

**General Topics :: Must we sin?****Must we sin? - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/1/31 0:37**

We have all sined, but must we continue to sin? From everything I read, the gospel speaks of empowerment. I can do all things... we are more than conquerors... greater is he that is in thee...we are told to mortify (kill) the flesh through the spirit.

If we have killed the flesh, and we have been given power to triumph over the enemy, why must we continue to sin?

**Re: Must we sin? - posted by allhavsinned (), on: 2006/1/31 0:46**

Because although we are Justified, we are not yet Sanctified, that is a long slow process, some of which involves us falling and getting up again.

Read Romans 6, 7 and 8. specifically 7:17-18, it takes a while to understand but the Holy Spirit will help. Each day we must kill the flesh cos he keeps getting up again (take up your cross DAILY. LUKE 9:23).

**Re: - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/1/31 2:32**

To bro, allhavesinned,

First, let me say that I appreciate your response as many of our brothers seem unwilling to discuss such fundamentals. The problem I have is that I have always seen the Romans Chapters as Pauls argument for our need to allow christ to rule in our lives so that the "I" part of our sin nature becomes subjugated to his spirit.

Is not the purpose of being made free from sin so that the sin nature that we were born into no longer dictates our actions?

arghhh! Pray for me. I get so frustrated with my short comings.

**Re:, on: 2006/1/31 2:47**

It seems many Christians read chapter 7 of Romans and stay there, but Paul did not. Paul went on to Romans chapter 8. I say read Romans 6,7, and 8 until the breakthrough happens.

Let me give you hope brother and say, no you do not have to sin! There is not a single sin in which you cannot find freedom from in Jesus Christ!

**Re: - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/1/31 3:03**

Bro. Lazurus,

May God continue to use you to his Glory. What an encouragement your words are. I could never reconcile the scripture " I can do all things through christ who strengthens me" with the concept that this does not apply to my sin nature.

Requesting the S.I members prayers and praying for you all.

**Re: - posted by jimbob, on: 2006/1/31 5:18**

One question for those out there that claim a sinless life is theoretically possible, who among you can actually claim they have stopped sinning? I have never met ANYONE yet that can claim that, yet the holiness folks claim it's possible.

My church says this confession every Sunday, " Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent."

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

I would like the followers of Wesley and Finney to step up to the plate and testify that they do not need to make the above confession. Any takers to my challenge?

**Re: - posted by tinluke (), on: 2006/1/31 9:52**

Quickened,

I understand and relate to your frustration. I keep waiting for the day that I no longer have to deal with sin and this rotten flesh that weighs me down. What a burden... to have a heart that desires NOTHING more than to live for CHRIST, but to live with the stinking flesh that at any opportunity will rise up and take the victory for the sake of death and hell.

There is not a time on this side of eternity that we will NOT sin, but SIN DOES NOT HAVE THE VICTORY IN CHRIST!!! It does not own us as it once did!!! Yes we sin, but we don't stay there. We were once slaves to sin, but now we are bondservants to CHRIST. The slave does not make a choice to be a slave, but a bondservant make the choice to give his life freely.

The good news is that the spirit man CAN NOT sin!! There is a part of you that will NEVER sin. That is the HOLY SPIRIT that God has deposited within you!! The bad news is, the flesh will ALWAYS sin, if given the opportunity.

Dying to self and living for Christ is DAILY. It requires us to call upon Him day to day and moment to moment. We need to feed our spirit and starve the flesh. What ever we feed more will become stronger in us. We can have a strong spirit and dying flesh. Or fat flesh and a weak spirit. Which one will we feed today??

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/31 10:08**

Here is a thread I started not too long ago.

([http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id9180&forum36&9](http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id9180&forum36&9)) What is Christian Perfection?

Quote:  
-----Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
-----

So your church repents of the same thing every week? How can one say that have repented, when they have not stopped doing it? Repentance is not saying you are sorry. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of action.

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/31 10:11**

Quote:  
-----I would like the followers of Wesley and Finney to step up to the plate and testify that they do not need to make the above confession. Any takers to my challenge?  
-----

I would not make that confession (every week) because I wouldn't want to lie and say I repent when I don't stop doing it.

**Re: - posted by Eli\_Barnabas (), on: 2006/1/31 11:40**

They say this confession in the Anglican church, is it safe to assume you are Anglican, Jimbob? They might say it in other denominations, I'm just not aware of it.

