

THE CHRISTIAN AND SIN

Introduction

- 1) All who are accountable to God have been tempted to **sin**, even Jesus (Matt. 4:1; Heb. 4:15)
 - a) Jesus overcame all temptations **without sin**, but all others have sinned (Rom. 3:23; Psa. 51:3)
- 2) A sin can be either an isolated incident or part of a pattern of apostasy (1 Cor. 10:12)
 - a) **Peter** – denied knowing Jesus in a circumstance of fear and intimidation (Matt. 26:69-75)
 - b) **Judas** – betrayed Jesus after plotting with His enemies for money (Matt. 26:47-50)
- 3) If a Christian is tempted and sins, what should he/she do? Can he/she please God again?

I) Why a Christian Falls into Sin

- A) Temptation (Jas. 1:14-15; Gal. 6:1 “overtaken”)
- B) Deception (2 Cor. 11:3-4; Jas. 5:19 “cause to go astray”)
- C) Lack of Faith (Lk. 8:13; Heb. 3:12 “heart of unbelief”)
- D) False Doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 3:17 “led away with the error of the wicked”)

II) What the Christian SHOULD NOT Do

- A) Excuse your sin: “Everybody does it,” “I’m only human,” “They made me do it,” etc.
- B) Think that God will never forgive (1 Jn. 1:9)
- C) Be consumed with much sorrow (2 Cor. 2:6-7)
- D) Reject truth and the need to repent (Titus 3:10-11)
 - 1) Danger of “searing” the conscience with evil; harden heart (1 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 3:13)

III) What the Christian SHOULD Do

- A) **Understand the danger of temptation and the serious nature of sin**
 - 1) Satan is constantly on the prowl to devour our souls in sin (1 Pet. 5:8)
 - 2) Sin is an insult to the holiness of God (Psa. 51:3-4; 1 Jn. 1:5-6)
 - 3) Unrepented sin will eventually separate us from God (Isa. 59:1-2)
- B) **Hear the love, rebuke, and tender leading back of God and brethren**
 - 1) Listen to God’s call to turn back to Him with all your heart (Joel 2:12-13)
 - a) God is full of mercy and lovingkindness (Psa. 51:1-2; Titus 3:4-7)
 - 2) Brethren want to restore you and turn you back to the truth (Jas. 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1-2)
- C) **Repent and confess your sins (Psa. 51:1-4, 17)**
 - 1) We will confess our sins when we are willing to **repent** and **change**
 - 2) We will confess our sins when we strive to walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:7, 9)
 - 3) Example of Simon (Acts 8:22-24)
 - 4) Be willing to forgive those who repent of sin against us (Matt. 6:12; Eph. 4:32)
- D) **Maintain steadfast faith in God and His will (Lk. 22:31-32)**
 - 1) Peter would fall to temptation and deny His Lord (vv. 54-62)
 - 2) Because his faith in Jesus did not fail, he returned and strengthened others

IV) What God Will Do

- A) Punish the unrepentant sinner (Heb. 10:26-27)
- B) Forgive the penitent sinner (1 Jn. 1:7, 9) – **never** doubt this divine promise (Eph. 1:7)
- C) Provide strength to help us overcome and receive the reward (1 Cor. 10:13; Jas. 1:12)

Conclusion

“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” (1 Jn. 2:1-2).

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (Psa. 32:1)

Bible passages that identify specific sins (1 Jn. 3:4)

Sin (hamartia) = missing the mark, fault, failure, evil deed

Lawlessness (anomia) = without law, iniquity, disobedience

1) **Galatians 5:19-21**

2) **Romans 1:22-32**

3) **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

4) **Proverbs 6:16-19**

6) **Titus 3:3**

7) **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

8) **Mark 7:20-23**

9) **1 Peter 4:3**

10) **Ephesians 5:3-5**

11) **Colossians 3:5-9**

12) **Revelation 21:8**

13) **James 4:17**

14) **Romans 14:23**

15) **Matthew 5:28**