

~~what~~ what suits me, and that is all that matters. That is the essence of sin. It is the refusal to obey the righteous law of God, or maybe just a careless ignoring of the righteous law of God, because of lack of interest in its results to others in the ~~universe~~ universe, and to God the Creator of the universe.

And so this re-examination of the nature of sin, I think leads us to a third point which is suggested rather strongly in this verse. I don't think of a good way to ~~state~~ state it, but it comes rather near to saying the equality of sin. You notice the verse didn't say the wages of murder is death. It didn't say the wages of mortal sin is death. It didn't say the wages of certain sins is death. It said the wages of sin is death. Sin is fundamentally an attitude, rather than a particular act. It is this attitude toward God and his righteous law. That is what ~~sin~~ ^{sin} is. And the attitude in God's sight is what matters. It is the spirit rather than the actions which matters ~~in~~ in His sight. Now in man's sight it has to be different. Our states do not make laws in order to mete out absolute justice to each one of us. It can't do that. Man does not have the knowledge to mete out justice. It is not His function. It is God who metes out perfect justice to His people. The purpose of the government is to make it possible for us to get along together and the purpose of its laws are to prevent, or to prevent the one who commits crime from committing worse crimes. The law deals with crime. God ~~deals~~ deals with sin. And there is a vital distinction. I suppose every one of you like myself has read in the paper at times how some man assaulted another man, and injured him seriously, and the other is in prison, and they are holding this man in jail, but no charges have yet been made against him. And why have no charges been made against him? Because they do not know yet what charge to make. It all depends on whether the other man recovers. If the other man dies, this man then can be accused of murder, and if it is proven that he willfully and viciously attacks the other man, he can be punished forend of Record 1