

**General Topics :: Christians Living like the Devil****Christians Living like the Devil - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/18 22:43**

Edited: more correct title would be "Christians living like Sinners"

Why aren't there more sincere spiritual Christians in the USA? Why are there so many people who call themselves Christians but have no real fear of God to depart from every form of evil? Why are there some people who say and believe they are Christians but still practice the works of the flesh that the scripture teaches us that these people shall not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do you have any insight on the "why" of so many who proclaim to be Christians but are not truly living like the bible teaches them to live?

Re: Christians Living like the Devil - posted by ald0025, on: 2012/6/18 23:07

The reason is that they aren't really born again. I can attest to this personally, I thought I was saved because I repeated some sinner prayer and went to Church, but I lived like the world. The problem also is the preaching in the pulpit, preaching this false grace, such as ask Jesus to come into your heart and if you do that you are saved, they forgot to leave about repentance, turning from your sin, the cross of Christ, and the costs of being of Christian. One of the biggest lies I have seen the devil use is that since you are in the grace you can sin, because God will always forgive you no matter what. So people just have a sin and ask God for forgiveness cycle, I did for many years, but I was eventually shown the truth through the grace of God.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/18 23:33

Thanks ald0025 for your reply! I agree somewhat with what you are saying but I have seen people who have repented and also have an experience with God but some how later in life start justifying things they use to believe was not to be a part of the christian life. I have seen others struggle with sin but then justify it as a weakness and still go on and practice the sin from time to time while still proclaiming and practicing a christian life also.

Re: - posted by ald0025, on: 2012/6/18 23:48

I know what you are saying, I know some people that were on fire for God and were living a holy life, but then backslide into sin. Like you said above, they did have an experience with God and were saved, but now are living like the world for the most part. I remember from the Call to Anguish sermon by David Wilkerson, he was saying, all the devil wants to do is take the fight out of you so you won't labor in pray anymore and read the bible. Basically people have become saturated with the world again, I was reading Galatians today and it talks about a constant battle between the Spirit and the flesh. I believe that people who are backsliding are being overcome by the flesh and are now satisfying the lust and desire of it. Their minds are being duller each day, that's why each day we must be sober, alert, and fervent in the Spirit. For my previous post, I was addressing the younger crowd in Christianity, like teenagers and people in their 20's.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/6/19 0:14

So are you saying that Christians not living like you, are living like the Devil? Is this a sincere scream from the mountaintop? or are you beating your chest? I have never in my life see so many Christians, that worry so much about other Christians, when they should be out Preaching the Gospel, and bringing in the lost sheep. There is no such thing as a "TRUE" Christian or rather, a Christian who is better than another Christian. Anyone who judges another person, accusing them of not being a "true" Christian, is himself engaging in behavior that is not behavior a "true" Christian should be engaging in: Judging someone else. Just my two cents. Have a Blessed evening, unless you have other plans.

Re: Christians Living like the Devil - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2012/6/19 0:15

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

-Matthew 24:12

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2012/6/19 0:18

Quote:

-----"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

-Matthew 24:12

I would agree that this sums it up pretty well. We're in those times.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/19 0:21

Amen brother ald0025 and areadymind! I believe this scripture brings some light in Hebrews 2:1 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.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

We must not allow ourselves to slip away from giving more earnest heed to the word of God which we have heard and continue to hear. We must not neglect the "so great salvation" because it is the only way of escape from the fleshly sins. This is not talking about, as some would say, getting saved but this is talking about our salvation experience. We are not to neglect the whole salvation experience until we are finally saved and presented to the Lord. It is like a garden growing fruit that you must keep the weeds out by not neglecting to plow it and keep it clean so that fruit will grow. We must put off the old man and put on the new man. We must put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof. We must deny ourselves daily and take up the cross. We must walk in the Spirit so that we will not fulfill the lusts thereof. We are to cleanse ourselves of all filthiness of the flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God. So many neglect to do these things and lose their fear and love for God.

