



Scriptures and Doctrine :: CARNAL Christians

CARNAL Christians - posted by GraceAlone (), on: 2007/1/20 18:08

Does anybody here believe in the "Carnal Christian" idea which means that somebody can be habitually living in sin and yet be saved?

I'm just wondering...

Re: CARNAL Christians, on: 2007/1/20 22:10

Sure. John Newton for example. Writer of Amazing Grace. He remained a slave trader for four years after he was saved because he simply was not convicted that this was sin. Once he realized his sin, he repented, and wrote the song Amazing Grace. He tore people from their husbands and wives and children and felt like this was right. Some people have habits after salvation that they struggle with their whole life, not because they were not saved, but because they are still living in the flesh and the flesh is sinful.

Charles Spurgeon loved to have a cigar and drink wine for years in his ministry and thought nothing of it. The only reason he quit doing it was because he didn't want his brother to stumble. He still didn't think there was anything wrong with it.

J-bird

Re: CARNAL Christians - posted by Logic, on: 2007/1/20 22:27

Quote:

GraceAlone wrote:

Does anybody here believe in the "Carnal Christian" idea which means that somebody can be habitually living in sin and yet be saved?

I'm just wondering...

1John proves this to be not so.

Not to mention **Hebrews 10:26** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,
This excludes the ones who "didn't know it was a sin" because **Hebrews 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; **but exhorting one another**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

When, as a body (congregation) we are to walk in the light, as he is in the light, there, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1John 1:7

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/1/21 1:51

i dont remember who said it but....

ive seen as many carnal christians as i have seen holy pagans....

Re: CARNAL Christians, on: 2007/1/21 3:42

Dear GraceAlone, brother or sister, (forgive me, I don't know your name, I'd like to)

I struggle. I struggle mightily. My brother Mike Balog, whom I love dearly in the Lord, though I have not seen his face, nor heard his voice, (yet) I've noticed has been consistently hitting on the point of "honesty", and in that spirit, and heart space, I write this post to you and any others of this Church. (and it IS a Church)

I struggle mightily. I'll just give you a couple of examples in confession, I won't get too explicit, coz this is not the appropriate venue, but I will be honest.

When I was saved, almost five years ago, a week after confessing Christ, God laid it on my heart, to quit tobacco, cigarettes, and after service I went up to a dear elder, and said "Gerry, lay hands on me and pray this awful addiction out of me", and he laid hands on me and prayed. It was a miracle, I felt my lungs clear. I hugged him, thanked him, praised the Lord and walked out to my car, it was a Sunday, and right there in middle compartment, a pack of Pall mall filters, I longed at them, oh so longingly, and then God said, "Neil, this brother just poured himself out in MY Power, and you want to smoke? get yourself right now to the Rite Aid and buy some nicotine gum..now.

I did, and within a month I no longer needed the gum, or cigarettes. It was Jesus working in me.

Fast forward, to the summer of 06, this last summer. As many of you know, I was blessed with a great success, a play, in Chicago. I say that not to boast, because it was God that gave me the play, gave me the favor of man. The only dark part is that my son lives in California, and though he flies back and forth, our time is precious, it is short, and I miss him so much, because he is my beautiful boy, and one of my favorite guys to hang out with, he also walks with Jesus. and in the summer of 06, he spent three beautiful weeks with me, we went to ball games, we slept in, he saw my show, numerous times, he was so proud of daddy, we had so many great conversations, and hugs and love, and then one day, he flew back to California, and I stood at that airport window and wept. I cannot even convey with words how empty I felt, I tried to lean on Jesus, but I was groping in the morass of my sorrows.

I walked out of the airport, and into my car, we were in the midst of an unnatural heat wave that lasted for three weeks, and I drove back to the theater to do the nights show. I turned on the radio, and heard the first news of Hiz'boallah raining rockets down on Israel, hundreds of rockets. I'm a Jew saved by Grace, a follower of Messiah Jesus, and to a Jew, Israel has a special place in our hearts, its another thing I can't convey in human words.

Literally at that point, it felt like the end of the world, and I was empty, I was wretched, crying, I didn't even turn the air conditioning on, I opened the windows and let the oven bake me as I drove the expressway back into Chicago.

I reached the theater, got out, and some of my fellow cast members were standing out back smoking cigarettes. You can feel where this going, can't you? They don't know God, but I love them anyway, I love them deeply, and I turned to one, and said, "could you give me a smoke?" He said, "no Neily". I said, "please, I'm an adult, I don't need a parent, I just need a cigarette".

