

# THE BELIEVERS NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH SIN

## INTRODUCTION

Our current study on hamartiology (doctrine of sin)

- Originally, in the garden of Eden, man was created perfect and held a perfect relationship and fellowship with God and each other. Man, before the fall, was **ABLE NOT TO SIN**, and perfectly reflected all of God's communicable attributes. (GENESIS 1 & 2)
- In Genesis 3 we see the fall of man as sin entered the world through Adam's disobedience to eat the forbidden fruit.
  - **Gen 3:6** - she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.
  - Now man is **NOT ABLE TO NOT SIN**
- SIN DEFINED:
  - Failure to conform to the standard of God (missing God's mark)
  - Rebellion against God (breaching God's relationship)
  - Lawlessness (rejecting God's law)
- SIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DOCTRINES
- THE ORIGIN OF SIN
  - Satan's sin of pride in heaven cast him from the presence of God, as he desired to usurp God's throne and wanted to be like the "Most High" (Is. 14 & Ezek. 28)
  - However, Scripture holds Adam ultimately responsible for sin entering into the world and spreading to all humanity, bringing with it the immediate consequences of death and separation from God.

Rom. 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Is. 59:2 **But** your iniquities have made a **separation** between you and your God,  
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.

- With sin came death and separation with God, along with a host of other **consequences** upon the human race from the curse of sin that continues to this day and only continues to get worse. We already started looking at some of those consequences last time and will continue to explore more of them in the coming weeks, but for our time tonight, I wanted to look at **sin from a redeemed person's perspective**, and see how as one who is saved by grace through faith, we now have a different and new relationship with sin as we live out our christian lives.
- Man has a sin nature that results in wickedness, transgression and iniquity, and his **greatest need** is to be forgiven and restored to a right relationship and perfect fellowship with God, just as Adam and Eve enjoyed before the fall.
- But thanks be to God that **He can and will** forgive and restore sinners, because of who He is and what He has done.
  - Exodus 34 **6** Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; **7** who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, **who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin**; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."
  - Matt 8:2 - "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."  
<sup>3</sup> Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "**I am willing; be cleansed.**"
  - Rom. 5:8 - **8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- It is only **by God's grace** that sinners can be reconciled to God through faith in Christ (who is the seed in Gen. 3:15 who was to be the promised Savior that would crush the serpent's head and put an end to sin.)

Eph. 2 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins... and were by nature children of wrath... <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ ...<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

THEREFORE, Having been saved by grace through faith, the Bible says that all believers now have **freedom from sin**. Freedom from the penalty of sin (in their initial justification), from the power of sin (in their ongoing sanctification), and from the presence of sin (in their future glorification).

It is because believers are freed from the power of sin that they can and will **respond and deal differently** with sin than when they were still dead in their sins. Even though true believers are cleansed from sin, forgiven by God and reconciled to a genuine fellowship with Him, they **still live in this body of sin** and have to deal with their remaining sinfulness for the rest of their lives.

One of the evidence of the character of true saving faith and whether a person has genuine fellowship with God is how that person **deals with sin** in their life.

**So we will look at 3 ways that true believers, who have a genuine fellowship with God and union with Christ, have a new relationship with sin.**

This is not an exhaustive list for sure and it must be remembered that this new relationship **began by God's grace** in salvation and will only **continue by God's grace** as He works out our salvation. God has done it all and He will keep doing it all in each of our lives.

# 1. True Believers are dead to sin and Alive to God

## ➤ Romans 6 Context: ch. 5:20-6:2

<sup>20</sup> The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! **How shall we who died to sin still live in it?**

## ➤ There is a newness of life for the sinner who has been regenerated **vs. 4&5**

- New creature in Christ - 2 Cor 5:17
- Laying aside the old man and putting on the new man - Eph 4

## ➤ No longer slaves of sin **vs. 6**

## ➤ But freed from sin's bondage and control **vs. 7**

- Sin's reign of tyranny is over. We no longer have to submit to sin or obey what sin says or desires. That doesn't mean that we will no longer sin, but it does mean that we will **fight** with our flesh and **war** with our unredeemed humanness until the Lord takes us home. It means we are able, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to **resist** sin and the devil, where we were not able to before regeneration.

