

*This midweek study will explore the biblical notion of sin as transgression.*

### Essential Doctrine: Sin as Transgression

The word *transgression* means to *cross over* or to *pass by*, and is often used in reference to transgressing God's explicit commands. When God gives a specific command, as He did with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and when that command is disobeyed, transgression has taken place (Rom. 5:14; 1 Tim. 2:14). In this sense, sin is law-breaking.

### 1 Sin is transgressing God's good rule

(Gen. 3:5, 1 John 3:4).

- ▶ What are some of the ways you understand sin?
- ▶ Sin can be thought of many different ways. How can we think of sin in relation to God's commands? Breaking a command is called a transgression. It's crossing the line beyond what God has appointed.
- ▶ Why do you think God gives us laws and commands?
- ▶ Why do we decide to break God's laws and commands?

#### Read Genesis 3:5.

- ▶ What part of the serpent's speech do you think most appealed to Eve? What part most appeals to you?
- ▶ Why would Eve like the idea of being like God? Do you like the idea of being like God?
- ▶ What happens if all people decide to be like God and transgress God's commands?

#### Read 1 John 3:4.

- ▶ Why did John equate sin with lawlessness?
- ▶ We sometimes romanticize lawlessness and rebellion. Does the Bible? Should we?

### 2 Jesus' death is a picture of the enormity of our transgression (Rom. 3:25-26).

- ▶ Why do you think Jesus died on the cross? Why couldn't God simply forgive our sin with a wave of His magic wand?

#### Read Romans 3:25-26.

- ▶ What is a propitiation? (You may need to explain that it is appeasing someone's wrath and resuming right relationship).
- ▶ Why did God need to put Jesus forward? Why did God need to show His righteousness? Why was God's righteousness in doubt?

So Jesus' death displays God's justice. Jesus' death shows how awful transgression is.

- ▶ If Jesus underwent such torture, and death to show us how awful transgression is, how should we view our sin?
- ▶ What are some sins with which we struggle? Why do we struggle with them? How can we use the picture of the cross to defeat the false promises of sin (Heb. 3:13)?

### 3 The Holy Spirit works in us so we might not transgress (Rom. 8:4,13).

- ▶ Think back to last week's lesson. What are some of the things the Holy Spirit does in us and for us?

#### Read Romans 8:13.

- ▶ According to this verse, what role does the Holy Spirit play in our fight against sin?
- ▶ So if the Holy Spirit is at work in us, what should be true about our tendency to transgress?

#### Read Romans 8:4.

- ▶ What is being fulfilled in us?
- ▶ According to this verse, how are do we fulfill this righteous requirement? How are we not transgressing?
- ▶ How should this text make us dependent on the Holy Spirit to work in us not to transgress God's law?

### WRAP IT UP

- ▶ How can you begin to take the battle against sin in your life more seriously?