Just wanted to second what Jesse said. Amen. It doesn't end at Romans 7, but "thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" we move on into Romans 8.

**Brother Lazarus - posted by TaKa (), on: 2006/1/31 12:02**

Brother Lazarus wrote: It seems many Christians read chapter 7 of Romans and stay there, but Paul did not. Paul went on to Romans chapter 8. I say read Romans 6,7, and 8 until the breakthrough happens.

That was going to be the starting point for my response to this topic. Andrew Murray wrote a book called Absolute Surrender, and he deals with Romans 7 and 8 in one of the chapters.

Notice in chapter 7 that the Spirit is not mentioned even once, but in chapter 8 He is mentioned several times. This is the key to victory. It is Christ IN us who is our hope of glory.

If we confess our sins, God will forgive us and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness. I believe that if God cannot keep me from all sin each and every day, then He is not God. Some Christians believe that we have to sin every day. Why? If we walk in the Spirit, we don't have to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

I believe it's the devil who would have us believe we have to sin every day to keep us from walking in victory. God said to be perfect as He is perfect. If this were not possible, it would be totally unreasonable and unfair for God to say this. With God ALL things are possible!

**Re: Brother Lazarus - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/1/31 12:15**

Quote:  
-----So your church repents of the same thing every week? How can one say that have repented, when they have not stopped doing it? Repentance is not saying you are sorry. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of action.  
-----

I think that's a great point brother that we don't need to continue in willful sin. So a man can stop from sinning (fornication, uncleanness, adultery, stealing). But truly there are sins we commit everyday that we are not aware of. Here are a few examples.

-If we do not give the full glory to God every second of our lives then we are thieves, stealing the glory of God.

-If we have any inclination to please self then we are selfish.

But let's think about this, does God demand everything from yes, possibly yes. But is that possible on this side of eternity, no. We still have the flesh and are still being brought from glory to glory. We need to STOP SINNING in the sense of blatant willful sins, and submit also to the process of God working into us His character.. But as one brother said this is a long process and as we try to submit to the spirit daily, hourly the process continues.

We aren't as perfect as Jesus was on the earth but surely that can be our goal, but I hate to burst any bubbles but that is not going to be ultimately possible because Jesus is unique and was SINLESS so that he could be the propitiation for our sins. Or otherwise we could die for our own sins.

Just some thoughts.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2006/1/31 12:16**

Quote:  
-----Is not the purpose of being made free from sin so that the sin nature that we were born into no longer dictates our actions?  
-----

I like that answer.

Before we are Christians, we are slaves to sin. We cannot choose NOT to sin. (Poor Grammar, great truth)

When we become Christians, the Holy Spirit is given to us as a deposit of what is to come and he also leads us in all truth. In other words, we now can choose NOT to sin.

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

I am not saying that we NEVER sin once we become Christians, but I am saying that we now are not slaves to our former sinful nature (i.e., the flesh)

Paul says this about himself in Romans:

Romans 7:18 "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

He then goes on to say why he is now different now that the Holy Spirit lives in him:

Romans 7:24 "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin."

Paul still has the sinful nature living within him, but he does not live according to it.

To sum this up:

Nonbelievers only have a sinful nature. Romans 8:5a "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires;"

Christians have a new nature, but the sinful nature remains: We now are not controlled by our sinful nature. Romans 8:5b "but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires."

Does anyone deny that they still have a sinful nature that wars against their soul and is tempting them to do what is against God?

But thanks be to God, we are not controlled by that nature...we have a new nature!!!

I have more to say but little time, I am looking forward to all my brothers responses...God Bless.

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/31 12:35**

Ron B said this in the What is Christian Perfection thread:

Quote:  
-----Wesley made the point that the word 'perfect' is relative and not an absolute condition. Evangelical or Christian perfection is not to be confused with divine perfect, nor angelic perfection. Perfect is relative in the sense that a new born child may be perfect while still needing daily improvement and growth.  
-----

I wrote this in another forum

Quote:  
-----I think a lot of people are deceived in thinking that they can't really do what God has asked them unless they have been a Christian for X amount of years. This isn't true at all.

