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What is the mark that we
have missed?

The mark we've missed is the abandonment of our calling as God's image bearers to live in loving fellowship with him and with one another, ruling with him over his creation.



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Once we possess the concept of shalom, we are in position to enlarge and specify this understanding of sin. God is, after all, not arbitrarily offended. God hates sin not just because it violates his law but, more substantively, because it violates shalom, because it breaks the peace, because it interferes with the way things are supposed to be.

... In the Bible, shalom means *universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight* – a rich



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state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights.

... It would include, for instance, strong marriages and secure children. Nations and races in this brave new world would treasure differences in other nations and races as attractive, important, complementary. In the process of making decisions, men would



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defer to women and women to men until a crisis arose. Then, with good humor all around, the person more naturally competent in the area of the crisis would resolve it to the satisfaction and pleasure of both.

... Business associates would rejoice in one another's promotions. Middling Harvard students would respect the Phi Beta Kappas from the University of Southern North Dakota at Hoople and would seek to learn from them. ... All around the world, people would stimulate and encourage one another's



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virtues. Newspapers would be filled with well-written accounts of acts of great moral beauty, and, at the end of the day, people on their porches would read these and savor them and call to each other about them.

... In sum, shalom is God's design for creation and redemption; sin is blamable human vandalism of these great realities and therefore an affront to their architect and builder.

Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way



iniquity (*avon*)



Isaiah
59:2-4

But your iniquities (*avon*) have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things. No one calls for justice; no one pleads a case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

Ezekiel
16:49

Now this was the sin (*avon*)
of your sister Sodom: She
and her daughters were
arrogant, overfed and
unconcerned; they did not
help the poor and needy.

Isaiah
64:6-7

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins (*avon*) sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins (*avon*).



transgression (*peshā*)



Genesis
31:36

Jacob was angry and took Laban to task. "What is my crime (*peshah*)?" he asked Laban. "How have I wronged you that you hunt me down?"

Ezekiel
18:31

Rid yourselves of all the offenses (*peshah*) you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel?

Amos
5:12

For I know how many are your offenses (*peshah*) and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

Romans
13:8

Let no debt remain
outstanding, except the
continuing debt to love one
another, for whoever loves
others has fulfilled the law.

Matthew
22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

1 John
4:19-21

We love because he first loved us.
Whoever claims to love God yet hates
a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever
does not love their brother and sister,
whom they have seen, cannot love
God, whom they have not seen. And
he has given us this command:
Anyone who loves God must also love
their brother and sister.

Ezekiel
21:24

Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Because you people have brought to mind your guilt by your **open rebellion** (*pasha*), revealing your sins in all that you do—because you have done this, you will be taken captive.

Lev
4:27-28

If any member of the community sins unintentionally and does what is forbidden in any of the LORD'S commands, when they realize their guilt and the sin they have committed becomes known, they must bring as their offering for the sin they committed a female goat without defect.

Numbers
15:30-31

But anyone who sins defiantly,
whether native-born or foreigner,
blasphemes the LORD and must
be cut off from the people of Israel.
Because they have despised the
LORD'S word and broken his
commands, they must surely be cut
off; their guilt remains on them.

Romans
7:18-19

For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Psalm
51:1-3

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions (*peshah*).
Wash away all my iniquity (*avon*) and
cleanse me from my sin (*khata*). For I
know my transgressions (*peshah*), and
my sin (*khata*) is always before me.

Exodus 43:6-7

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness (*avon*), rebellion (*pesha*) and sin (*chatah*). Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."



Leviticus 16:21

He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion (*pasha*) of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task.

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions (*pasha*), he was crushed for our iniquities (*avon*); the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.



Romans 12:14-21

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with

Romans 12:14-21

everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



SUMMARY:

Sin is a disruption of *shalom*, but as God's image bearers we are called to represent his vision of *shalom* for his creation.