## ➤ When someone says "you are dead to me" they are saying that they want nothing to do with them anymore. That is what we need to say about sin, "Sin is dead to me and I am dead to sin" and live that way for the rest of our lives.

- - **11 Even so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, <sup>13</sup> and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present

yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. <sup>14</sup> **For sin shall not be master over you**, for you are not under law but under grace.

- **It is like** if we were a slave of an awful master and we received papers of freedom but did not or could not read them, or we are told the good news that we are free but we didn't believe the news. And we show up to serve the master the next day and the next, continuing to endure his harsh treatment. Why would we want to keep doing that!
- We are Alive to God and slaves of a new master - the one who has freed us from sin's penalty, power and will one day free us from sin's presence as well.

1. True Believers are dead to sin and Alive to God

## **2. True Believers are Aware of sin and Confess to God**

### **1 John**

Context: The Apostle John writes this letter outlining several tests or evidences of true saving faith and genuine fellowship with God so that one may have assurance that they are truly born of God. His purpose of the letter is in chapter 5:13 - **13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

### **1 John 1:5 -10**

- Here we see that we are freed from the power of sin in its **deluding influence and deception.**
- Satan is the great deceiver and perpetrates himself as the angel of light. "God is Light" as it says here in 1:5 and "in Him there is no darkness at all"
- As true believers, who are children of God and born of God, as John puts it, We walk in light.
  - Col. 1:13 - <sup>13</sup> He has **rescued us from the domain of darkness**, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- I Peter 2:9 - <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you **out of darkness into His marvelous light**;

➤ We are No longer always **deceived** about the sin in our life, but now able to **speak the truth** about our sin.

➤ No longer always **hiding** from God, like Adam and Eve did when they sinned trying to avoid their sinfulness being exposed, but able to walk in the light of the truth wanting to **expose** the unfruitful works of darkness in ourselves.

- John 3:19-21 - <sup>19</sup> This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds **will be exposed**. <sup>21</sup> But he who **practices the truth comes to the Light**, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

➤ No longer are we spiritually **blind** to our sin, but able to **see** the wickedness of our hearts as God searches and knows us, bringing them to our attention. - Ps. 139:23&24

1 John 1:9 - <sup>9</sup> If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 13:10 - "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean;

➤ **Confessing** sin involves agreeing with God about our sin and saying the same thing that God says about.

- Confession is not just admission of sin but it is a declaration of truth - which is to say the same thing that God says because God is truth (MacArthur study bible)

- No longer always pridefully **denying** the existence of a sin nature or pridefully **refusing to admit** that we have sinned, v. 8 & 10
  - But humbly **recognizing** the sin that we have committed when confronted by God and continually confessing it and seeking continual forgiveness and cleansing from our sin.
  - Example: **Rich young man** (Matt 19) - Jesus exposed his heart by showing that he loved the world and the things in the world
  - **The Publican** (Luke 18) - Showed a humble and contrite heart that God does not despise.

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2. True Believers are Aware of sin and Confess to God

### 3. True Believers are Forsaking sin and Obedient to God

Proverbs 28:13 - He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper,  
But he who confesses and **forsakes** them will find compassion.

Here we see the freedom from the power of sin **in our hearts** as we, like the Thessalonians, “turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.” 1 Thess 1:9

- **Forsaking** involves a turning from, an abandoning, a renouncing, a leaving behind, and a giving up of something valued or pleasant. Aka: Repentance
- We no longer **love** our sin as we once did and desire to hold on to it, but we come to **abhor** (or strongly hate) the sin we see in ourselves and desire to be **rid** of it all together.
  - 1 John 2:1 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. - dissuaded to sin
  - And if anyone sins, (we have support) we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup> and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.



