

# He made a Way.

Our culture and Sin



Matthew 1:21

This conviction of sin is **the special work of the Holy Spirit**, even as Jesus said in John 16:8: “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin.” The conviction of sin never feels good, but it leads to something good: forgiveness of sin and getting the life right with Jesus Christ.

# What is Sin?

Our society and culture moves more and more away from a biblical standard of right and wrong.

# Consequences of Sin

Society and culture moves away from consequences for any actions.

Genesis 3:4

Romans 6:23

Rev. 20:11-15

Forgiveness of Sin.....Confession of Sin

Society preferring  
Cancel Culture

1 John 1:8-10

Ephesians 1:7-10

Matthew 3:6

# Simon Peter - Luke 5:8-11 and Luke 22:31-34

“The closer you get to Christ, the more sinful you will feel. When you see the true reflection of God, you will be deeply convicted of your sins.”

“If you are aware of your sin and feel guilty about it, it is a sign of spiritual life.”

C.S. Lewis—“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

It suddenly occurred to me that when Jesus heard that declaration, it might have been like a kid telling his mother *“I will finish the whole pizza by myself!”*, and the mother telling him *“I don’t think you can even finish two thirds, my dear!”*.

When Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me”, I believe it was not out of spite or disbelief, but helping Peter manage his expectations of himself. In some way, it would have helped manage Peter’s future disappointment and heartbreak over his betrayal of Jesus in the courtyard.





And I believe that when Peter failed to deliver on his promise, God was, firstly, not surprised and secondly, not angry. God *knows us*, He knows our desire to please Him and serve Him – but He also knows our limitations, fears and unfaithfulness – and He accepts both sides.

He does not discard or dismiss us because we are lacking. But as a Father, He responsibly brings our flaws to our own attention *so that we can change*.

And so, I believe that sometimes God brings us through full dress rehearsals before the real deal.

I am filled with thankfulness that God did not disqualify me for my first-time failure. I'm sure Peter had that same relief and gratitude – his first denial did not deny him from inheriting the ministry. God allows us to grow from our mistakes, and start again and again and again.

Jesus knows us. He knows our imperfections; He knows where we will slip up even if we stubbornly insist we will never do so. But take heart, God is more committed to your success than you are. Don't let your mistakes deny you of the chance that God wants to give you to try again and fulfil whatever promises we've made to him, just as He did for Peter, and just as He did for me.

# Thanks!

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