**New City Catechism Class  
Week Sixteen**

**Q16:** What is sin?

**A16:** Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law – resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.

**1 John 3:4** "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness." (ESV)

Discuss the question:

* If you asked the average person, “What is sin?”, what would they say?
* What does our culture think about the Biblical idea of sin?
* In the last several weeks, we have been discussing the law of God, especially the Ten Commandments, what is the relationship between the law of God and sin?

Discuss the Scripture:

* Looking at the broader context, what is the stated purpose of the letter of 1 John? (see 1 John 1:4; 2:1; 5:13)
* What is man’s natural relationship to sin and law?
* What does it mean to “practice” sin?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

* How many times is God referenced in the answer? What does this tell us about what sin is?
* What does it mean to *reject or ignore* God? What does this look like in our daily lives?
* What does it mean to *live without reference to* God?
* What would change in your life if you always lived *with proper reference* to God? If you did *not* reject or ignore God?
* Why does it say, “Sin is… not *being* or *doing* what he requires…”?
* What is death?
* What does “the disintegration of all creation” mean?

*How has our discussion on sin helped you to see your own personal relationship to sin and the grace of God in Christ?*

*Romans 4:7-8 quotes Psalm 32 saying, “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” Take some time this week to meditate on this truth. See also Romans 3:21-31.*