



A child from a slum was taken to a summer camp organized by the city's recreation service. The first day when he was served a meal, the boy ate hurriedly, and secretly took some food and hid it in his tent.

After some days when he realized that there was always enough for everyone, he began to eat normally and stopped storing food "just in case".

This is a picture of what we all do in many aspects of life. We enter life with the idea that there is not enough for everyone, and that in order to survive we must accumulate as much as we can. It does not matter if this means others go without anything. The fear of not having enough tomorrow is present even in the minds of the rich.

In a world where the economic system is based on competition and the illusion of always needing more, there is little room left for love and concern for the needs of others. Yet we all dream of a society in which everything is going smoothly, where we all work and live with equal opportunity, where there is love for

one another, and where the abundance makes an end of rivalry and greed.

What should we do? Giving the homeless some coins from time to time is not the solution. Robbing the rich to distribute the wealth to the poor would not permanently solve the problem either.

Thankfully, the good news of Jesus Christ offers each person what he/she desires: the true contentment and joy that grows from loving and caring for the welfare of others, even in the midst of a selfish and corrupt society. Every follower of Christ can become an island of love growing in a sea of hatred and competition.

A relationship with Christ is not a mere theory, but a dynamic reality that can transform your life. God offers you this life if you believe and receive His Son as your Savior.

*"... God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8). □

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# Find what you are searching for

**D**iogenes, also called “the Cynic,” was a Greek philosopher from the fourth century, BC. He used his simple lifestyle and behavior to criticize the social values and institutions of what he saw as a corrupt society. He would stroll about in broad daylight in the streets of Alexandria with a lighted lantern. When asked what he was doing, he would answer, “I am just looking for an honest man.”

Is it possible that you are searching for something, but cannot find it?

This is a very common experience. Occasionally a common household item disappears. We search in all the rooms of the house where it might possibly be hidden, but without success. Finally, we ask for help from a friend, and he quickly finds it near the place where it belongs.

Maybe we don't know that we are searching for contentment and happiness. Perhaps, we are looking for God...

When searching for God, the solution might be found with the help of another person. A conversation with someone who has already found Him can break the cycle of mistaken reasoning, and lead you to God instead. In your case, this person might be the friend who gave you this publication. Or it might be reading God's Word, the Bible.

What matters is that you take the step to find God, without delaying any longer.

You may be looking for God, but have not been able to find Him. However, He is close by and wants you to find Him. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ was and is God. Jesus said that to know Him is to know God.

*“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.” (John 14:7). “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9)*

If you want to find God, you need to know Jesus. □

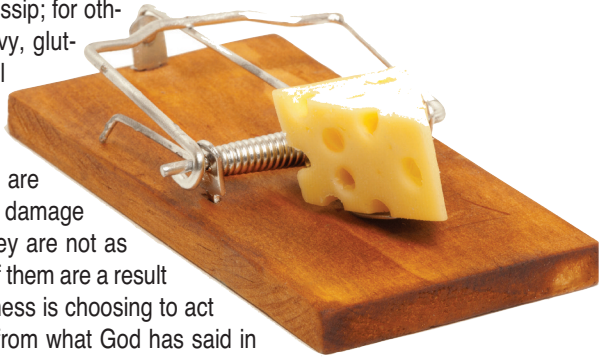


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# What is your favorite SIN?

For some, a favorite sin is gossip; for others, a bad temper, laziness, envy, gluttony, or uncontrolled sex. A small percentage of people commit assaults and murders.

No doubt, some of these acts are worse than others in terms of the damage done. However, before God, they are not as different as you might think. All of them are a result of one fact: selfishness. Selfishness is choosing to act and to live as we desire, apart from what God has said in His Word, the Bible.



A person can't be his or her own god, managing their life without God's principles. When we try to deal with the problems of life on our own principles, everything seems unfair. We oppose others and always feel the need to defend ourselves. We justify our own actions, and only call out the injustices of others. However, sooner or later we must realize that we are the ones with the problem. We must deal with our own selves first. If we try to improve our behavior, we discover that the problem is even deeper and we cannot correct our behavior on our own.

Don't lose hope. There is a solution. God understands us and He has prepared a way to deliver you & me from our sin. In fact, Jesus Christ came to earth and died on the cross precisely for this reason.

The New Testament says: *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

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# Cristianity and morality



**M**orality comes from outside pressure; Christianity results from a transformed heart. Morality is conformity to the rules of right and wrong established by society. It varies from one country to another and from one era to another.

There are often moral contradictions found within a single culture. Morality requires a certain behavior and, under social pressure, can influence people who live under its power.

But such morality is merely outward, always changing, and never manages to reform or transform a person for good.

The central message of Christianity, however, is that man must return to God. It does not refer to a code of conduct, but a personal relationship.

Living by his own rules, man is in a state of rebellion and separation; the human being is

incomplete and a slave to the ever-changing opinions and customs of the environment. As he tries to conform to the rules of society, he continues to be separated from the fountain of life —God. Only God can give man a truly good life.

Everything that helps you understand your need and search for a right relationship with God is good. Any kind of attitude that is self-sufficient or rejects God is wrong and known as sin. You may need to ask yourself if you are just a moral person or a genuine Christian.

Are you trying to live a moral life by your own efforts and according to man-made rules? OR are you living the transformed Christian life by turning from your sins, and accepting Jesus Christ, who can give you that right relationship with God?