

# Whiter than Snow

August 12, 2012  
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Psalms 51:4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,

## Introduction

Two stories of sin and forgiveness

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Sin - Iniquity - Transgression:

\_\_\_\_\_ us from God

\_\_\_\_\_ our relationship

causes \_\_\_\_\_

causes broken \_\_\_\_\_ with God and his blessing

keeps us from \_\_\_\_\_ heaven when we die

Isaiah 59:1-3

And there is NOTHING we can do to change this now.

Isaiah 6:1-3

Ephesians 2:4-10

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us...

Ephesians 1:7-8

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,<sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us,

Colossians 2:13-15

God made (us) alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,<sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Luke 15:17-24

<sup>17</sup>when he came to himself, he said...<sup>18</sup>"I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son...'" <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him... And they began to celebrate.

Sin is much, much more than the violation of a set of rules. Sin is more profound than rebellion against a moral code. Sin is about something deeper than behaving inappropriately. It is deeper than bad actions and wrong words.

The desire to be God rather than to serve God lies at the bottom of every sin that anyone has ever committed. Sin is rooted in my unwillingness to find joy in living my life under the authority of, and for the glory of, Another. Sin is rooted in my desire to live for me. It's driven by my propensity to indulge my every feeling, satisfy my every desire, and meet my every need.

This is why David says, "Against you, you only, have I sinned." He isn't denying the enormity of his sin against Bathsheba or his capital crimes against Uriah.

What he's understanding in his confession is that every sin is against God. In his conviction, David understands that sin is an act of relationship or, better stated, a violation of the one relationship that's to be the shaping factor of everything I do or say. Every sin is vertical, no matter how thunderous the horizontal implications of it are. It is God, for whom and through whom we were created to live, whose boundaries we step over.