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What Is Sin?

Man can not be the authority on what sin is. Only God Himself can be that final authority. Many people can have quite different opinions on what they think sin is if they feel that sin is just something that is “a wrong” by man's standard. The problem here is that different people have many different self established values, and what may be “good” to one person may be “evil” to another person.

We could cite many contradictory standards of people worldwide to prove the point. But to cite an example that is a notable event in history – let's take the atomic bombing of Japan by the United States in World War Two. At that era of the 1940's when America dropped the bomb on Japan to virtually end the war Americans considered it to be “a good thing”. But to the Japanese this very same event was considered “a bad thing” and quite sinful of the Americans to unleash this weapon upon them. The point is that people are incapable of defining sin from a perspective of absolute truth and righteousness.

Only God can define sin.

God's Word clearly tells us in the book of 1st John 3:4 “*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*”

So there we have it. If you break God's law you have sinned. And the only way to know if you are sinning or not is to go to the written Word of God and see what His law says. Most of God's laws are to be found in the Old Testament writings and some further explanations of these laws are found in the New Testament.