Jhn 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Obedying the truth or the revelation of Jesus Christ that we have is how we are sanctified. We have to respond to the revelation of Jesus Christ that we have, and of course the longer you are a Christian the more revelation you have so in turn the more responsibility you have.

What we know to do that is "good" we have to do or we are in disobedience and rebellion, not holy and separated from the world.  
-----

What does everyone think?

**Re: TaKa - posted by tinluke (), on: 2006/1/31 12:47**

Quote:  
-----I believe that if God cannot keep me from sin each and every day, then He is not God. Some christinas believe that we have to sin every day.  
-----

I'm sorry but I think you're a bit off on this one. We have to recognize who we are in the light of Chirst. YES, YES, YES. ... it is sooo true that the spirit of God within us is completly incapable of sinning!!!! BUT, our flesh is not capable of being Holy either.

We have to be constantly aware of the inward battle between the spirit man and the flesh!! It will rage til the day we die!! If you think that one day you will wake up and not have to fight this battle, then you have believed a terrible deception!! A deception just as dangerous as the one that says we do not have victory over sin and death!!!

No Child of God sould live in bondage of sin. You are not living for Christ if you are a slave to sin. We are victors in Christ Jesus, but that does not mean that we are incapable of sinning either!!

I desire to live a completly sold-out life for Chirst. When the Holy spirit puts His finger on an area of my life that needs to change, I give it to Him. I surrender my will completly. That is true freedom! But that does not mean that I no longer sin. We probably all sinned before we left the house today. There are sins in our life that we don't even recognize as sin until the Holy spirit points them out to us!!

Praise God for His mercy, forgivness, and Holy spirit that sets men free!!!! He is kind and gentle and deals with us so wonderfully!! We have no idea the mercy and grace that are upon us every day. The reason we can't be compley, 100% sin-free is because God is compassionate enough to give us a life time to chage from image to image and glory to glory. He can only set us free from the sin that WE GIVE HIM!!!! And we can only GIVE them to Him, if He reveals them to us first!! NO ONE could stand if He counted our iniquities... not even the Paul from Romans 8!

**Re: must we sin - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/1/31 12:49**

quote: by TaKa

Some christians believe that we have to sin every day. Why? If we walk in the Spirit, we don't have to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Thank you all for your patience and input on this matter as I'm sure it has been discussed prior to this. The thing is that I have just in the last 5 years began to (cautiously) venture outside of my holiness pentecostal beginings in the hope that I might "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" I have failed God many times but each time I have risen with the hope and prayer that God would move me beyond the point of my failure, and he has done just that but I seem to find new ways to fall short.Is prefecion to lofty a goal, even with his spirit dwelling inside me?

I think I'll go look at preacherparsly's thread on christian perfection.

**Re:, on: 2006/1/31 13:19**

I see two great lies when it comes to this subject:

- 1) A Christian CANNOT sin
- 2) A Christian CANNOT live without sin

Both are completely wrong.

A Christian certainly CAN sin, but certainly does not HAVE to sin. No temptation over takes us except that which is common to man, but when we are tempted God ALWAYS provides a way out, and NEVER puts more on us then we are able to bear.

So Holiness is not teaching that a Christian CANNOT sin, but rather is the biblical teaching that a Christian doesn't HAVE to sin.

If we love Him, we will keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

I heard Leonard Ravenhill say in an audio I listened to recently, "It's not the inability to sin. It's in ability not to sin."

And as Duncan Campbell used to say, "You'll never get to the place where it's impossible for you to sin. But praises be to God that you are in a position where it's possible for you not to sin."

1Jo 4:17 - "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we **in this world.**"

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/1/31 13:40**

These are great quotes Jesse from some powerful speakers but surely there is a difference between being **perfect** rather than walking in the spirit and having freedom over sin.

If sinless perfection was a true doctrine that ravenhill, duncan campbell and others fully committed to then they would have taught it adamantly because nothing less would be justice to the cross of christ if it allowed for a state of sinless perfection for us believers. I just don't see them teaching this, but rather teaching a victorious christian life, but we can never be 100% free from sin until we reach heaven. This is not a cause to backslide or to allow sin in our lives but its rather an earnestly surrendering our lifes daily to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to the conformity to the likeness of Christ.