Our only hope is for God to convict us and stir us to the reality of where we are spiritually in the Lord. That somehow He might get our attention and to awaken us by the Holy Spirit through hearing the anointed Word of God by someone or some means. We must pray for others to be awakened to the things of God. It will be the difference of life or death for someone any.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/6/19 0:30

Not everyone accepts Jesus Christ into their lives, then is Baptized in the Holy Spirit, catches fire and never looks back. Unless someone knows the status of all Christians walk, it's very unfair to judge. Some Christians are still under construction, give God a little time to get them fixed, after all it took the most powerful man in the Heavens/Universe, 6 days to fix the world the way he wanted it.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/19 0:32

Bless you MrBillPro!

Only those with a shepherd's heart are truly concerned for the sheep.

Re: Christians Living like the Devil - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/6/19 0:36

r banks ,theres probably a group of reasons for this

many are not born again ,,they have been called and drawn by the spirit ,,but have never repented and experenced a new birth

probaly due to a watered down gosple, preached and witnessed by others in the same condition,and others in a state th at would be not considered anointed

another reason ,, would be many of the people you see in the churches ,are truly born again ,,,,but have not givern them selfs over to the holy spirit in submission ,whery by they may expermentily know the power of the cross ,which leds to th e death of selfs ,,truly knowing and experancing what it means to have died with christ

they have never offered there bodies as a living sacrifice upon the atler of the cross ,to experance the death of the sacrific e ,by the sword of the spirit ,,whey by the work of the high priest to cut into the devision of the soul and spirit a sunder , beomes a practical revorlatouy experance ,

so these people never find a full victory of soulish desires ,and waver in and out of the spirit

that probable constautes most of the problem

other people have recieved another spirit and are suduced and decieved under its power and doctrines

it is the fulfilling of bible prophecy brother

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/6/19 0:39

I hope you get all the sheep fixed, I personally let the Lord the greatest shepherd ever, fix me, not man. I probably am no t going to say anything to help your endeavor here, I only see this going south, so I wish you the best, but little advise "I am not asking you to take" give the greatest shepherd a chance, he does a pretty good job, then if he can't fix them, I a m sure he will call you.

God Bless!

Mr. Bill

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/19 0:48

Thanks for the good insight from so many! I kind of wish now that I had of titled this thread "Christians Living like Sinners" because that would be more of an adequate title.

I believe Christians should be working out their own salvation with fear and trembling because it is God who desires to work in them both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Brethren we know from the scriptures that God does not want us to live like sinners because he has called us to be saints in the Lord.

Re: - posted by ald0025, on: 2012/6/19 0:57

I won't say that this is judging people, but rather observing how people can go from living a holy life to living like a carnal man again. This is a real thing that happens, such as king saul. Also the spiritual man judges all things. I believe the poster was referring to Christians that live like the devil and are in constant habitual sin. Paul states it best in Galatians " But now that you have come to know God or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?" " I FEAR for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain" Paul is pleading with these people.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/19 1:01

Amen ald0025! God Bless you brother for your understanding!

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/6/19 1:21

You know, the whole secular world beats up our good Brothers and Sisters enough everyday, we of all people should be helping support them. Not one of us walks straight up, we all lean a bit, if you see a Brother or Sister leaning, go let him/her put his/her arm over your shoulder, and walk with them, talk with them and Love them. I know folks that post threads like this really don't mean any harm, but you might be shocked on the kind of harm and confusion this might cause a Brother or Sister trying to help themselves. Look around, same sex marriage, washington's gone crazy, drugs out of control, little innocent children being molested or killed everyday, the worlds gone crazy! the world is hitting our Brothers and Sisters with a right hook, and were hitting them with a left. If we don't wake up and start loving and helping and supporting our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, who will? iron sharpens iron.

Re: MrBillPro - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/6/19 1:27

Amen

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/19 1:38

Amen MrBill Pro "iron sharpens iron" that is what this thread is all about. I have condemn no one. I have only asked "why" and does anyone have any insight.

The horrible things that you mention in your last post Bill are being committed by some people who call themselves Christians. All I'm asking is "why" and also praying for many to wake up. Do you not realize that many people that call themselves Christians in many american churches are committing sin willfully on a daily basis and the apostle John said that he who commits willful sin is of the devil.

