



## Elements: Sin

Week of July 3, 2022

### Connect Group Discussion Guide

Elements is about taking the foundational doctrines of the church, making them personal, and understanding how they enhance our relationship with God.

- Read Romans 3:22b-23. What does Paul mean when he declares there is no Jew or Gentile? How does this apply to us? Which category of people do today's Christian Church most identify with? How have you seen this played out in modern culture? *The Jewish Christians had multiple issues with non-jews (gentiles) who wanted to be counted among God's people. The gentiles did not recognize the laws of Judaism and until they would the Jews struggled accepting them.*
- What is Paul trying to teach the Jews when he proclaims, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."? How does this statement from Paul challenge you? How does it comfort you?
- Read Romans 5:12-14. Is Paul talking in circles?
  - Sin entered the world through Adam
  - Sin is not charged against anyone if there is not law.
  - Nevertheless sin abounded between Adam and Moses (When the 10 commandments were brought)
- What is illustrated in this passage is Original Sin and Personal Sin. What is the difference between these 2 types of sin?
  - Original Sin: The sinful nature that all humans inherit from the consequences of the fall.
  - Personal Sin: Willfully breaking a known law of God.
- Adam didn't commit personal sin apart from the law. He knew not to eat the fruit. Same with Cain... He instantly had shame when he killed his brother. How could he have shame if he didn't know it was wrong? So, why then is it to know the law if the knowledge of right from wrong is already in us?
- Read Mark 10:17-26. What was the Rich Young Ruler asking Jesus about to determine if he would inherit eternal life? (What laws he must make sure to follow) Do you think he was sad because he had to sell all of his things or because he knew he wouldn't and therefore wouldn't inherit eternal life?
  - Ultimately the tension for the Rich Young Ruler was that he was interested in learning what would benefit HIM. What Jesus is trying to illustrate for this man is that you don't follow the law to gain what benefits YOU... you follow the law because it benefits those around you! \*Notice what Jesus instructs the man to do is not from what he would know as "the law".
  - Jesus wants heart change... not just mere behavior change.
- How should these thoughts instruct Christians on what Christ desires from us concerning the sin in our lives?