I KNOW that's a terrible witness, but I smoked that cigarette, and after the show bought a pack. Terrible conviction came over me. After that pack, I prayed, bought the gum, backslid again, called my mentor, my pastor and confessed, he said, "you will destroy yourself...please stop".

The Holy Spirit was saying the same thing to me, but back and forth I went, and right now, in the early morning hours of 21 January, after my work, I have a burning cigarette as I type this.

Its just terrible, its Romans 7, "what I don't want to do, I do"...."oh what a wretched man I am".

I didn't outline the events of that day as an excuse. I loathe excuses, its the vocabulary of the weak, but I am weak, and under terrible conviction of sin.

May I share one more confession?

Just the other day, one of the more immature members of the theater company got front page coverage in the newspapers boasting about how much money my show has made, and gave actual dollar figures, and he did this, because he is mounting a show in our other theater space, its a storefront theater, and the money my show has made is unheard of. B

ut I know full and well, it's been a God thing. I never would have known this, because I dont read the papers, except for the internet NY Times, just to peruse the headlines. Most of my time is spent in Bible study when i awake, and then writing.

My dear business partner called me with this info; and I went ballistic. I used language I havent used since I got saved, and it was awful. I was SO angry that not only was proprietary business info blasted out to the public, but the boasting by this man who is in leadership within the theater. I spoke awful foul language and in an instant, I was grief stricken by this foul outpouring and anger from my heart and my mouth. After I vented, I said, "Oh my God, please forgive me", then i said to my dear partner, "please please forgive me for that language".

A terrible witness, He said, "its okay".

It wasnt, but than I asked God to remove this anger from my heart, and when I went back to the theater, i didnt breathe a word of foulness, i did tell the other leadership in the theater that this was unwise, and they also were dismayed and crossed with this man, but again, nobody said anything, we let it drop.

But my grief and my sin, was that it even poured forth in the first place. Why? God answered my prayer that I was able to let it go, and tonight I kissed this man on the cheek, coz it was the opening of his new play and whispered into his ear, I'm very proud of you".

was that a lie? No. I was proud that he was able to open a new show. He's not just some man, he's my son's uncle, my family, and before the show, he asked me privately, "you weren't happy with the interview?" in the past, it would have been a huge nasty argument, as i would have let my anger pour forth, but Jesus gave me the Grace and the wisdom to say, very gently, "No, its not that, I just don't think we should be talking to the press about our financial accomplishments or situation, thats all". he nodded, and that was it.

there was no fight, no rancor. Jesus intervened.

But I struggle, and i contend, and I am working out my own salvation with fear and trembling. I fear God, I revere God and I love God, and i want to be an obedient son of His.

This walk with Christ is not easy, I dont have to tell any of you of that, we all know it.

Thank you so much for staying with this long post, God bless you for loving me in that way, and let me tell you, I covet your prayers, please don't judge me too harshly.

again I say, I covet any and all of your prayers

meek and broken, neil

Re: CARNAL Christians - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2007/1/21 10:12

the corinthians fell into carnality, but paul rebuked them, and later on they did repent. even though they were carnal, paul still called them christians and treated them still as God's people.

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

so, i believe that christians can fall back into carnality, but to stay there would be a danger.

Romans 8:5-8

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/1/21 10:36

how is it possible to live in rebellion to God and in the same time be saved?

Re: carnal christian - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2007/1/21 14:51

I truly don't know the answer to this, I thought I once did.

Neil, thank you brother for your honesty and your humility. I am moved.

I say that I 'once thought I knew the answer' to some of these questions until my own life has taken some turns that I never thought would exist. I have been faced with situations and trials, etc.. that I once thought I would know exactly how I would react and how I thought I 'should' react- and it didn't happen that way. Was I disappointed? yes. broken? yes. humbled? yes. discouraged? yes.

Like Neil, I can say that there are things that have come out of my mouth or things I have done in this past 6 months (under great trial, I might add) that I so agonized over, "What a horrible witness! What have I done? Why did I say that? My heart stinks with pride!" A couple of years ago, I would have said that I was far beyond this - that I had grown spiritually beyond this. But again, I had not been hit with the kind of trials that I have been hit with this past two years yet.

