



Article 4 Church of God Declaration

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That all have sinned and come short of the
glory of God and that repentance is
commanded of God for all and necessary for
forgiveness of sins.

2

THE COMMON MISCONCEPTION

- Many Christians believe that "all sin is the same to God."
- While it is true that all sin separates us from God and deserves death, it is equally true that Scripture distinguishes between different types of sin based on their effects, consequences, and degrees of punishment.

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THREE PERSPECTIVES ON SIN

- **PERSPECTIVE 1: Before God (Eternal Dimension)**
- **PERSPECTIVE 2: In Effects (Practical Dimension)**
- **PERSPECTIVE 3: In Judgment (Eternal Dimension)**

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PERSPECTIVE 1: Before God (Eternal Dimension)

- Before the holy God, all sin is equally serious and equally deserving of eternal punishment.
- The penalty for all sin is death (Romans 6:23). In this sense, no sin is "small" or "insignificant" in God's eyes.
- When we sin against God, we sin against infinite holiness.

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Perspective 2: In Effects (Practical Dimension)

- While all sin is serious before God, not all sin is equal in its earthly effects and consequences.
- Sexual sin, for example, is specifically called out in 1 Corinthians 6:18.
- All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body."

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Perspective 3: In Judgment (Eternal Dimension)

- From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; ..." (Luke 12:48).
- James 3:1 "Not many of you should become teachers ..."
- Matthew 12:31-32 "...Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy..."

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THE DECLARATION OF FAITH AND SIN MEASUREMENTS

- 1 Samuel 15:23 - Rebellion And Disobedience
- King Saul had been commanded by God through the prophet Samuel to completely destroy the Amalekites and all their possessions.
- By equating Saul's rebellion with divination, God was saying: "Your refusal to obey My command is as serious as attempting to consult demons or access forbidden spiritual power."

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THE DECLARATION OF FAITH AND SIN MEASUREMENTS

- This equation reveals something profound about God's perspective on sin.
- Rebellion is not primarily about the external act, it is about the internal attitude of the heart.

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THE DECLARATION OF FAITH AND SIN MEASUREMENTS

- Examples - Knowing that Scripture condemns sexual immorality but affirming it anyway
- Knowing that Scripture calls for church discipline but refusing to exercise it
- Knowing that Scripture warns against false teachers, but giving them a platform

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PROVERBS 6:16-19 - THE SEVEN ABOMINATIONS

- The Hebrew word translated "abomination" (toebah) refers to something that is deeply detestable, repugnant, and utterly opposed to God's nature.
- Notably, these seven abominations are not primarily about external actions but about heart attitudes and the damage they cause to relationships and community.

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A PROUD LOOK (HAUGHTY EYES)

- Pride is the attitude of looking down on others, thinking oneself superior, and believing that one's own judgment and worth are greater than they actually are.
- haughty look" means an attitude of pride that shows itself in how a person looks at and treats others.
- A haughty look reflects a heart that has pushed God out of the center and placed self there instead.

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HOW PRIDE DESTROYS THE CHURCH

- Creates hierarchies and divisions based on perceived superiority.
- Prevents leaders from accepting correction or accountability.
- Blocks the Holy Spirit's work of humility and transformation in believers.

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HOW IT DESTROYS THE CHURCH

- Leads to spiritual abuse when proud leaders lord their authority over vulnerable members
- Divides the church into "superior" and "inferior" believers based on education, spiritual gifts, or social status

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A church led by proud leaders cannot shepherd effectively. A congregation filled with pride cannot receive correction, grow spiritually, or function as a unified body. Pride is the root of many other sins in the church.

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A LYING TONGUE

- A lying tongue speaks falsehood knowingly and willingly, with the intention to deceive others.
- This can be used to question the character of others, to flatter friends, or to manipulate situations for personal gain.

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HOW LYING TONGUE DESTROYS THE CHURCH

- Undermines the foundation of the Christian community, which is built on truth
- Allows false doctrine to spread unchecked through the congregation
- Creates suspicion and division among members who no longer know whom to trust

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HOW LYING TONGUE DESTROYS THE CHURCH

- Enables manipulation and control of vulnerable members.
- Violates the nature of God and misrepresents His character to the world.

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FEET THAT ARE QUICK TO RUSH INTO EVIL

- Those whose feet are quick to rush into evil display no resistance whatsoever to sin.
- They have no spiritual discipline or self-control. They immediately yield to temptation without hesitation.

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HOW IT DESTROYS THE CHURCH

- Sets a pattern of compromise that spreads to others
- Creates an environment where sin is normalized and accepted
- Demonstrates lack of faith in God's strength and protection

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HOW IT DESTROYS THE CHURCH

- Leads to "little leaven leavens the whole lump" (1 Corinthians 5:6)
- Shows that the person has not truly repented or been transformed

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When the church fails to resist evil, it becomes complicit in sin. The line between the church and the world becomes blurred. The church loses its prophetic voice and moral authority.

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ONE WHO SOWS DISCORDS AMONG BROTHERS

- This is the sin of deliberately causing division and conflict among believers.
- It is the sin of being a troublemaker, a gossip, or a person who takes sides and creates factions.

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HOW DISCORD DESTROYS THE CHURCH

- Directly wounds the body of Christ (the church)
- Creates factions and competing loyalties
- Prevents the church from functioning as one unified body

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HOW DISCORD DESTROYS THE CHURCH

- Contradicts Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17:20-23
- Grieves the Holy Spirit
- Violates the principle that "there should be no division in the body" (1 Corinthians 12:25)

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A divided church cannot fulfill its mission. It becomes a house divided against itself, which cannot stand (Matthew 12:25). The church's witness to the world is damaged when it is known for internal conflict and division.

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