

## *Playing With Sin*

*“Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:15)*

As a boy, I loved to play with my little Tonka cars on the floor of my Dad’s and Mom’s house. On one occasion, while rolling my cars around the living room, I found a bobby pin lying near the couch. I have no idea why I did it, but for some silly reason I took the bobby pin and stuck it in the nearby outlet. It did fit pretty well. But you know what happened, don’t you? That’s right! I got the charge of my life!

Go ahead and laugh—it’s okay. But I tell you what! This boy has never stuck another bobby pin in an outlet. I’ve never even considered the idea! In fact, I think—if I was asked what I think—I think that all bobby pins should be melted into special hair bands that will never fall out of any girl’s hair! And I think that all electrical outlets (black ones, white ones, and tan ones) should be mounted head-high in every house!

The great lesson I learned, however, was that you cannot play with electricity. It will hurt you every time! From a biblical perspective, that is the message of our text. James tells us, “You cannot play with sin. It will hurt you every time!” I feel I should underline this warning in this meditation. Perhaps some heart will be spared the pain that others have already experienced, the hurt that others have already felt.

*Playing with sin begins with a desire to please ourselves!* All sins issue out of self-centeredness. To name a few: pride is the desire for self-love; a longing for prestige and power is the desire for self-exaltation. Sexual sins are the results of careless desires for self-gratification. Hatred is the desire for self-preservation. Because of our desire to please ourselves, we can’t blame anyone but ourselves for our sins.

*Playing with sin always proves to be detrimental!* Notice the sequence of the key words in the text: “lust . . . sin . . . death.” Germination usually brings forth life. But as set forth in these statements, the germination of selfish desires always brings forth “sin.” Nothing wholesome ever develops from a desire to please ourselves. And the germination of sin, in whatever form sin takes, never produces blessing and life. It always brings forth “death.”

*Playing with sin has an alternative!* As the next verses instruct us, we do not have to “err” (1:16). Instead of looking to our wants, we must seek the good gifts which are “from above.” Instead of walking toward darkness, we must turn toward “the Father of lights.” Instead of trusting our changing desires, we must trust Him “with Whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (1:17). May the Lord enable us to do His will, not ours!