All I can say is that when these times come, when you fail at being that 'perfect' christian that you thought you could or should be -you realize that you don't deserve much of anything- yet under all that somewhere you know that Christ does love you and prays for you. **You realize how much more you need Christ, how much more you need His grace and mercy. You appreciate that cross like never before.**

I thought once that i could live in total surrender at all moments, at all hours, under all circumstances- no matter what. I was convinced that I was capable of being something other than human. But we are still human- though we have Christ living in us. We are not gods.

I probably shouldn't continue on, I will only get myself in more trouble. All I can say is that unless you have walked in someone's shoes, you can't say what you would do- because you just don't know.

This reminds me again of the "Blessedness of Winter" by Guyon that Joy (Roniya) posted. https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=14139&forum=34#109011

When we are under pressure, when we are being squeezed by great trials, we never know what will come out. At least I didn't. Yucky things come out for all to see. Things that you didn't know you had in your heart- anger, rebellion, unknown strongholds, etc... But it is all a process- a refining process.

So much for 'not going on' ;-)

Broken and humbled as well, Chanin

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/1/21 15:06

i should rephrase that question, from how.... to
is it possible?

i just came out of an enormous struggle, it was too big for me ever to manage, the pure grace and mercy of God got me through, i told things i'm ashamed of, i did things i'm ashamed of, so many times i've cried to God -it's enough! come back or take me home lord.... i can't take it any more, sometimes so broken over my sins and so grieved over what i've done to him, i don't know what else to do just to go down on my knees and just beg for mercy, cry for help,

but that's the difference i think, if you are not fighting and struggling against it, then we are in rebellion.... my fight is to try and stop the "rebellion" kill it, get it crucified.... sometimes it feels like i'm hanging there up on the cross but one arm is still free and tries to escape to continue this wicked carnal lusts and behaviors,

i like what David Brainerd writes, the only thing i ever did even on the best of my days was to try and get away from God, everything is from him.... and such a merciful and kind and loving God who would do what he did for a man such as me.. .. he is worth it all, every struggle every pain, every thing i have to forsake, every thing i have to leave behind...it's all worth it for him

i press on...

Re: the arrows of the Almighty - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/1/21 16:42

Hi everyone.

I can empathize with both Neil and Chanin.

Brother Neil, I too was addicted to cigarettes and to my great shame, I held on to the addiction, not for a month or two, but for nearly two years after my conversion. I say held on because I kept smoking and I think I had gotten it into my mind that it was somehow tolerated? because as far as I had decided, God had not given me the strength to quit, as if the burden for my quitting them was His responsibility and whatever the case I was not justified in smoking. I kept crying to God; nothing. Or so it seemed?

Then one morning the pastor began to rebuke the habit from the pulpit and it was as if it was a sword thrust right at me. I confessed this to him later and he said he had no idea and did not have anyone in mind. I was crushed. It hurt deeply and I think I was angry with God for sure. I laid on the couch for probably about two days in anguish. I quit them. And it hurt.

Then after this, or perhaps around the same time, I noticed a pain within my chest, right in the center. It was not physical and it seemed to get worse and worse. Well, that was maybe 3 or 4 years ago now and the pain is still with me. I have no idea what it is except that I do not at all believe it is physical, but rather emotional or some such. I can not even describe it except that it is dull..almost gnawing, even that may not be a right description. It is not constant but comes and goes, often while I'm at work, making work very difficult to endure.

This is why I can also empathize with Chanin. During this same time I have lost the awareness of the presence of God. One night I remember having fallen asleep, kneeling, with my face buried in couch, which is the manner in which I usually pray, and I was awakened by the lyrics to a song being played on the radio. It is a contemporary song by Mark Schultz called 'He will carry me'. It was the words in the chorus in particular where it says

And even though
I feel so lonely
like I have never
felt before
He never said
it would be easy
but You said You'd see
me through the storm.

And those words capture so much. I remember the Bishop of the Church we attended saying from the pulpit, before we moved away, how the sorest trial you can face is the absence of the presence of God. I believe it.

Well, that's where I'm at. I so understand what Chanin means about things being brought out you had no idea where there. Thinking... grasping... for the hidden purposes of God in all this, I think as much as anything it could be to reduce me to nothing in my own eyes. Which is the way it should be.

I think I know a bit of what Job was saying here when he cried

...the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit

God is good. God is just. God is just in His dealings with me.

But I can tell you, that confession is much harder to make with your heart when you are in pain.

