

A Systematic Theology of Sin

January 11, 2026

Text: Gen 39:1-23

Dr. Stephen Burrell

- Sin is relational.
- Sin is not ultimately about breaking human rules, gaining or losing reputation, or even harming others (though these are real consequences).
- It is about breaking covenantal trust with God, the One who made all life and moral order.
- Even when sin affects people, God is the primary offended party.
- Sin is moral rebellion.
- Definition: Sin is an active rebellion against God's character, not just an error in judgment or a violation of law.
- Offending God is more serious than offending humans because God defines justice, goodness, and righteousness.
- Sin is conscious and intentional.
- Definition: Sin is not accidental or merely habitual; it is often a willful, conscious choice against God.
- Sin (hamartia, "to miss the mark") is any action, thought, or desire contrary to God's law and character.
- Personal: Choices reflect individual rebellion (Genesis 3).
- Social: Sin affects others, as seen in the consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12).
- Cosmic: Sin distorts creation, bringing disorder (Romans 8:20-22).
- Sins of Commission: Active transgression (e.g., Joseph resisting adultery).
- Sins of Omission: Failure to do good (James 4:17).
- Sin creates a barrier between humanity and God, disrupting the intimate relationship intended at creation.
- Sin carries the penalty of both spiritual and physical death, resulting in eternal separation from God unless reconciled through Christ.

SCAN FOR
ESPAÑOL

