.

Its questions: What is sin? What is not sin? How does temptation work? Can believers be blameless?

The Garden pattern

Genesis 2–3: Yahovah prohibited eating from the tree.

The Teaching focuses on the added statement about 'touching' and uses it to warn against putting words in Yahovah's mouth.

Its larger theme: human self-rule begins when divine instruction is reshaped around human preference.

Sin lies at the door

Genesis 4:7 — sin lies at the door; its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.

The Teaching uses the first explicit biblical occurrence of 'sin' to ask what mark is being missed.

Offense, guilt, and missing the mark require a standard.

Sin is lawlessness

1 John 3:4 — sin is lawlessness.

Romans 7:7 — Paul says he would not have known sin except through the law.

The Teaching therefore defines sin by Yahovah's instruction rather than by denominational opinion.

Yahovah's ways before Sinai

Abel knew sacrifice; Noah knew clean and unclean; Abraham obeyed commandments.

Psalm 103:7 says Yahovah made His ways known to Moses.

Genesis 18:19 speaks of Abraham keeping 'the way of Yahovah.'

When sin is not sin

The Teaching warns that man-made religious rules can acquire the weight of divine commands.

It discusses disputed practices that it says Torah does not directly define as sin.

Its caution: this is not blanket approval—lawful does not automatically mean helpful or wise.

Disciplined liberty

1 Corinthians 6:12 — all things may be lawful, but not all are helpful; do not be mastered by anything.

Lawful ≠ beneficial.

Permitted ≠ profitable. Freedom does not mean freedom from consequences or mastery.

Torah in everyday life

Promptly pay wages and honor the elderly — Leviticus 19.

Respect boundaries and return lost property — Deuteronomy 19 and 22.

Practice impartial justice and guard against gossip, rumor, defamation, and shame.

Sin seeks control

Genesis 4 says sin's desire is for Cain.

The Teaching compares Genesis 4:7 with Genesis 3:16 and reads 'desire' as a drive to influence or control.

The command remains: rule over it.

Desire, temptation, and lawlessness

Galatians 5: flesh and Spirit oppose one another.

James 1: desire entices; conceived desire gives birth to sin; full-grown sin brings death.

The Teaching substitutes 'lawlessness' for 'sin' to emphasize its definition.

How the Teaching reads Romans 7

It rejects the idea that Romans 7 teaches permanent helplessness against sin.

It interprets Paul as showing the futility of obedience attempted through flesh without the Spirit.

The passage points forward to the freedom and power described in Romans 8.

Corruption vs. original sin

The Teaching explicitly rejects inherited guilt from Adam.

Ezekiel 18 is used to argue that each person bears guilt for his or her own transgression.

It nevertheless teaches that humanity inherits mortality and a corrupted disposition toward rebellion.

Walk in the Spirit

Romans 8: set the mind on the things of the Spirit.

Jeremiah 31: Yahovah writes His Torah on the heart.

Ezekiel 36: Yahovah puts His Spirit within His people and causes them to walk in His statutes.

What is blamelessness?

The Teaching says blamelessness is not sinlessness or moral perfection.

It is wholehearted devotion, obedience, repentance, moral wholeness, and freedom from legitimate accusation.

Yeshua alone is presented as sinless.

Biblical examples of blamelessness

Abraham is commanded to walk before Yahovah and be blameless.

Job is described as blameless and upright.

Zacharias and Elizabeth are described as walking blamelessly in Yahovah's commandments.

Process and condition

Walking in the Spirit is the process: learning, practicing, repenting, trusting, and maturing.

Being blameless is the condition the Teaching says this Spirit-led walk increasingly produces.

The goal is not self-generated perfection but faithful, wholehearted obedience.

Teaching conclusion

Let Scripture define sin.

Do not replace Yahovah's instruction with tradition or self-rule.

Through the Spirit, pursue obedience, repentance, maturity, and a blameless walk.