



# SIN

**AN UGLY THREE-LETTER WORD!**

By Pastor Max Solbrekken, D.D.

Sin is real, says famed psychiatrist **Dr. Karl Menninger**. The highly-acclaimed psychiatrist is distressed by modern society's failure to understand that many of man's problems are caused by sin.

It annoys him to hear people discuss morality without so much as mentioning the word "SIN".

***Menninger believes that in order to raise civilization's moral tone and deal with depression, anxiety and worry, people must learn the root cause of their problems.***

And the root cause in many instances is a person's unwillingness to take responsibility for his own action. But rather lay the blame on someone – something else!

Several decades ago, George Cornell of the Associated Press (AP) wrote a column titled

***"Word Sin Disappears But Remains A Fact"***, in which he quoted at great length Dr. Karl Menninger's belief on this subject.

***“He said the realities of personal guilt and sin have been glossed over as symptoms of emotional illness or environmental conditioning for which the individual is not considered responsible, but he adds:***

***There is sin... which cannot be subsumed under verbal artifacts such as “disease”, delinquency”, deviancy’. There is immorality. There is unethical behavior. There is wrongdoing,”***

### **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Cornell states: “He calls for a reaffirmation of the concept of sin and of personal responsibility for it. In a new book published by Hawthorne called ‘*What Became of Sin?*’ he declares:

***“If the concept of personal and answerability for ourselves and for others were to return to common acceptance, hope would return to the world with it.***

We have **Sigmund Freud**, the father of psychoanalysis, who was battling his own weird kinky imaginations and habits – to thank for much of that!

The founder of the **Menninger Centre** in Topeka, **Kansas**, is seeking to correct the situation by addressing the problems.



His latest book, **What Became of Sin?** describes the subject as “*a transgression of the law of God; disobedience of the divine will; moral failure...Sin has a defiant, or disloyal quality; someone is defiled or offended or hurt*”.

Modern psychiatry often let people off the hook. And failure to bring offenders face to face with their error could produce a sense of vindication, without coming to grips with the problem; the need to change lifestyles.

**DR. MENNINGER** has successfully treated thousands of clients for more than a half of century and has proven that *acceptance of responsibility coupled with repentance, often brings freedom from guilt and anxiety.*

The refusal to confront the problem only compounds it by giving at the very best, temporary relief.

Thousands of years ago, **King David** stated: “**He that confesseth and forsake his sin shall have mercy, but he that covereth his sin shall not prosper**”. (Prov. 28:13)

**Forgiveness is vital to good mental health.** We must forgive others if we expect God to forgive us, as well as being able to forgive ourselves.

A leading psychiatrist noted that 90% of the mentally ill could be immediately well if

they were able to forgive themselves and others and how to receive forgiveness!

It is difficult for an individual to forgive himself without the assurance that God has forgiven him

That is why the Gospel – **CONFESSION, REPENTANCE** and **FORGIVENESS** - is so relevant and necessary!

The Bible states emphatically: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”*. (1 John 1:9)

*“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin”*. (1 John 1:7)

Some health officials, in explaining their AIDS program, go to great lengths promoting *condoms*, as well as sexual abstinence. Then they usually add: **“THIS IS NOT A MORAL ISSUE”**.

**How stupid. Of course it’s a moral issue!**

If our young people had higher morals there wouldn’t be a drug abuse, fornication or homosexual problem, putting themselves at risk to the AIDS virus.

And if people were more moral and stuck with the Bible standard of **“one woman - one man”**, there wouldn’t be such a dramatic increase in sexually transmitted diseases.

It goes without saying, violence would be almost non-existent and crime, rape and child abuse would drop drastically.

**THE WORLD NEEDS  
A MORAL REVOLUTION!**

And there are signs that one is coming. After a dozen years of corrupt Liberal misrule, Canadians elected an intelligent, well-spoken and honest Prime Minister we can be proud of!

And recently the Canadian people renounced the illegitimate power grab by the so-called “*Three Stooges*” and save our nation from the wild-eyed out-of-control self-seekers!

Normal people understand that a sense of moral values is not only important but necessary!

U.S.A.’s annual “SIN BILL” topped more than half a trillion dollars in 1987. Dr. Charles Ewing of the National Statesman said that Americans spent \$144 billion for liquor, \$177 billion on gambling. \$110 billion on drugs, \$73 billion on tobacco and \$40 billion on pornography!

## **LOSING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DRUGS, VIOLENCE!**

Teenagers – **our greatest commodity** – are being threatened by violence, murder, drugs, alcoholism and suicide!

An article by Dr. Robert Blum in the Journal of American Medical Association states: ***“Over the past 30 years, adolescents have been the only population in the US who have not experienced improvement in their health status”***.

According to Blum, 77% of adolescents deaths were caused by accidents and violence, including self-inflicted violence. And there was a shocking four-fold increase in suicides and murders!

A US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report states: ***“Of the 10,250 kids born today...one will die and four will sustain serious or crippling injuries in a alcohol-related rash before they reach the age of 24?”***

This is a very sobering, serious warning about sin, accidents and death! May we all take a lesson from these tragic statistics, realizing that ***“The wages of sin is death”***.



You may say, “All you have stated is true! But what must I do to be forgiven and freed from my sins?” The Bible say, ***“If we confess our sins (to God) He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”***. (1 John 1: 9)

Cornell writes: “Menninger says that just as it is inadequate for a clergyman to give only pastoral counseling to a schizophrenic, **it is inadequate for a psychiatrist to treat a symptom like sleeplessness of a man involved in wicked rascality.**

**REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY!**

“It does little good to repent a symptom, **but it may do great harm not to repent a sin... It does little good to merely psychoanalyze a sin and sometimes a great harm to ignore a symptom.**”

He says recognizing the fact of voluntarily willed sin is **“the only hopeful view”**, Since it implies the possibility of **repenting and correcting it.**

He adds: **“ The logical reasonable effective solution for tension reduction in such circumstances is to make atonement, as the theologians call it, or as we say, by restitution, acknowledgment and revised tactics.”**



**As the situation now is “vague amorphous evil appears all around us” with the presumption that “no one is responsible, no one guilty and that there is “just nothing to do”.**

**The Bible says: “... But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6:23)**