Patently, by God's grace, yours,

Christopher Joel Dandrow

Re: CARNAL Christians - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/1/21 17:24

This thread has brought tears to my eyes. Thank you all for your honesty. I will never, while on this Earth, understand all the things of the Bible, but I know it is a fight at times. I remember hearing a song by Derek Webb that says "welcome to the struggle" in it. How true.

God bless

TJ

Re: - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2007/1/21 17:31

Quote:

-----how is it possible to live in rebellion to God and in the same time be saved?

what do you think of the corinthians?

theres mention here going thru trials. trials and falling into sin is different. God allows trials to come our way that we would see our need to be more dependent on Him and make us more genuine in the Lord (2 cor.1:9, 1 peter4:12-13)

if we fall into habitual sin that is our fault, we choose to do so, the Lord did not bring that upon us, but He did give us promises to hold onto, knowing that nothing is too hard for God in helping us to overcome.

i believe that a genuine christian can fall back to habitual sin just like the corinthians, galatians, and laodiceans and in need to cry out for repentance again just like the corinthians, galatians, and laodiceans.

Re: the value of failures - posted by rosign (), on: 2007/1/21 20:33

I immensely dislike this expression "carnal Christian". We toss it around like a quick diagnosis for those who are not shiny and clean. Really we are just playing spiritual doctor on others, without a clue what we are talking about. Let's not make boxes to fit people into.

Remember, it is when we are looking and feeling the finest spiritually, that we ourselves may be "carnal" - that is dependent on our own righteousness. On the other hand, when we are fallen badly, we are most aware of our wretchedness. We are closest to the ground, and that is a move towards Jesus.

Christians tend to have an aversion to failure. They hate anything that is messy and unwhitewashed. They descend like vultures on those who are messing up, those who toss out a cuss word, have a temper tantrum, smoke a cigarette. They wag their fingers. They shame. They scold. They toss Bible verses. But they fail to see that God himself has been sifting the sinner, refining his faith, and making it stronger.

Neil, Chanin, and really all of us: Each failure is not necessarily a step backwards, but a step forward! Whenever a temptation or trial causes another layer of righteousness to fall away, we behave wretchedly. How can we not! The temptation came when we didn't expect it. Think of Peter when he denied Christ. Peter was being sifted, an important process in the preparation of his future ministry as an apostle. Jesus did not scold him, but prayed for his faith!

God could protect us from falling if he wanted. But that doesn't mature us. Our failures are necessary, and if we can accept that in each other, then we can participate in God's program rather than work against it.

We have many Biblical examples of spiritual heroes whose failings were the very thing that brought good. Ex the sin of Joseph's brothers turned out for their good. Just look at the beautiful psalmody that proceeded from David after his failure. What about Moses' intercessions, Abraham's supreme sacrifice, etc.

From No Rival Love: "In each successive test, God required Abraham to make a further break with some natural desire of his own will." by D. Small

Diane

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/1/21 20:46

I wonder about this as well. I think too about how there have been times where I have so grieved my Lord by a sinful action, or word spoken. Then I think about how I deal with the conviction that comes.

I think this word conviction is what separates the Christian from the non Christian. I know that before I called Christ Lord, and was born into the Kingdom, there was no conviction for much of what I cannot even think of doing now. Why? Because His seed is in me.

I wrestle to understand just how sanctified a person may be this side of eternity, I truly believe there is a work of God's Spirit that enables a person to be holy in thought, action, and deed. Sadly though I have yet to come to this point.

Then again I think of that passage in Hebrews where it says, "whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." I wonder why would He need to chasten His child if there was nothing left that was unlike Himself, as it goes on to say that the chastisement is to make us partakers of His holiness.

For me I would be concerned if I could sin without conviction, as the very conviction drives me to His feet, and helps me to understand just how much grace I am in need of, and how dangerous it is when I think I have everything together.

I am in no way condoning sinful behaviour from Christians, but I have yet to meet anyone who in a practical and real sense with all honesty can say they do not sin at all.

Let's not turn this into a duel of scripture, but rather maybe those among us who have gone into the blessing could share some of their experiences prior to and after the blessing, then we who lag behind could be strengthened to "catch up" by His grace.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/1/21 20:52

I also struggled with smoking for almost a year after coming to Christ.

But a brother lovingly asked me to think about how it would look to people around me, how it might cause more harm than good to those I was sharing with etc., and by the sheer mercy and grace of God was I able to stop.

