



We are shaped by story without narrative continuity we cannot sustain a cohesive identity.

The gathered Church is where the gospelshaping story revealed though Jesus Christ is re-membered.



God created humanity, male and female, in His own image with freedom to obey or disobey Him. As a result of their disobedient choice sin entered our race, and its effects of guilt and corruption have passed on to every person.

The image of God, though not destroyed, is now distorted. Sin dwells in all people, making them unable to please God or to escape its power in their lives.

The penalty of sin is death, but a new, right relationship with God is promised to those who accept life in Christ Jesus.

A Centennial Statement
The Brethren Church 1983



Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Psalm 14:1-3

¹ The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

Psalm 14:1-3

² The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

Psalm 14:1-3

3 All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Romans 3:23

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

1 John 1:8

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.



4 Biblical Metaphors for Sin and Its Consequences for the World

Sin Metaphor	1	2	3	4
Our Action				
Our Condition				
God's Intervention				
Our Invitation				

4 Biblical Metaphors for Sin and Its Consequences for the World

Sin Metaphor	Distance from God	2	3	4
Our Action	We Wander Away from God			
Our Condition	Lost			
God's Intervention	Jesus Finds Us			
Our Invitation	Repentance			

Genesis 3:8-9

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

Luke 15

- 3 Parables of Jesus about things that are lost:
 - 1. The Lost Sheep Luke 15:1-7
 - 2. The Lost Coin Luke 15:8-10
 - 3. The Lost Son Luke 15:11-32

Psalm 139:7-12

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

Psalm 139:7-12

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

4 Biblical Metaphors for Sin and Its Consequences for the World

Sin Metaphor	Distance from God	Law Breaking	3	4
	r - F		1	
Our Action	We Wander	We Disobey		
Our Action	Away from God	and Rebel		
Our Condition	Lost	Guilty		
Our Condition	LOSC	Guilty		
God's	Jesus	Jesus		
Intervention	Finds Us	Forgives Us		
Our Invitation	Repentance	Confession		

Matthew 21:28-31

²⁸ "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ "I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Matthew 21:28-31

3° "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

31 "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered.

John 8:2-5

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery.

John 8:2-5

They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

4 Biblical Metaphors for Sin and Its Consequences for the World

Sin Metaphor	Distance from God	Law Breaking	Sickness, Pain, & Affliction	4
Our Action	We Wander Away from God	We Disobey and Rebel	We Experience Harm and Hurt	
Our Condition	Lost	Guilty	Broken	
God's Intervention	Jesus Finds Us	Jesus Forgives Us	Jesus Fixes Us	
Our Invitation	Repentance	Confession	Formation	

Luke 8:43-48

43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. 44 She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

Luke 8:43-48

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

Luke 8:43-48

47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. 48 Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

4 Biblical Metaphors for Sin and Its Consequences for the World

Sin Metaphor	Distance from God	Law Breaking	Sickness, Pain, & Affliction	Oppression & Tyranny
Our Action	We Wander Away from God	We Disobey and Rebel	We Experience Harm and Hurt	We are in Bondage
Our Condition	Lost	Guilty	Broken	Enslaved
God's Intervention	Jesus Finds Us	Jesus Forgives Us	Jesus Fixes Us	Jesus Frees Us
Our Invitation	Repentance	Confession	Formation	Mission

18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

For in my inner being I delight in God's law;
but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.
What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.



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Our Invitation	Repentance	Confession	Formation	Mission
	Personal Sin		Corporate Sin	

			Perpetual Therapy	
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