What Is the Big Deal about Sin?

1 John 3:4

Introduction:
A. The prevailing attitude toward most sin: It is no big deal!
   1. One is caught lying, cheating, fornicating: What is the big deal?
   2. One wilfully disobeys a divine command: What is the big deal?
   3. One obviously neglects his duty as Christian: What is the big deal?

B. The prevailing mood ignores sin’s impact and trivializes its seriousness.

Discussion:
I. The Impact of Sin.
   A. On the Godhead.
      1. Grieves and provokes (Eph. 4:30; Ps. 95:10, 11; Lk. 13:34; 19:41).
      2. Turns His ear away from us. (Isa. 59:1,2)
   
   B. On a nation.
      2. Can destroy it. (Cities of the plains).

   C. On the church.
      1. Leavening influence (1 Cor. 5:1-13)
      2. Hinders like Achan’s sin. (Josh. 7:1)

   D. On the sinner.
      1. Spiritual death — here and hereafter (Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 6:23; 7:9; Rev. 21:8)
      2. Temporal consequences — even if forgiven (cf. Moses & rock; Physical, civil and social)

II. The Trivialization of Sin.
   A. Because it is universal — “everybody does it.”
      1. True (Rom. 3:10; 23; 1 John 1:9, 10).
      2. “Everybody” must pay — “Everybody” in Noah’s day.

   B. By comparing sins — “no worse than...”
      1. Unwise measurement (2 Cor. 10:12)
      2. “No worse than” is not necessarily so. (Cf. John 19:11).

   C. By Cheap repentance.
      1. By saying, “I repent” without godly sorrow. (2 Cor. 7:7-10; cf. Lk. 15:19, 21).
      3. By saying, “I repent” without restitution (Lev. 6:2-5; Lk. 19:8).

   D. By Unconditional forgiveness.
      1. God’s forgiveness (Lk. 23:34; Acts 2:38; 8:22).
      2. Our forgiveness (Luke 17:3,4).
      3. Difference in wanting to forgive and forgiving.

Conclusion:
A. Sin is a “big deal” for everyone concerned.
B. Forgiveness of sin spares us all eternal consequences of sin — only some temporal.