Every so often out of nowhere a desire comes to smoke, and it is a battle not to, but the Spirit mortifies the deed, and I go on.

Neil you will be in my prayers

Re: - posted by Mattie, on: 2007/1/21 21:21

Paul in almost every single letter warns churches of the possibility to stray from truth and to disobey. Christians are capable of straying - plain and simple.

We have to settle the issue that when a Christian is saved he has the Holy Ghost but also flesh attached to him that must be overpowered each day by the indwelling Life. Some have the idea that when we are saved we no longer have a flesh anymore. This is contrary to the Bible. Day by day we must fully depend on God to live this life. No confidence in the flesh whatsoever

Re: - posted by Christin角度 (), on: 2007/1/22 3:25

For the Christian, this flesh has been quickened so when it is planted in the ground as a corn of wheat it will bring forth the fruit of the owner of the field it is planted in, to bring forth fruit for the intended Owner, which is the Seed of Christ sown by The Sower our Father, God.

The flesh on this earth can never be perfect, but it can be controlled by or crucifying it daily and carrying the Cross that saves us, that is The Cross of Christ. Where is the Cross carried? It is carried in the Spirit of Christ that has been born again in our hearts and by Christ baptizing us into the Holy Spirit. Then His burden is light.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: CARNAL Christians - posted by rookie (), on: 2007/1/22 3:37

Sister Kristy asked:

Quote:
-----Does anybody here believe in the "Carnal Christian" idea which means that somebody can be habitually living in sin and yet be saved?

Paul exhorts the Corinthians...

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

Paul is teaching that "babes in Christ" have not yet learned to listen to the Spirit. Paul points to the fact that most of the Corinthians still look to men for direction. He is not necessarily teaching that the christian who remains subject to the carnal mind is "habitually living in sin" but that these "babes in Christ" have not yet come to rely on the Spirit for their daily sustenance.

Paul teaches that these christians have not yet come to understand the Spiritual life.

How many of us claim we are under Calvin, Arminius, Luther, Wesley, or Augustine? There is very little other men can do to wean other believers from their dependence upon their own carnal mind. We must all come to be dependent upon the Spirit for our daily living water.

In Christ

Jeff

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2007/1/22 3:53

In terms of overcoming sin...

My one friend smoked for many years, and then he came to the Lord. He experienced a powerful conversion under the AOG denomination. He testified that God also healed him of smoking and talked about how the Holy Spirit cleaned his lungs out in a moments time. He tried to smoke two days later and became sick. For about a year he went without smoking. Then came a time of stress where he started smoking again.

This man still loves the Lord greatly...

The second friend also had a powerful conversion. He was a punk rocker doing speed and alcohol. The day of his conversion he no longer had a desire for anything that would alter his physiological condition. He no longer wanted to get high. Ten years later this is still true. Yet my friend struggles in different areas of his life that were not immediately transformed by our Savior.

This man still loves his Lord...

I myself have grown over the last ten years...but the last three have been like Peter when he got out of the boat to meet Jesus who was walking on water. As the seas began to boil around Peter...he took his eyes off of Jesus and began to sink into the water...

This section of Scripture was given to me a week before the last 3 years started...I thought I knew what it was about back then...yet I am still learning that lesson...

Just some thoughts about how some believers are learning day by day...

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2007/1/22 10:53

Galatians 5:21

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who **practice** such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 3:3

for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

James 3:16

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

some verses to help us to see what sin is. like for example, a lot of people would not think that practicing sin like envy is a terrible thing (man's opinion), but by scripture it is.

thru God we are able to overcome these things, where we are not in daily practice of it. not that pride does not show up here and there, but it should not be a daily practice if we say we are truly abiding in God.

for example, some christians think that you can't get rid of jealousy. that is part of you. i believe that is wrong. i use to be full of jealousy. jealousy is so evil, its like hate, and hate is like murder. a person can not abide in the Lord if they are in practice of jealousy all the time. God broke me from this, now i can say that i do not have this sin. it is not a PRACTICE in my life, but it may rise up a little at times, and thats when i quickly go to Jesus and confess before Him and he cleanses me from it before it gets to a habit (1 john 1:9), and so i go on and walk clean before Him again.

so the corinthians truly fell into sin, but they repented later.

Re:, on: 2007/1/22 11:29

Quote:
-----Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

Does anyone hear the Spirit regarding this passage?

