

Dealing With The Sin Our Lives #1

Why Christians Sin

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I. Introductory Remarks.

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

In this series of messages I want to talk about how we as Christians must deal with the sin in our lives. It's important for us to understand that becoming a Christian does not necessarily nullify the old nature, but rather introduces a new nature which wars against the old.

In this series of messages we will see that all Christians do sin, how God's grace keeps us in spite of our sin, what sin does to the Christian, how to receive God's forgiveness and cleansing and how to live a life of victory over sin. In this message today, I want to talk more specifically about "Why Christians Sin". But first, "What is sin"?

Sin is the transgression of a divine command meaning it is an act, the violation of, or want of obedience to the revealed Word of God. Sin is the denial of the divine right to command, representing lawlessness or spiritual anarchy. It is failure to attain to the divine standard otherwise known as missing the mark.

II. The Problem of Sin in the Christian.

1. All Christians Sin.

No matter who you are, even if you think you are the most perfect person that ever came forth, you still have sin in your life. All Christians do! No Christian can have day-by-day victory over sin and live the happy, joyful, triumphant life, until he or she faces the true facts about sin in their own nature, sin in his own life, what sin will do and what do about it. Remember what it says in Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

1 John 1:7-9 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ***If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in***

us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

According to Scripture, we now, present tense, have sin. All of us have sin in our hearts and lives. If we say we have not we are simply deceiving ourselves. To say that we have no sin is not the truth.

2. Every Christian Has Two Natures.

To better understand why Christians sin, we must understand the difference in the two natures we as Christian have. We have an old nature and a new nature. We are to put on the new nature while putting off the old nature.

Ephesians 4:22-24 *...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.*

What we have to understand is that these two natures war with each other and the sinful nature sometimes wins out over the new nature and thus we fall into the trap of sinful behavior as Christians. We see this struggle in Paul's writings to the Romans.

- **The two-fold nature is seen in Paul's writings.**

Romans 7:15-20 *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

When we were born into this world, we were born with a sinful nature that opposes the law of God. But when we are born again by the Spirit of God, we received a new divine nature that hates sin.

Paul talks about his struggle he went through on a daily basis with his sin nature. Notice he is using the present tense. This means when He wrote this letter to the Romans, this was still a struggle in his life. The very day Paul, by divine inspiration wrote this letter to the Romans he was compelled to admit that he still

had the old nature, still had the conflict, still had to buffet his body and fleshly nature. Paul had the mind or heart to serve the law of God, but he had the flesh and fleshly nature to continually pull him towards sin. It was a continuous struggle between the old and the new....

- **This two-fold nature is seen in John's writings as well.**

1 John 3:6-9 *Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*

This has always been a hard scripture to deal with. In the past I have looked at as not practicing sin, but I don't believe this is necessarily true, because I believe all Christians practice sin in one degree or another. I believe it is really talking about the two natures.

Does this mean that anybody whoever sins proves he has never known God or been saved? No! This means that the new nature, the born again nature, the new heart of the converted person cannot sin. The old man or nature sins, but the new man does not sin and cannot sin. Let's keep in mind that the new man's nature is to bring the old nature unto subjection and submission.

- **The example of Lot.**

2 Peter 2:7-8 *...and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed with the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)...*

Would you say that Lot did not practice sin when he stayed in that city all those years? All those years he was there he never influenced anyone towards righteousness, not even his only family. His own family couldn't even take him seriously when he told them of the impending judgment. They thought he was joking.

It would be right to say that no Christian can continue happy in sin. Lot's soul was vexed or oppressed. No Christian can continue in sin without rebuke and chastisement. What God is saying here in 1 John is that the new nature does not sin. The part that is born of God does not sin. It convicts our old nature that

is still in the process of being transformed.

3. Biblical Examples of Righteous People Who Sinned.

- **Lot was called a righteous man.**

As we have already seen, Lot is an example of a worldly Christian, who put money and business ahead of serving the Lord. You might say he was saved so as by fire. He lost everything but his soul.

He failed to win his wife, his children, his sons-in-law and the people of Sodom. He called the wicked, "brethren". He sinned by living a worldly life and yet he was called a righteous man.

- **David is a tragic example of a man who sinned.**

After David was redeemed by the Lord, a man after God's own heart, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write many of the wonderful psalms, he fell into gross sin. He committed adultery, and then tried to cover it up by having Bathsheba's husband murdered.

David suffered terribly for his sins. His baby died under the hand of God. Tamar, his daughter was raped by a half brother, Amnon. Absalom killed Amnon. Absalom tried to steal the throne from David and was killed. What a price David paid for his sins! God chastises every Christian who sins, yet Christians do sin, even as David did.

- **Peter Sinned.**

On the night before Jesus' death and crucifixion Peter swore, cursed and denied that He knew Jesus. He later quit the ministry and went back to the fishing business. Later on, after the Day of Pentecost, Peter compromised the truth, forcing the apostle Paul to rebuke him openly to his face. He was a saved man.

- **They were all convicted by their sin because of the new nature.**

Everyone one of these men had two natures. With the old nature Lot stayed in Sodom, made money, and let his family and the town go to hell in the midst of God's judgment. But the new nature within him rebuked him continually. David sinned, but his heartbroken cry for forgiveness in Psalm 51 shows how desperately his heart wanted to do right, and how sorry he was for his sin. The old nature leads a Christian into sin, but the new nature never lets a Christian be

happy in sin. When Peter heard the rooster crow as Jesus had predicted he went out and wept bitterly. He was a man who had a new nature and the new nature was grieved and shocked at the sin he had committed which cause him to weep bitterly and repent of it.

III. Concluding Remarks.

1 Peter 1:5 *...who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Just as it took God's grace to save us from our sins and bring us unto salvation, it takes His grace to keep us in this wonderful salvation. Saved by grace means we are also kept by grace.

Since every Christian still has the old nature, and since every Christian sins, whether or not they are conscious of any known sin, they are still deceiving themselves if they say they have no sin. Since every Christian is commanded to pray daily "forgive us our sins", then we conclude that God Himself must provide a salvation that includes His own perfect righteousness given freely to the undeserving sinner.

- **We Stand In The Righteousness of God.**

Romans 4:3 *For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

Hebrews 10:14 *For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

The above Scripture is a great Scripture. On one hand it shows how we have already been perfected because of the sin offering by Jesus on the cross and on the other hand it shows that our sin nature is still being sanctified. God sees us as perfected because we are standing in His righteousness and not our own.

Hebrews 4:15-16 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Romans 6:1-2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

We have seen that the Christians sins because he stills struggles with the old nature, but a true Christian has a new nature that is convicting Him of the sin in his or her life and moving them forward in God's grace and victory over sin.

Even though God's grace covers us this does not give us a license to continue in known sin. When we continue in sin without any conviction coming from the new nature, which is born after God, we should question ourselves as to whether the new man even exists. If it doesn't, then we have not known God.

In the next message I want to talk about the effects of sin upon the Christian. What happens when we do not respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to the new nature within us?