Re: rbanks - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/6/19 1:58

rbanks, I have have seen men do an absolute 360 almost over night. There personality there Goals there convictions everything change almost overnight. I have no idea what is going on, It is terrible When you know some one and than you have no idea who they are. I understand exactly what MrBill Pro is saying but I also understand exactly what you are saying.

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2012/6/19 3:34

Far be it from me to contribute to a thread that "goes downhill," but I am compelled to, as is my habit, to post a rather long-winded thread.

I have discovered a disturbing trend in my walk as a Christian. It has to do with the fact that as I grow, I look back on where I was and am often repulsed by where I had been that I had, at the time, perceived to be spiritual. It seems to me that having our minds "renewed" as we are transformed unto the mind of Christ is a rather messy operation. I often have wondered why it does not seem to happen for me over night, and it is simply because I cannot, in any way, handle it. So I find myself, ever so incrementally growing and transforming, just like my daughter is physically growing every day. (There are even times where the growth is so imperceptible for such lengths of time it is frustrating.) I cannot give her a driver's license because she cannot even tie her shoes very well yet. But she is four years old, and I can give her art supplies and she writes cards for people...thank you cards, kind notes, thoughtful little things. I can only entrust her with the responsibilities she is capable of handling.

A number of years ago, the Lord was very gracious with me, and pulled me from the life of being a habitually lascivious grace hacker. I thought I could cheat God of his grace because he was under obligation to give it. In many ways, I was like my daughter; I had very limited scope of vision concerning my inheritance and or Christ's potential in my life. Just as she has no idea what responsibilities she will some day be forced to grow into, though we try hard to prepare her. I had no idea what grace was capable of doing beyond keeping the flames of hell off my feet. What separates my daughter and me? Chromosomally and chemically speaking, we are not so different; we are the same species, even the same family we even share a strong resemblance (surprise.) Is it age that fundamentally separates us? Maybe in a sense, but the other day I spoke with a 40 year old man who was no older than my daughter in maturity...granted his mind is broken, and he is physically disabled, but he acts as a foil for the concept of the child trapped in men's bodies all over the world as it were.

One area where growth has been harder and slower, dawning yet veiled behind broken clouds, only occasionally revealing a faint nimbus of light, is my understanding of sin. Or "iniquity" as our Lord called it. Some of my attitudes toward "it" or proponents of "it," have been where there has been both victory and shame for me.

When I finally saw my own sin in all of its coiled danger, waiting and crouching...seeking to destroy me, I cried out to God for a sanctifying solution. He began to teach me to walk in the Spirit, but still being far from "whole" sanctification (otherwise known as glorification), I began to develop a judgmental attitude toward people in sin, a.k.a. brothers and sisters who did not seem to live up to the bar as it were. Then I started trying to find a source for the deception to blame, and I looked to my own past and thought I had discovered the fault in others...I began to hate sin, as I ought...but I was slightly off. I hated it in the wrong way, not only that but I discovered my own willful self-deception. I don't think I hated it (sin) the way the Lord did. There was something too, I don't know, human in it all.

Then it was about a year ago that the Lord opened a passage of scripture for me with Revelation that helped me to see things the way he did. Sure it is not perfect sight, but it is better than the sight I had before.

I had to study Leviticus 26 for a particular purpose, and in doing so, the nimbus of light began to dawn upon my mind with greater frequency and intensity. You see, Leviticus 26 is the chapter of Blessings and Cursings. Being forced to study the Old Testament a lot in the last year or two has brought me to the conclusion that this chapter is far more significant in its impact concerning the thematic of the O.T. than I had ever known before. I have started to see the implications of it weaving through story after story from Numbers to Malachi.