We've been told by our Pastors and Teachers that this is talking about wilfully sinning some sin in your past life or some other sin. This has nothing to do with what Paul was writing here...nothing!!!

Paul was talking about the Jews going back under the Law. Remember, this letter called Hebrews was exclusively written to the Jews of his day. We benefit from it by not following after the same error as the Jews by trying to live out our own righteousness instead of the righteousness that is obtained only by Faith in what Jesus Christ did on the cross. Our standards, legalism, dress codes, etc.. have no bearing on your righteous standing before God. These other things are your own personal convictions and should not be pushed on others.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Don't be afraid of the free grace that has been given to us. We make the mistake that grace alone is my license to sin. Not so, shall we sin that grace may abound? God forbid, how shall we who are dead to sin live any longer therein? Let us enjoy the full benefits of the grace of God as dead men.

Many Jews at that time were "falling away" which means that they were "Falling from grace" and going back under the law. This would have been considered a slap in God's face in saying that Christ's sacrifice was not enough, to renew them a gain to repentance is not possible for Christ was crucified once not twice nor three times.

Hebrews 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE for all.

Many Christians have wilfully sinned at one point or another. You felt the LORD speaking to you not to argue with your wife, but you wanted to anyway, you wilfully disobeyed the LORD.

The dictionary says this: Willfully suggests a stubborn persistence in doing what one wishes.

Now come on folks, how many of us have been stubborn in something? That we just didn't want to forgive so and so?? h mmmmm?

We have an advocate with the Father to forgive us from our stubborn ways and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Judge yourself, in your thinking are you trying to please God through other means instead of putting your faith exclusively in Christ Jesus? That's why this walk is narrow, because our ambitions to come to God or please God has been stripped, we are left naked. And in our nakedness, HE CLOTHES us with His righteousness, not ourselves.

The Jews stripped themselves of the righteousness of God by faith in what Jesus did on the cross and went back to their filthy rags, their beggerly elements.

Deuteronomy 9:13 Furthermore the LORD spake unto me, saying, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

Re:, on: 2007/1/22 17:12

"Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,"

For Paul's full meaning try seeing it as One's intimacy with God. "Knowledge", though not carnal, being the operative word.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2007/1/22 23:10

Compliments wrote:

Quote:
-----Many Jews at that time were "falling away" which means that they were "Falling from grace" and going back under the law. This would have been considered a slap in God's face in saying that Christ's sacrifice was not enough, to renew them again to repentance is not possible for Christ was crucified once not twice nor three times.

The Corinthians and the Hebrews suffered from the same problem did they not. Both sought to find comfort in religion based on man. In both situations the cure points back to Christ through the Holy Spirit. Division, strife, envy all finds its source in man not God. By the Spirit one is exhorted to learn from our Savior how He brings unity to the body of Christ. By the Spirit one finds not only sanctification from various sins, but more so, the Life of love that the world cannot duplicate.

As long as one looks to man one will not learn this type of love.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: CARNAL Christians - posted by awakenwithin (), on: 2007/8/26 1:55

can we love the world and act like and still say we love God? Can we be both hot and cold?
in his love charlene

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2007/8/27 0:25

2Cor. 6:11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. 12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. 13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

2Cor. 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”

In this section of Scripture Paul speaks to the babes in Christ. He tells them that they are hindered by their affections for the things of this world.

Likewise James points to this same situation...

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. 1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain

ain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask a miss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

The Spirit of God who dwells in us yearns jealously....

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2007/9/27 2:07

Here is a sermon taught on what Scripture defines as the "carnal christian." This sermon is from "Charity Christian Fellowship." To of the preachers from this church in Pennsylvania will be preaching at the upcoming "Revival Conference."

<http://www.charityministries.org/audio/3742.mp3>

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/9/27 9:31

awakewithin,I believe every believer wrestles with something.God didnt de-humanize us when he saved us.

On the other hand "walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

We are deceived on so many fronts.

This salvation is so radical I dont know if true salvation has "ever" been preached.

It is as if the word needs to be so in us that it is our true dna.

And yet this wont do either because you see believers that have incredible scripture vocabularies and they are so far off it is unbelievable.

Spirit and word through the furnace sharpened and honed through other believers.

Without a battleplan,repentance, humility,dying, humbling ourselves.....many things.

But I know I am most changed by spending time with Jesus, This is NUMERO UNO.

The most "natural" thing any of us can do is become carnal.....no pun intended.

....David