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## THE NATURE OF SIN

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**SUMMARY:** This year has been one world catastrophe after another, things have been going wrong left right and centre. We can blame the bushfires on global warming and lockdowns on a virus, we can even say that racism is the fault of historical and institutional inequality. But are these things the real problem with this world? The Bible doesn't seem to think so, it says the problem is us.

According to 1 Timothy 1:15, each of us should consider ourselves as the worst of all sinners. The problem is, nobody likes to be called a sinner and no one likes to admit the darkness that lives within each of us. The problem isn't out in the world, the problem is us.

So, if we want to confront this issue, we need to understand it and to do that we need to turn to the Bible. This series will open up what has been historically known as the seven deadly sins. These seven sins are the attitudes and desires that lay behind our actions. They are a problem for all of us.

To help us understand these things and the challenge of sin in general, we will be focusing our readings on the book of Proverbs, a book of ancient wisdom.

This week, we set the foundation, not only in understanding sin but also in understanding the book of Proverbs. In these first 19 verses of the book, we see the importance of wisdom, the foundation of fear and an illustration of sin. Let's hope that in this series we can come to see just how great our God is for offering us forgiveness in Jesus!

1. How often do you actually feel like the description Timothy makes in 1 Timothy 1:15?
  2. Why do the problems of this world start with us?
  3. Have you ever tried to read the book of Proverbs? What are the challenges?
  4. How would you define sin and why is it our biggest problem?
  5. How do verses 11-14 show to us the different depths at which our sinful natures operate?
  6. Can you name the seven deadly sins? What are their origins?
  7. What are the consequences of this situation and all sin? See Romans 6:23?
  8. How would you define the fear of God? What is it and what is it not?
  9. Why is fear the beginning of knowledge?
  10. How would you define wisdom and what is its purpose?
  11. Why do think fools despise wisdom?
  12. Are there signs in your own life that you are growing in wisdom? Do you actually want to grow in your faith?
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PROVERBS 1:11-19

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