Basically the chapter can be divided into two themes...walk in God's ways and be blessed, turn your back on his ways, and God would become as an adversary to you (if you were within the scope of the mosaic covenant.) At first it seemed like just another chapter in Leviticus, which if we are all honest...we are pretty bored with as gentiles. As I read it over and over, I began, not to see it as law per se, but as God's heart. I started seeing the way the Lord views sin. There is no distinction between our sin, and God's necessity to destroy it. Not only is it reprehensible to him, but it is, by its very nature purely destructive. All throughout the O.T. now I see God's pleading heart, it is as if he begs his people time and time again to throw off the shackles of sin and iniquity, because it is not only against his will, but it is purely self-destructive. He hates it, not with an arbitrary, despotic attitude, but rather his heart is the heart of a Father. He really seems to desire to bless his people, it is us that choose to walk in the absence of blessing because we choose to drink from filthy cracked cisterns which hold no water.

If you diagram the chapter you discover that for every blessing offered to Israel for walking in God's ways, there was an exact opposite cursing for failing to do so. All throughout the old covenant, God's heart pleads and pleads with his people to turn from their wicked ways. He pleads with the voice of his prophets to the point of the near dissolution of his people...to the point that where every glimmer of hope has almost vanished and God utters in Ezekiel that he was finally at last going to make a new covenant with Israel, and HE would CAUSE them to walk in His ways...

You can hear this angst from God when he weeps over Jerusalem, "O you that stone the prophets...how I would have gathered you under my wings as a hen gathers her chicks."

We can focus on the problem...and fail to hear God's heart about it. If I am not careful, I will be swept under the tide of iniquity in our world that rises higher and swifter than any tsunami ever attained to, simply by having the wrong attitude toward it all.

A simple warning to not let our love grow cold cannot, in any way be "going downhill" brothers. Jesus saw fit to warn us. He gave us a clue as to how to avoid the tsunami as it were. He has offered us a tree to climb, a lifeline straight from the throne of grace. We must learn to stoke the fires of love in our lives, overcome evil with good. We will be unable to look out over the entire world and not grow intimidated or even grieved as banks is.

A number of years ago, my wife admonished me that we need to, above almost every thing; begin praying that God shows us how to not let our love grow cold. Please join us brothers and sisters, in praying this for all of our lives. And please be salt and light in every relationship that you have. Do not be overcome with the evil you see, but please grow in an attitude that desires to "strengthen what remains." Please:

Pump with zeal and fervency the bellows
Let not down, each one your fellows
Lose not flavor lest trampled ye be

Pray in His name with two or with three...

Exhort ye daily and daily be exhorted
Lest the spirit of Demas leave thee extorted
Communion not with Diotrophes keep
Least love grow cold and faith slump in sleep

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2012/6/19 5:53

Thanks for posting that Jeremiah, that was great!

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2012/6/19 7:29

Mr BillPro, I hear your heart of love, and your exhortation that we do not judge or have a critical spirit....yet I agree with the original post as well, b/c when I look at the churches around me, in all honesty they do not look any different than the world.

The verse came to mind, "...without holiness, no one shall see the Lord"....in looking up the reference (Heb. 12:14), I was led to this article on holiness by J C Ryle....I scratch my head to think that holiness "looked" so different in the 1800's than it does today....

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/history/spurgeon/web/ryle.holiness.html>

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/6/19 8:48

I am very impressed how close many in this thread are so close to not sinning.

I am not close to not sinning. I sin everyday. Just ask my wife, whom I do love. She is right, I sin regularly. And she does not know the half of it.

I am thankful very much to Jesus whose blood shed on the cross has already washed away all my sins, past, present, and future. I am very grateful for this Salvation he provided for me.

1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN. IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NO SIN, WE ARE DECEIVING OURSELVES...

8. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

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

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

I know I will be sinning the rest of my life. I can not save myself. I am ever thankful for what Jesus did for me on the cross, and His blood washes away all my sins for all time. I did not earn my salvation and eternal life in the presence of God, it was a gift from Father through His only begotten Son, Jesus, given unto me. I trust the indwelling Holy Spirit to transform me that I be pleasing in God's presence.

Holiness is not the absence of sin in our life,
Holiness is the presence of God in our life.

