

Homework for Lesson 27: Hitting the Mark: Sin and Grace

There are many definitions and understandings of “sin”; some say sin is breaking one of the Ten Commandments while others say sin is anything you do that is displeasing to God. In this lesson, we will explore what it means to ‘sin,’ its impact on self and others, and how love serves as the arrow to hit God’s “target” of grace.

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral

Consider the ways sin and grace play a role in our lives as Christians. The formal explanation of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral is:

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral is made up of four “sides”: 1) Scripture, (2) tradition, (3) reason, and (4) experience. For United Methodists, Scripture is considered the primary source and standard for Christian doctrine. Tradition is experience and the witness of development and growth of the faith through the past centuries and in many nations and cultures. Experience is the individual's understanding and appropriating of the faith in the light of his or her own life. Through reason the individual Christian brings to bear on the Christian faith discerning and cogent thought. These four elements taken together bring the individual Christian to a mature and fulfilling understanding of the Christian faith and the required response of worship and service.

Source: A Dictionary for United Methodists, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press.

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral is made up of four different factors that we consider together in order to understand the Christian faith. What role do our experiences play in how we understand sin and grace? Does our intellect or educational experience have any impact on how we explore our faith? Wesley wanted us to consider these four things, scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, in order to think through the ways in which we respond to Jesus and the world around us.

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Sin and grace are often highly debated topics in the Christian faith and learning how to not only understand sin and grace but also learn how to navigate their impact on our lives and the lives of others.

We are going to think about how we would respond to some moral issues. First, read the scriptures about sin and grace.

Scriptures: Genesis 2:15-3:13, Romans 3:23, Romans 7:15-24

There are three scenarios on the worksheet. Write responses to the questions below each scenario. They are:

Scenarios for Application:

	<i>What would you do in this situation? Please explain:</i>	<i>What influenced your response: your understanding of scripture, your life experiences, traditions, or intellectual reason? Please explain:</i>
Scenario 1: A man's wife is sick and he cannot afford the medicine. Late one night, he breaks into a pharmacy and steals the medicine for her.		
Scenario 2: Your friend asked to copy your homework because they didn't do it the night before.		
Scenario 3: You come back from class and find that someone broke into your locker and stole your belongings.		