

Sermon Series: Book of Romans
Sermon title: "*Under Sin*"
Scripture Reading: Romans 3:9-20
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
October 30, 2022
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Opening illustration:

The weather is finally getting cooler. Isn't that great?

Well, where I come from it's the time of the year when men start to grow their beards out. The weather is cooler, time for flannel shirts and jeans and jackets and the beards start growing.
I'll probably do the same.

Martin Luther, the famous Reformer had something interesting to say about beards and original sin.

He said,
"Original sin is in us like a beard. We are shaved today and look clean; tomorrow our beard has brown again, nor does it cease growing while we remain on earth. In like manner original sin cannot be extirpated [taken out] from us; it springs up in us as long as we live."

Well, what is sin?

Is there any way to rid ourselves of sin?

Let's pray.

The main point for today's message is this:

All human beings are under the power of sin but the power of God to deliver is available through Christ – to all who believe.

There are 3 questions that we need to address.

I. What does it mean to be under sin?

II. Who is under sin?

III. Who can deliver us from sin?

So, let's dive into the text.

Romans 3:9-20

9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all.

For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

10 as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

I. What does it mean to be under sin?

9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin.

Under sin!

Paul does not say here that, 'all, both Jews and Greeks, commit sin' or 'all, both Jews and Greeks, struggle with sin'....though both are true.

All are UNDER SIN.

What does this mean?

Psalms 51:5 says, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

This doesn't mean that David's mom committed adultery or something but it means that from his very birth, he is a sinner.

Romans 5 tells us that we got our sin nature from Adam the first human and our representative of the human race. He sinned and passed his sin nature to all.

Jesus and Paul describe sin in terms of slavery.

John 8:34 says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."

Romans 6:12- Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body.

So, sin reigns over us.

Romans 6:14- Sin will have no dominion over you. So sin rules and reigns over us as a slave master.

Romans 6:16- Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which

leads to death or obedience, which leads to righteousness.

Ephesians 2:1-3 says, "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

We are not sinners because we sin.
We sin because we are sinners.

Sin is not just what we do but who we are. It is in us.
We are spiritually dead and that's why we sin.

Joel Beeke said, "We have a bad record and we have bad hearts."

Lastly, sin leads to death. **Romans 6:23**

What does it mean to be UNDER SIN?

It means that sin is in us at our core from birth and we are under its power. And we are unable to overthrow it or to get out from under it.

II. Who is under sin?

Romans 3:10-19 makes it clear.

"None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips."

14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

This the main point that Paul is trying to make....who is under sin? EVERYONE

He uses 8 Old Testament passages to show this.

- None is righteous
- No, not one
- No one understands
- No one seeks God
- All have turned aside
- No one does good.
- Not even one.

Over in **verses 19-20** he uses these phrases.....

- every mouth
- Whole world
- No human being

In verses 13-18 Paul show us some areas that sin manifests itself in us.

Words/ mouth

Actions/ feet

Heart/ eyes

That's very clear and Paul wants it to be clear.

All human beings are under the power of sin.

Everyone that has ever lived. Except one person.

III. Who can deliver us from sin?

How about ourselves? Nah. We are under sin, so can't do that.

Verse 20 says, "For by works of the law NO HUMAN BEING will be justified in his sight.

So, no way. We can't make ourselves right with God on our own cause we are UNDER sin.

And we need deliverance for sure.

Verse 19 says that '**the whole world [may be] held accountable to God**'.

Verse 20 says that there is a need to be justified 'in his sight'. This is an illusion to standing before God in judgment.

So, how can we be justified?

How can we get out from under the power of sin?

All human beings are under the power of sin but the power of God to deliver is available through Christ – to all who believe.

Back to **Romans 1:16-17**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the

righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

We are under sin's power. All of us.

But there is a greater power. The power of God.

As John Piper said one time, *"The wisdom of God decreed a way for the love of God to deliver sinners from the wrath of God, all the while upholding the righteousness of God."*

We will be there next week but we have close by seeing the glorious gospel in answer to our question:

Who can deliver us from under the power of sin?

Romans 3:21-25 (next week)

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **22** the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.