Perhaps we have too narrow a view of what sin is and therefore we make it easy to claim perfection from sin.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/1/31 13:45**

Here is a powerful prayer from a puritan book called "the valley of vision" I can't but help fell that I have not submitted fully to divine love and surrendered all of my self as I read it:

### **The Great God**

O Fountain of all good,

Destroy in me every lofty thought,

Break pride to pieces and scatter it

to the winds,

Annihilate each clinging shred of

self-righteousness,

Implant in me true lowliness of spirit,

Abase me to self-loathing and self-abhorrence,

Open in me a fount of penitential tears,

Break me, then bind me up;

Thus will my heart be a prepared dwelling

for my God;

Then can the Father take up his abode in me,

Then can the blessed Jesus come with healing

in his touch,

Then can the Holy Spirit descend in

sanctifying grace;

O Holy Trinity, three Persons and one God,

inhabit me, a temple consecrated to thy glory.

When thou art present, evil cannot abide;

In thy fellowship is fullness of joy,

Beneath thy smile is peace of conscience,

By thy side no fears disturb,

no apprehensions banish rest of mind,

With thee my heart shall bloom with fragrance;

Make me meet, through repentance,

for thine indwelling.

Nothing exceeds thy power,

Nothing is too great for thee to do,

Nothing too good for thee to give.

Infinite is thy might, boundless thy love,

limitless thy grace, glorious thy saving name.

Let angels sing for

sinners repenting,

prodigals restored,

backsliders reclaimed,

Satan's captives released,  
blind eyes opened,  
broken hearts bound up,  
the despondent cheered,  
the self-righteous stripped,  
the formalist driven from a refuge of lies,  
the ignorant enlightened,  
and saints built up in their holy faith.

I ask great things of a great God.

**Re: - posted by tinluke (), on: 2006/1/31 13:56**

Quote:

-----Perhaps we have too narrow a view of what sin is and therefore we make it easy to claim perfection from sin.  
-----

You hit the nail on the head!

**Re:, on: 2006/1/31 14:46**

It was Ravenhill who first turned me on to the official doctrine of Holiness, though of course I read all about holiness in the bible.

It is something I repeatedly heard throughout his sermons, ones like "freedom from bondage" "a pure heart" etc.

Here are some quotes from Ravenhill on perfection from, "Be Holy In All Conversation" 2:15min-5:24min

Ravenhill said, "I think one of our weaknesses in our modern presentation of the truth on Christian living is that we are more afraid of holiness than we are of sinfulness. The preachers have given us so many alabys for our weakness and our carnal nature and heaven knows what. But when we talk about holiness we get rather nervous and we want to back off. Supposing you change the word from holy to healthy, which is really its main meaning. As He which is called you is healthy, morally and spiritually, so you should be holy, I should be holy. Ah..healthy spiritually and morally.

(continued) "There are alternate words for this word holiness. You could say sanctification is the same thing. Or perfection. Well, that word scares us more than ever. You know we hear people say, "Well I'm not perfect" Well, don't be so proud of it. It shows up, don't boast about it. I mean, why aren't you perfect? You say, "you expect me to be perfect?" Sure I do. I think Jesus did, didn't He in the Sermon on the Mount? He talked about perfection there for us.

(continued) "Well, we could pull out of our text for our own convenience, "wait a minute, wait a minute didn't the Apostle Paul say 'not that I have already attained or were already perfect' That's what he said. Well, you say, "if he said he wasn't perfect do you expect me to be perfect?" Yes I do. Because you quoted about perfection out of context. If you go two verses past that verse, in that verse he says 'not as though I had already attained or were already perfect' two verses further one he says "let us who are perfect". Now what do you do with it?

(continued) "He's talking about two different things. In the first case, "not as though I had already attained" he's talking there of the resurrection body. I don't have one, do you? I'll be glad when I get it because I have a body that gives me a lot of problems due to some serious accident I had a few years ago. And I'll be delighted when I get, as it were, the last



installment of my salvation.

(continued) "salvation is present, salvation is progressive, salvation will be finalized, because one day we are going to have a body like unto His glorious body. And we are told, "be ye perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect" Now again, we can't have angelic perfection, we can't have intellectual perfection. There are many perfections we can't have. Adam like perfection. We can have spiritual perfection because God demands that we love Him with a perfect heart and with a perfect mind. And we can be made perfect in love the Word of God says."