- Rom 7:15, 24 - for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very **thing I hate**. <sup>24</sup> **Wretched man that I am!** Who will set me free from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- Rom 12:9 - **Abhor what is evil**; cling to what is good.

➤ No longer are we always failing to conform to God's standard (which is walking in darkness guided by unbelief and misled by error), but instead by the Spirit working in us we are able to **maintain a course of action** conforming to the will of God and what is pleasing in His sight.

- Eph. 5:8-10 - <sup>8</sup>for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), <sup>10</sup> **trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord**.
- Remember Enoch and Noah walked with God

➤ No longer are we only practicing lawlessness with no conviction over rejecting God's law, but now we are able to turn from sin to pursue **righteousness as the new habit** of our lives.

- 1 John 3 - <sup>4</sup>Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness..... <sup>7</sup> Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who **practices righteousness** is righteous, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup> the one who practices sin is of the devil;
- Romans 6 - <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became **slaves of righteousness**.



## **We forsake sin and then we obey - We put off and then we put on.**

- We have a new relationship with the commands of God in His word, and we are now able to **keep the commands** of God, which is another evidence that the Apostle John brings out of someone who has genuine fellowship with God and is not just a pretending false believer.

- 1 John 2:3-6

- John is saying that True believers have as a pattern of behavior and a habitual practice - a life of **loyal obedience** - and that this is a test of how we know that we are in Him and love Him.

- John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
- 1 John 5 - 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. - They become a joy and a blessing

- 1 John 2:7-11

- Here True believers are able to keep the commands of God by following the command of our Lord to **love one another**.

- John 13 - 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**, even as I have loved you, that you also **love one another**. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love for one another**."

- Our new relationship with sin is seen in our new relationship with God's commands and God's people. We are able to forsake sin's commands to obey **acts and attitudes** of hate, anger, rage, jealousy, bitterness, resentment, unkindness and a lack of compassion for others.
- We **demonstrate our genuine fellowship** with God through our love for one another.
  - 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have **fellowship with one another**,

- We **demonstrate our love for God** by loving those whom God loves.
  - 1 John 3 - 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we **love the brethren**. He who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart <sup>th</sup>against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.
  
- We are **most like Him** in this life when we are loving, serving, sacrificing for and forgiving one another.
  - Ephesians 4 - 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.  
5:1 **Therefore be imitators of God**, as beloved children; 2 and **walk in love**, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
  
- May we like Paul, keep pressing on to this **goal of Christ-likeness**, knowing that we have not attained to yet, but that we strive for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus - Philippians 3

Example of how True believers deal differently with sin than unbelievers.

#### KING SAUL'S SIN CONFRONTED BY SAMUEL - 1 Sam 15:13-31

- ❖ Denied having sinned and is deceiving himself (1 Jn. 1:8)
- ❖ Didn't take responsibility for not obeying, but blamed others to focus the attention off himself.
- ❖ There was no heart change, but just told Samuel what he wanted to hear to keep from the punishment and consequences of his sin.
- ❖ No concern about dishonoring God by rejecting his word, but just concerned about honoring himself before men.
- ❖ Life thereafter showed a continued slavery to sin.

## KING DAVID'S SIN CONFRONTED BY NATHAN - 2 Sam 11:1-12:23

- ❖ Immediately recognizes and confesses his sin.
- ❖ Takes responsibility for the evil that he did and willingly accepts sins consequences.
- ❖ His highest concern was honoring God and restoring his relationship with Him.
- ❖ Life afterward showed a faithfulness to love and honor God demonstrating his life in God.

## CONCLUSION

As True believers who have been saved by grace through the gift of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we now have the Holy Spirit residing in our hearts enabling us to have a new relationship with sin. We have been freed from sin's penalty and we can be freed from sin's power as we consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God, having a growing awareness of our sin and confessing it to God, and being faithful to forsake our sin and live a life of obedience to God.

Our hope as true believers is that there will be a day when we will finally be free from the presence of sin.

1 John 2 - **25** This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life..... **28** Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1 John 3 - See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.