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2012/6/19 10:34

ArtB,

I hope to make very clear that I in NO WAY consider myself "close to not sinning".....I sin by the minute in thoughts that are not Christlike. But I am passionate in my life to continue to move TOWARD Christlikeness more today than I was yesterday. Christ commands us to "Be ye holy, as I am holy"....I am not better than anyone else...my righteousness is as filthy rags.....but I think perhaps what the original poster was intending is that our culture at large, and more specifically professing Christians (again this is a generalization - to be sure there are many exceptions) do not seem to be moving toward holiness...where is the resemblance to Christ? Christians should look different if only in their passionate desire to conquer the flesh and put sin to death and take every thought captive....

I just wanted to clarify that I certainly do not think I have arrived...it is an ongoing process till we reach heaven.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/6/19 12:09

I think distinctions should be made between sinning habitually; i.e. living in sin and that of walking before God in a state of on-going humility, blood-washed repentance and a pure heart. The objectiveness of the latter is exhorted all throughout New Testament scripture and has been proved efficacious by many saints down through the ages. As a Christian, it is natural to be free from the power of sin; that is, by virtue of the imparted divine nature of God it is not only feasible, but normal to live in premeditative sin no longer.

The power of grace through the Holy Spirit, by the sanctifying blood of the New Covenant grants us the birthright to not "live like devils" any longer. It is entirely possible to walk before God each day with a clear, blood-cleansed conscience and collaborate with God's Spirit through faith in the putting to death of the works of the flesh. The Spirit of God works in us the will to resist evil, and His grace in conjunction with our faith gives us the power to overcome. It is possible to fail and fall, of course - and we will many times in our sojourning here - but the differentiation between the sons of Adam and the reborn Sons of God, again, is in the "nature" of the creature.

The true Christian is a new creature, has a new heart, and may avail his or herself to Jesus Christ's "divine nature" having escaped the corruption which is in the world through lust. The great and precious promises of God's Word were not written so we could continue in the adamic defeatism of sin, but so that we could be made free from the slavery of sin through Christ Jesus. These things were written that we "sin not" (that is, live in the handcuffs and leg irons of sin). But if any child of God does sin in word, thought or deed, he or she is immediately and sternly chastised by the Father and led to the place of repentance to where the blood is applied, the conscience restored and the process of sanctification continued to new avenues of glory and perfection.

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2012/6/19 13:04

Thank you for that post and distinction brother Paul. Very helpful and much needed.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/19 13:54

Thanks Areadymind and PaulWest for great posting and also other good replies. I hope to reply some more when I get home later.

Also ArtB I know you have read the list of the works of the flesh in gal. Chapter 5 and how it says that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Do you think this means everybody and how does the blood cleanse what we willfully continue to do?

Re: Christians Living like the Devil - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/6/20 18:33

QUOTE: "Edited: more correct title would be "Christians living like Sinners".==RBANKS

Actually, i think the original title is fine and quite accurate.

Re: - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/6/20 18:35

QUOTE: "Thanks ald0025 for your reply! I agree somewhat with what you are saying but I have seen people who have repented and also have an experience with God but some how later in life start justifying things they use to believe was not to be a part of the christian life."==RBANKS

But didn't Jesus say that in the last days the love of most will grow cold? And he who endures TO THE END will be saved.

There is also the parable of the seed and the sower. Some believe for a while, and then fall away.

Re: , on: 2012/6/20 21:18

Quote:
----- The reason is that they aren't really born again. I can attest to this personally, I thought I was saved because I repeated some sinner prayer and went to Church, but I lived liked the world. The problem also is the preaching in the pulpit, preaching this false grace, such as ask Jesus to come into your heart and if you do that you are saved, they forgot to leave about repentance, turning from your sin, the cross of Christ, and the costs of being of Christian.

This is a very damaging paragraph.

You may have started out this way, but not everyone is like you.

Yes they may have said the sinners prayer without repentance, but that doesn't mean that repentance will not come later.

There is no formula to this or a manner of getting saved, the scriptures tell us that we are saved by grace through faith, not by repentance. Repentance is a God granted virtue, it doesn't come naturally, it's given. Repentance comes after one has been enlightened, whether it's at that moment or later on, it's none of our business and we should not be judging those who have said the sinners prayer.

