

“Why Christians Sin” - Dealing With Sin In Our Lives

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**
- Rather introduces **a new nature which wars against the old**.

1 John 2:1-2 NIV

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

In this message 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**.

I want to talk more specifically about **"Why Christians Sin"**.

But first, **"What is sin"**? ***"An immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law."***

Defining Sin – Let me give you a definition of sin.

Sin is any lack of conformity to the moral character of God or the law of God.

We sin by thinking evil, speaking evil, acting evil, or omitting good.

***The Problem of Sin in the Christian - All Christians Sin.**

- **No matter who you are you still have sin in your life**.
- **All** Christians do!
- ***No Christian*** can have victory over sin and live the **happy, joyful, triumphant life, until they face the true facts about sin**.....
- In their **own nature** -
- Sin in **their own life** -
- **What sin will do** and **what to 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 NIV

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify 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.

***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 NIV

²² You were taught, with regard to your ***former way of life***, to put off your old self, which is being ***corrupted by its deceitful desires***; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

What we have to understand is that these two natures war with each other

- The sinful nature sometimes wins out **over the new nature**
- Then **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 NIV

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

- When born into this world, we were ***born with a sinful nature!***
- 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 NIV

⁶No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

This has always been a hard scripture to deal with.

- 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 NIV

⁷and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless ⁸(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)

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 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.

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***

- He put money and business ***ahead of serving the Lord.***
- ***He lost everything but his soul.***

He failed to win his wife, his children, his sons-in-law and the people of Sodom.

- ***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 -***
- ***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 committed
- Which ***caused him to weep bitterly*** and ***repent of it.***

CLOSE:

1 Peter 1:5 NIV

⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is 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,

- 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 THEM 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, we should ***question ourselves as to whether the new man even exists.***

If it doesn't, then we have not known God.