

What's Wrong with us?

Mark 7:20-23; Romans 1:18-32

The Book of Romans: Paul writes to both Jews and Gentiles, but what do they have in common?

- Humanity? Sure, but Paul emphasizes something else: _____.

Review of the series and last sermon:

- Psalm 8: humanity is crowned with glory and honor by God!
- But Daniel 4:30 shows how this can go awry...

Three dimensions of sin that are surprising:

(1) **The Internal:** we don't just sin, we are *are* sinners

- Mark 7:20-23: Out of the overflow of the heart...
 - See also Mark 10:18: "No one is good—except God alone," and Matthew 7:11: "If you, then, though you are evil..."
- Follow your heart?

(2) **The Vertical:** sin is against God (and more intentionally so than you might think)

- Romans 1:18-32
 - The root of sin (1:18-21)
 - The fruit of sin (1:22-32)

(3) **The Christological:** Christ, the sinless one, *became* sin:

"For our sake **he [God] made him to be sin** who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5:21)

More on this next week: The One Mediator between God and humanity

Questions for further reflection and application:

1. Just about everyone admits they're not perfect, but many people don't think they're sinners. What's the difference?
2. From the Westminster Shorter Catechism:
Q14. *What is sin?* A. *Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.*
 - What is the law of God? It might help to name some specific laws of God.
 - Read Matthew 5:21-48 for challenging examples of not conforming to God's law.
3. Read and meditate on the amazing truth of 2 Cor 5:21. What does it mean?
 - Some have called this "the glorious transaction." According to the verse, what do we get and what does Christ get in this transaction?
 - How should this change us?