

KIRBSTONES

ALONG THE NARROW WAY

curb-stone (kûrb'stôn') - *noun* - one of the stones or a range of stones forming a curb, as along a sidewalk or roadway. Historically, the curbstones were placed vertically along the edges of the roadbed, and the paving material was backfilled against the row of curbstones. The curbstones served ^{to}to hold the material in the roadbed, ^{to}to prevent the scattering of the material along the edges, and ^{to}to define the road itself from all the adjoining areas.

09.2026 | #281

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT." - MATTHEW 7:13-14 - NIV



Several years ago, one of the most frightening messages a computer user could receive was that a virus had infected the hard drive. Without warning a machine designed to organize, communicate, create, and accomplish useful work began behaving in ways its designer never intended. Files became corrupted. Programs ceased running. Information disappeared. The computer become virtually useless.

I see a spiritual parallel. Sin affects the human heart much like malicious software affects a computer. *Neither one belongs there.* Both interfere with the created purpose of the host. Both can spread quietly before obvious symptoms appear. Both are far easier to prevent than to repair after extensive damage has been done. Consider the following:

(1) Sin redirects us from our created purpose. A computer virus causes a machine to perform tasks for which it was never designed. Sin does something similar to us. God created us to know, to love, and to serve him. We are to glorify God and reflect God's character in our lives. Sin redirects that purpose toward us and our lives.

Paul warns, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" Romans 12:2 - NIV

The culture of this world constantly attempts to reprogram us. Without realizing it, we can begin living according to its priorities instead of God's plan for us. Striving for success, possessions, popularity, pleasure, and personal preference can gradually replace Christ at the center of our lives.

(2) Sin corrupts the way we process life. A virus can cause a computer to misread information and produce unreliable results. Sin can distort our spiritual processing. Wrong begins to look right. Selfishness becomes self-fulfillment. Greed becomes ambition. Compromise becomes tolerance. Pride becomes self-confidence. Scripture warns:

"There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death" Proverbs 14:12 - NIV

One of sin's greatest dangers is that eventually we become comfortable with what once troubled our consciences. We become desensitized to sin, and we no longer recognize the corruption within our daily lives because we have learned to live with it.

(3) Unchecked sin can ultimately destroy, as the machine is virtually useless. Scripture uses equally sobering language concerning sin:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 6:23 - NIV

Sin always promises more than it delivers and ultimately costs more than we intended to pay. Here our analogy reaches an important limitation. A corrupted computer may sometimes be beyond repair, *but no human life is ever beyond the reach of God's redeeming grace.* In Jesus Christ, corruption does not have to have the final word. We have forgiveness, restoration, transformation, and new life.

(4) Sin overwrites God's good programming. Computers operate according to their programming. Replace enough good programming with corrupted code, and eventually the machine behaves according to the corruption.

That is why the psalmist asks, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word" Psalm 119:9 - NIV

God's Word reminds us who we are, whose we are, and how we were created to live. Scripture provides programming by which we evaluate our choices, priorities, relationships, and behavior. We cannot expect God's truth to shape our lives if we rarely allow it into our hearts and minds.

(5) Sin produces consequences that cannot be undone. God forgives completely when we genuinely repent, but forgiveness does not erase consequences. Relationships are damaged. Trust is destroyed. Families are wounded. Reputations are lost. Opportunities disappear.

Paul cautions us, "A man reaps what he sows" Galatians 6:7 - NIV

Prevention matters. We install security software on our computers. We update it. We avoid attachments. We protect passwords. We back up files. We watch carefully for anything that might threaten our systems.

Why would we exercise less vigilance with our souls? Our strongest protection is not isolation from the world, *but daily intimacy with Christ.* So guard your hard drive. More importantly, *guard your heart.* Examine what you allow into your mind. Keep God's Word running through your thoughts. Keep prayer connecting you to the One who created you. Recognize temptation before it becomes behavior and behavior before it becomes bondage. Keep Jesus at the center of your operating system.

Copyright © - 2026

Robert Wingfield Kirby III, D.Min.