Coming to Grips with Our Own Sins
(1 Samuel 15:1-4, 17-24)

Introduction: 1.   We are good at identifying sin, when it is someone else who sins.
                       2.   However, when it is our own sins, we often start looking for excuses to justify our actions, words, or thoughts.
                       3.   Self-deception keeps us from seeing our need to repent.
                       4.   This lesson is intended to make us aware of warning signs that frequently accompany self-deception.

I.   You Know You've Sinned When You Try to Justify What Is Unjustifiable
   A.   (1 Samuel 15:18-20).
   B.   Saul argued with Samuel that he had obeyed God when he hadn't.
   C.   Modern attempts...
       1.   I don't attend like I should, but God understands...
       2.   I can't help it, that's just the way I was raised…
       3.   I know I have a sharp tongue, but I could have much worse faults...
   D.   Saul learned, and so should we, that partial obedience is unjustifiable and unacceptable to God.

II.   You Know You've Sinned When You Want to Share Credit for Your Actions
   A.   (1 Samuel 15:21).
   B.   Remember Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:8-13).
   C.   When we are unwilling to take total responsibility for our actions, it's a pretty good sign we've done something wrong.

III.   You Know You've Sinned When You Give a Religious Spin to Your Disobedience
   A.   (1 Samuel 15:21).
   B.   Examples:
       1.   I don't go to church, but I watch religious programming on television.
       2.   I buy lottery tickets and gamble, but if I win, I intend to give much of it to the church.
       3.   I've been going to see an exotic dancer, but I think I about have her to go to church with me.
   C.   Don't bring God into your disobedience…own it!

IV.   You Know You've Sinned When You're More Concerned About How People Respond Than How God Responds
   A.   (1 Samuel 15:24).
   B.   Peer Pressure.
   C.   How often do we base our decisions upon what "people" think?

Conclusion: 1.   Don't defend, excuse, argue, get angry, or attempt to "spin" your way out of your sins.
                      2.   Rather humbly confess them, repent, and learn from your mistake   (2 Chronicles 7:14).