How do you know that that isn't the only information that they had received? Up until that day they didn't even consider God but they found a tract, read it, God can illuminate any tract and if all the instructions that they know of is the sinners prayer, who are we to judge them?

Many a drunk or drug addict seeing a tract blowing in the wind catching it reading it and it tells them about Jesus Christ dying for their sins and they have no idea what to do next, seeing the instructions on the back "If you accept Jesus Christ into your heart, you'll be saved", again, I say, who are we to judge them? If God is leading them He will direct them to a place of repentance.

I am just heart broken by your words, you have no idea that someone who has weak faith could be reading your post, doubting the day that God met them through what they read on a tract may sink deeper in despair before they even met Jesus Christ.

It doesn't say anything about repentance or accepting of the Lord Jesus Christ when Peter preached to Cornelius household, they simply heard the message and while they heard God baptized the whole lot with the Holy Ghost. Peter stood back and was amazed that these people didn't come through the way he thought they should. "Repent, be baptized and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost" was his saving message, but God went to the heart of the issue and deposited His Spirit first.

I know of people that have said the sinners prayer and receive the Holy Ghost the same night and then were baptized later and not only that many days later, repented of many things that the Spirit brought to their attention.

Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Re: - posted by jdlashley (), on: 2012/6/20 21:38

9 I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. 10 I did not mean the immoral people of this world or the greedy and swindlers or idolaters; otherwise you would have to leave the world. 11 But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer who is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or verbally abusive, a drunkard or a swindler. Do not even eat with such a person. 12 For what business is it of mine to judge outsiders? Don't you judge those who are inside? 13 But God judges outsiders. Put away the evil person from among yourselves. (1 Corinthians 5:9-12, HCSB)

Re: - posted by ald0025, on: 2012/6/20 22:39

I am not judging anyone's salvation, but when one is truly born again it is a miracle that's how Leonard Ravenhill would describe it and Apostle Paul said that they become a new creature, meaning that there is a supernatural transformation in one's life. This video and article sum up what I was saying, not to cast doubt on anyone's salvation experience. Sorry if my comments above depicted judging and doubt, I didn't mean it that way.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZyzzSw0Log>

<http://www.tsculpitseries.org/english/1990s/ts990802.html>

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/6/20 23:04

I believe one of the first things Jesus preached was repent for the kingdom of God is at hand

the first evangelical message from Peter was repent

why was it that Cornelius was not called to repent with his family

it is simply because the Bible says he was righteous and already feared God, he was repentant already

why was the jailer asked to just believe, he was in a state of repentance, also, the Bible says, then they spoke the word of the Lord to him

so he was not just exhorted to believe in Jesus, but he also obviously heard the thing spoken to him, in the context of what the word of the Lord is, the word from the Lord's mouth, is REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

we can't dissect one or two verses out of the Bible and create an evangelist's message, while forgetting the rest of the context, regarding what Jesus said and what Peter said, and what Paul said, about the need for repentance to accompany saving faith

I submit that is the main reason why so many fall from the faith, and others receive misleading spirits and as Paul said ANOTHER Jesus

the full Gospel is not preached in many cases

part of the good news is we have been granted to repent for sin, we don't have to live a life as a sin addict any longer, hauliyya

Re: - posted by ald0025, on: 2012/6/20 23:07

Amen Brother

Re: - posted by jdlashley (), on: 2012/6/20 23:19

This video had a strong impact on me personally. I would like to share it here.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kU8c1N-7Xk8>

Re: - posted by Man0fG0d (), on: 2012/6/20 23:32

Amen brother, absolutely correct. Thank God for His goodness that leads us to repentance, and for His long suffering not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. By grace are ye saved through faith. How do you get faith? The Bible says faith cometh by hearing, hearing by the Word of God. What was the Word that God gave Paul in Acts 17? He said God at one time winked at this ignorance, but. Now commandeth all men everywhere to REPENT! When Paul preached the Word of God, the ones that believed left behind Athens and its idolatry and follow Paul in a new walk with Christ. Again Jesus said in Matthew 9 that He did not come to call the righteous but sinners to REPENTANCE.

