

The Doctrine of Man - Part 12

Title: Sin and the Believer



How does God view sin in the life of his child?

God's dealings with our sin are among the blessings of salvation.

The repenting sinner is immediately and eternally saved from the penalty of sin (in the past), provided with victory over the power of sin (in the present), and guaranteed final removal from the presence of sin (in the future).

But what happens when the Christian fails to use the available power and falls into sin?

A. The fact of sin.

Let it be said up front that the one claiming sinless perfection ascribes to himself that which neither Paul, nor James, nor John claimed for themselves.

Charles Ryrie argues that sin persists even in the Christian:

Being a Christian does not free one from sinning. Of course there are some who teach eradication of the sin nature in this life, but the picture and doctrine of the New Testament seem to teach otherwise.

In fact, John mentions three false claims which people in his day made in this regard in **1 Jn 1:8-10**.

Verse 8 speaks of denying the presence of the principle of sin.

Verse 9 speaks of the denial of particular sins.

**Verse 10 speaks of the denial of personally sinning.
(A Survey of Bible Doctrine, Moody, 1995, p. 112)**

1 Jn 1:8-10 NLT:

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.

9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

B. The effect of sin.

The child of God immediately loses eight things upon sinning.
The ninth may be lost.

1. The loss of light.

1 Jn 1:6 NLT:

6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.

2. The loss of joy.

Ps 51:12 NLT:

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.

John 15:11 NLT:

11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Gal 5:22 NLT:

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

1 Jn 1:4 NLT:

4 We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.

3. The loss of peace.

There are two kinds of peace enjoyed by the believer.

The peace with God, enjoyed by all believers regardless of their spiritual condition.

Rom 5:1 NLT:

Faith Brings Joy

1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

b. The peace of God, enjoyed by only those believers living in the center of his will (**Phil 4:7**). This is the peace sin causes one to lose.

Phil 4:7 NLT:

7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

4. The loss of love.

1 Jn 2:5 NLT:

5 But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.

1 Jn 4:12 NLT:

12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

1 Jn 15-17 NLT:

15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

16 If you see a fellow believer sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life. But there is a sin that leads to death, and I am not saying you should pray for those who commit it.

17 All wicked actions are sin, but not every sin leads to death.

5. The loss of fellowship.

1 Jn 1:3 NLT:

3 We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 Jn 6-7 NLT:

6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.

7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

6. The loss of confidence.

1 Jn 3:19-22 NLT:

19 Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

20 Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything.

21 Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence.

22 And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

7. The loss of testimony.

1 Jn 3:9-10 NLT:

9 Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God.

10 So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.



8. The loss of rewards.

Heb 2:1 KJV:

1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

Heb. 10:35 KJV:

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

2 Jn 1:8 KJV:

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

9. The possible loss of health and even physical life.

1 Cor 11:30 NLT:

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.



C. The restoration following sin.

How can a “sinning saint” be restored to full fellowship?

In essence, he or she must know and apply both the means and the method of God’s cleansing and forgiveness.

1. The means is the blood of Christ.

1 Jn 1:7 NLT:

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

2. The method is the confession of the Christian.

1 Jn 1:9 NLT:

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



D. The preventives against sin.

1. The role played by the Word of God.

Ps 119:11 NLT:

11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart,
that I might not sin against thee.

John 15:7 NLT:

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 17:17 NLT:

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

2 Tim 3:16-17 NLT:

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.



The Bible will keep one from sin, or sin will keep one from the Bible.

The role played by the Son of God.

Luke 22:32 KJV:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

John 17:15 KJV:

5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Rom 8:34 KJV:

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Heb 7:23-25 KJV:

23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.



The role played by the Spirit of God.

Zech 4:6 NLT:

6 Then he said to me, “This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.

A. As seen through his praying ministry.

Rom 8:26 NLT:

26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.



B. As seen through his teaching ministry.

1 Cor 2:12 NLT:

12 And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

Is it possible for a believer to live a sinless life following his or her salvation?

This question also involves a yes and no answer.

A. Theoretically ... yes.

There is no doubt whatsoever that God provides the needed supernatural power for every Christian to defeat all his enemies, to conquer every temptation, to be victorious over every sin, to experience total and continuous spiritual success.

This power over sin is available and adequate.

Rom 6:1-14 NLT:

Sin's Power Is Broken

1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace?

2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?

4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.

6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God.

11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

1 Cor 10:13 NLT:

13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

1 Cor 15:57 NLT:

57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Phil 4:13 NLT:

13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.



B. Realistically ... no.

To boast of sinless perfection is to claim that which Paul, James, and John could not and would not claim for themselves.

1. Paul's testimony.

Phil 3:12 NLT:

Pressing toward the Goal

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

1 Tim 1:15 NLT:

15 This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all.

2. James's testimony.

Jas 3:2 NLT:

2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

3. John's testimony.

1 Jn 1:8 NLT:

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.



How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed