

How Is a Sin Infection Like a Physical Infection?

Focus: How sin spreads, harms, and why it must be treated by God's Grace.

Key Verse: "when [sin] has run its course, it brings forth death." — James 1:15

Text: NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Let's be thankful for good physical health 😊! But let's also draw **an important parallel:**

- An **untreated physical infection** can lead to **ph. death!**
- An **untreated sin infection** can lead to **et. punishment!**

1. **My Father's Serious Infection:** During the last year or so of his earthly life, *he quickly developed a very serious foot infection.* It was so serious that we received a phone call saying, "**Come quickly because he may die within the next two hours!**" Upon arriving 90 minutes later, we learned that emergency surgery had been done to clean out the infection **and** *he was doing much better!* Removing the physical infection made a **HUGE** difference!

2. **How a Sin Infection Leads to Death:** **James 1:13-16**

- a. Does God tempt us to sin? **13** "**No one** is to say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God **cannot** be tempted by evil, and He Himself **does not tempt anyone.**" // When we sin, we cannot blame God – *because He does **not** tempt us or anyone!*

b. What leads us into sin? **14** “...each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by **his own lust.**” // What is lust? *Lust is a strong desire:*

i. It can be **good**: A natural and legitimate desire for something that is good.

ii. It can be **bad**: An unrestrained desire for something forbidden or evil.

c. What follows an evil form of lust? **15-16** “...when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers *and sisters.*” // What is the problem? ***Most are deceived!***

3. **A Sin Infection Can Bring on a Physical Infection:** **Psalm**

38:3–8 [King David connected *his sin* with *his suffering*:]

“...There is no health in my bones **because of my sin**....

⁵ My wounds grow foul *and* fester **Because of my**

foolishness.... ⁷ For my sides are filled with burning, And there is no healthy part in my flesh. ⁸ I feel faint and badly crushed; I groan **because of the agitation of my heart.**” //

His heart agitation *was due to his sin!*

4. **A Sin Infection Described as a Physical Infection:** **Isaiah**

1:2, 5-6 ...the LORD [said]: “Sons I have raised... have revolted against Me.... From the sole of the foot even to the head There is nothing healthy in it...” // Sin infections are **worse** than physical infections!

5. **An Untreated Sin Infection Will Spread:** **1 Corinthians 5:6**

“...Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*?” // Paul taught: As a little leaven slowly

works through a lump of dough, *so a little unrepentant sin will keep infecting more of a person's life!*

6. **King Jehoram's Evil, Infection, and Death: 2 Chronicles 21**

- a. Jehoram became the king of Judah: (1-3) After his father, *king Jehoshaphat*, died, Jehoram [aka Ahaziah], *the first-born son*, became the king (849-841 BC).
- b. Jehoram's great evil: 4, 11 "...when Jehoram had taken over the kingdom of his father and gathered courage, he killed all his brothers with the sword...
¹¹ Furthermore, he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to be unfaithful, and led Judah astray."
- c. The LORD's response: 12-15 "...a letter came to him from Elijah... **"This is what the LORD, the God of your father David says:** 'Because you have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat...¹³ ...and have caused Judah... to be unfaithful..., and you have also killed your brothers...¹⁴ behold, **the LORD is going to strike** your people, your sons, your wives, and all your possessions with a great plague;¹⁵ and you will suffer severe sickness, a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the sickness..." // ☹️
- d. The LORD's action: 16-19 "...**the LORD stirred up... the Philistines and the Arabs...**¹⁷ and they came against Judah... and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz...
¹⁸ **...after all this the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable sickness.**¹⁹ ...at the end of two years, ...his bowels came out because of his sickness,

and he died in great pain.” // Jehoram’s ▶persistent evil and ▶lack of repentance *invited disaster!*

7. What Happens When We Ignore a Sin Infection?

- a. The LORD said to **Ezekiel: 33:9** “...if you... warn a wicked person to turn from his way **and he does not turn from his way, he will die for his wrongdoing...**”
- b. We will not escape:
 - i. **Hebrews 2:1, 3** “...we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it... how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” // *We will not!*
 - ii. **Hebrews 12:25–26** “...do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if [the Israelites] did not escape when they refused [Moses] who warned *them* on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from [God’s Son] who warns us from heaven.”

8. What Is the Remedy for a Sin Infection? Repent!

Acts 3:19 “...repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...” // How? By God’s grace, let us: ▶**hear** God’s word with an open heart, ▶**believe** it is true, ▶**turn** from our sins, ▶**trust** in Jesus for eternal life, and ▶**live** in daily repentance (*see part 7 of this series*)!

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, *TYSM for Jesus’ saving work!*
Please keep us ▶right with You and ▶living unto Your glory!

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