Re: , on: 2012/6/21 10:26

Repent means to "Turn Around", Stop walking in the direction you have been going and begin walking toward God.

Stiff necked is not having the ability to move the neck. The whole body has to turn at once. Stiff necks also means the inability to "consider" a warning. If a person was able to stop turn the head to the side without turning around denotes that the person is willing to hear. A stiff necked person would have to stop, turn the whole body around and that in itself was a chore and people of that nature would not do such a thing because of pride.

We are making ourselves look foolish by judging someone who reads the "sinners prayer" when the heart has already believed before they've even uttered a word. The uttering of words is to acknowledge what has already taken place in the heart.

We have taken the word Repent to mean we have to get down on our hands and knees and cry and cry and cry. Those times do happen and I thank God that they have in my life.

But if we don't see tears we are not convinced that people have repented. Like Pharisees straining at a gnat while having no trouble swallowing a camel.

Works of repentance is the follow up of what takes place after one has received Christ. What is the follow up?

Change! People have changed. Their testimony is, "I was drunk but Jesus found me and took the desire for that stuff all away.", "I went to prison, there I found Jesus and I knew that I was a sinner. Heck, I always knew I was a sinner, but this time it was different, I felt different. Before saying I was a sinner gave me a sense of badness and I didn't mind that, but now, I know that I have sinned before God and I wanted to be right before Him. I turned my life over to Him (which is the same as turning around in repentance walking toward God). Instead of condemning me, He picked me up and set my feet upon a rock to stay. He put a song in my soul today a song of praise Hallelujah."

As for Cornelius, he was already walking toward God, he would have repented long ago. He wasn't a Jew but he was doing all he knew to being right with God probably being instructed by the local Rabbi (only God knoweth). He had faith and his field was ripe for God to go in there and share the gospel to his household.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2012/6/21 15:51

What is the cause of Christians Living like the Devil?

It is the veil of our fleshly fallen nature living on un-crucified.

It's not hard to find we just have to look into our own heart and we will see it there a enemy to the Christians life which blocks our spiritual progress, the enemy is called "the flesh" let's not think we are better than others when we all suffer from same disease. Let's us yield to the still small voice that urges you to the living God, let us yield to the Spirit so the light can shine into the deepest parts of our beings to expose self-righteousness, self-confidence, self-sufficiency, self-admiration, self-love at the very core of our beings.

Tozer Quote: One should suppose that proper instruction in the doctrine of man's depravity and the necessity for justification through the righteousness of Christ alone would deliver us from the power of self sins, but it doesn't work that way. Self can live unrebuked at the very altar.

At the very altar flesh can exhibit itself just think about it for a minute just how much of the church is run on self-sufficiency. How often do we as Christians look at others in the church and self-righteousness raises its ugly head and we pat ourselves on the back in self-admiration thinking we are better than others the veil of self-love hides the face of God from the Christian. The flesh if not allowed to continue in carnality or materialism, will happily move on to religion.

We must all reckon the flesh crucified but we must be careful not to believe a work is done when it is not. We must throw away our neat doctrines of self-crucifixion and "labour to enter into that rest" as only a work of Spirit of God will rent the veil of the flesh and set us free.

Re: Christians Living like the Devil - posted by staff, on: 2012/6/21 18:22

Hi Rbanks,

It is a difficult question to ask rather than answer. Can you say that you haven't lived like a sinner for some of your Christian life or anybody else for that matter. Consider Samson's life yet he ended up in Hebrews 11 as a man of great faith, consider Solomon who started well and nearly ended badly. As Carter Conlon said it is not over till God says it's over, don't nail the coffin lid yet on American Christianity.

Also don't you think God has a plan to deal with these issues.

There is such a thing as Grace but no such a thing as cheap grace. We are either under grace or we are not. I believe God will deal with the falsehoods in the Church. If you are on God's Side you are on the winning side, Yours Staff