

Study Guide for 1 John, Lesson 38: The Heart of the World

Date: October 1, 2025

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

Instructions: Answer the following questions in approximately two to three sentences each.

1. What two scripture references are cited to support the statement that all people are affected by sin?
2. According to the lesson, what are the five primary results of sin in a person's life?
3. Based on Jesus' teaching in Mark 7, where does sin truly originate?
4. What are the three common external sources that people incorrectly blame for their sin?
5. What is the major theological problem with believing "the devil made me do it"?
6. According to the teaching from Romans 7:5, what paradoxically arouses sinful passions in an unconverted person?
7. How is the example of a child being told "don't touch that" used to illustrate the rebellious nature of sin?
8. As defined in 1 John 2, what are the three "gateways" through which the world system appeals to a fallen heart?
9. Why does the speaker argue that placing Bibles in every school and government building would not "fix" America?
10. How does the example of the Millennial Kingdom prove that sin is an internal problem, not an environmental one?

Answer Key

1. Romans 3:23 — “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”; Romans 3:10 — “There is none righteous, no, not one.” These verses demonstrate that all humanity is under the power of sin.
2. The five results of sin: Overpowering man by evil; Holding all people under Satan’s control; Bringing people under God’s wrath; Subjecting humanity to the miseries of life; Condemning sinners to eternal damnation.
3. According to Jesus in Mark 7, sin originates from within, out of the heart of man. Defilement comes not from what enters externally but from what flows out of the heart.
4. The devil (“the devil made me do it”); Society (media, coworkers, cultural influences); God (for permitting evil or creating humans with a fallen nature).
5. Believing the devil makes a person sin implies Satan is sovereign in their life, rather than God. It also removes personal responsibility and makes the sinner a victim.
6. Romans 7:5 teaches that the Law of God paradoxically arouses sinful passions in an unconverted person. What defines righteousness becomes the very thing the rebellious heart resists.
7. The illustration of a child being told “don’t touch that” shows how prohibition increases sinful desire. The law stirs up rebellion in an unregenerate heart in the same way.
8. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16).
9. Merely placing Bibles in schools or government buildings would not solve the problem. The issue is not access to God’s Word but the sinful nature of man that rebels against it.
10. In the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will rule in righteousness, Satan will be bound, and conditions will be perfect. Yet people will still rebel, proving sin originates internally.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the assertion that sin is not caused by the devil, society, or God. Using Mark 7 and James 1, explain the true origin of sin and the importance of accepting personal responsibility for it.
2. Discuss the paradox in Romans 7:5, where God’s law arouses sinful passions. How does this challenge secular or religious attempts to “fix” human behavior through education or social reform?
3. The lesson describes sin as “defiling, rebellious, ungrateful, incurable, and deadly.” Show how the five consequences of sin support this definition.
4. Define “the world” as presented in the lesson. Explain how its “gateways” tempt both unbelievers and Christians.

5. Using the example of the Millennial Kingdom, argue why sin is an internal human condition, not dependent on environment.

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition from the Source Context
Sin	A defiling, rebellious, and ungrateful violation of God's law; incurable and deadly; originates in the human heart.
The World	Satan's system (the kingdom of darkness), anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-scripture, and deceptive.
Hamartiology	The study of sin.
Heart (of man)	The internal origin of sin; described in Jeremiah 17:9 as deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.
Flesh (in the)	A state of being unregenerate; in this state, sinful passions are aroused by the Law of God.
Law (of God)	God's pure and holy standard; paradoxically incites rebellion in unconverted hearts.
Gateways (to sin)	The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16).
Sovereignty	Ultimate power and control; the lesson contrasts God's sovereignty with false views of Satan's power.
Millennial Kingdom	The thousand-year reign of Christ on earth; proves that even in perfection, man's heart remains sinful.