



UNDER COVER

COURSE GUIDE



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LESSON 2

WHAT IS SIN?

LESSON SUMMARY

The Bible says, “Sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4). Now, that doesn’t read lawlessness is sin, but, rather, sin is lawlessness. In other words, lawlessness defines the very essence and nature of what constitutes sin.

Jesus drove this point home in a parable in which many were invited to a great feast. One after the other, these invitees made excuses for why they couldn’t come. Here’s the thing—none of their excuses seem sinful. One man bought some property. Another purchased some business equipment. Another got married. There’s nothing wrong with any of those things, yet Jesus clearly showed that they all sinned because they put their will above the will of their master.

Jesus also declared that one day a secret power of lawlessness would be at work, making the love of many grow cold. This is not a statement about society at large; it’s a statement about the church. Our love may burn hot in the beginning, but if we harden our hearts to the leading of God’s Spirit, a veil goes over our heart and we distance ourselves from the truth. Before long, we become spiritually numb.

This is the devil’s grand scheme, to make you believe something is good for you that is actually bad for you in the long run. He wants to trick you into doing your own will instead of God’s will.

Don’t be caught in the devil’s lies. Submit to God, obey Him completely, and you will walk in His protection, provision, and peace.

REFLECT

- Describe in your own words what it means that sin is lawlessness.
- How would you know if lawlessness was at work in your life? How would you be able to recognize it?
- Did the video about the marathon runner change the way you think about obeying God? If so, how?
- How does God's correction and punishment show His mercy?
- Where in society do you see the core teaching of witchcraft—do as you will—at work? Where do you see it at work in your own life?
- God cares deeply about our obedience and promises protection, provision, and peace to those who obey. Why do you think our obedience is so important to God?

SCRIPTURES & PRAYER

- Sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)
- “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13)
- “Whoever commits and practices sin is the slave of sin.” (John 8:34 AMPC)

ADDITIONAL READING:

- Luke 14:15-24
- 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 10
- 1 Corinthians 11:31-32
- Psalm 119:67
- 1 Samuel 15:23

- John 5:30
- Psalm 40:8
- 2 Peter 2:19
- Romans 6:16
- John 8:34
- 1 Corinthians 7:19

PRAYER: *Father God, I want to walk in complete obedience to You. Please show me any area of my life where I am not doing that. Let Your Word be clear in my mind and heart, growing more so every day. I want to follow You all of my life. Please give me Your grace to obey You with a passionate heart.*

DECLARATIONS

- I denounce all forms of lawlessness and invite the Holy Spirit to lead me in the law of Christ. The Holy Spirit helps me, and Jesus intercedes for me as I follow Him every day.
- I submit my will wholly to the will of my Father in heaven. I follow Him in obedience all the way to completion, not stopping short before my obedience is complete.
- I respond immediately when God convicts me of disobedience or rebellion. I do not harden my heart but instead cultivate my relationship with God every day to keep my heart tender.

TAKE ACTION

The process of numbing ourselves to God's commands begins by hardening our hearts when God corrects us. Ask God to show you any area of your life where you have hardened your heart to His correction. As He speaks to you, repent for hardening your heart and, if it's not already clear, ask Him what action you need to take in obedience to what He's saying to you.

LIVING UNDER COVER

- Sin is lawlessness. Jesus made this clear by teaching that anyone who raises their will above His is in sin, not just those who do the things we commonly think of as sinful.
- Lawlessness expresses itself in disobedience. Partial obedience is disobedience.
- The devil's cornerstone teaching is, "Do what you want." This spirit is rampant in our society, but as Christians, we are not of that spirit. The Spirit we have from God lives to do the will of our Father, just as Jesus did.