Leonard Ravenhill in, "Be Holy In All Conversation" from 2:15min-5:24min

"There are only two types of people in this world; those who are dead in sin and those who are dead to sin." Leonard Ravenhill

Many great men taught holiness like **John Wesley, John Fletcher, E.M. Bounds, William & Catherine Booth, Charles Finney, A. B. Simpson, Duncan Campbell, Leonard Ravenhill**. And any one of us would do good to follow in their biblical footsteps.

**Re:, on: 2006/1/31 15:20**

Here is also a good E.M. Bounds quote to go with the Ravenhill quote:

“Nothing short of absolute obedience will satisfy God. The keeping of all His commandments is the demonstration of obedience that God requires. But can we keep all of God’s commandments? Can a man receive moral ability that helps him to obey every one of them? Certainly he can. By the same token, man can, through prayer, obtain ability to do this very thing...Does God give commandments that men cannot obey? Is he so arbitrary, so severe, so unloving, that He issues commandments that cannot be obeyed? The answer is that, in all of Scripture, not a single instance is recorded of God having commanded any man to do a thing that was beyond his power. Is God so unjust and so inconsiderate to require a man something that he is unable to do? Certainly not! To infer is to slander the character of God.” From "Prayer and Obedience"

**Re: - posted by tinluke (), on: 2006/1/31 15:51**

Hey Jesse,

I agree with everything you posted, but I think this discussion took a wrong turn. What Greg said earlier really hit the nail on the head. When I think of the battle of the flesh, I don't think of lust, lying, stealing, fornication, murder... etc. I am thinking of the personal struggles with in my mind and heart. For example if I had the wrong attitude towards my husband and or a brother/sister in the Lord. Yes, I sinned, but when the Lord points it out to me I repent, ask forgiveness and go on.

Or what about spiritual pride, fear, doubt, unbelief??? These are "hidden" sins of the heart that are the root of many "big" sins.

What about anger?? What about hating someone who is abusing you??? Can any of us say "forgive him father for he knows not know what he does." No, we can not do it, but the spirit of Christ with in us can. And sometimes we need to cry out over and over again. Lord help me love the person who hurts me!! Yes, hating even the person who is hurting you is still HATE and therefore still sin. So, this is the struggle that I am referring to.

And I feel the the Holy spirit has said this to me about those who are struggling with this.

THE OLD MAN IS DEAD... YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK THERE. YES, SIN STILL LIVES WITH US, BUT YOU ARE CHANGING FROM IMAGE TO IMAGE AND GLORY TO GLORY. REST IN HIS LOVE FOR YOU.

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2006/1/31 16:01**

Question:

How many of us have reached the level of perfection in which we do not sin or even think about sinning?

Let me examine myself since I am very knowledgeable of that subject:

I know without a doubt that I am redeemed by God. I have a relationship with the Lord and I love him!

Now, knowing that I am saved and have a relationship with God, do I sin? Everyday. Am I proud of that? NO!

I hate the sin that is in me...and sometimes I don't hate it enough. I struggle with thoughts of impurity, I struggle with disobeying God's commands, I have times of callousness and coldness towards prayer.

Does God convict me of all the above? You bet! Do I repent of my sins and ask for forgiveness? Yes!

My point is this, I know I am a Christian, but I also sin. I am not saying that it is ok to be a Christian and sin, but I must admit the truth in my life. My sin is my own fault, not God's. He never forces me to sin and he never tempts me with sin. But, praise his holy and glorious name, if I was to say that I had no sin, I would be deceiving myself and the truth would not be in me, but when I confess my sin, he is faithful and just to forgive me of my sin. And to cleanse me of all unrighteousness! 1 John 1:8-9

To sum this up with what Paul says in Romans, in my life right now, I have two "natures" waging a war inside of me.

I have the sinful nature that I was born with and I have the Holy Spirit inside of me that came when I became a follower of Christ.

So how do these two "natures" battle?

Let's suppose I am driving down the road and I see an ESPN billboard with 4 women in bikinis with the letters E S P N on their stomachs. (True story)

Now, when I am driving by this billboard my sinful nature wants to stare at the women and enjoy their figures.

At the same time...

The Holy Spirit is telling me that I should not look at the billboard because if I lust after them in my heart, I am committing adultery. It would be a sin to lust after the women.

Here is where my "Free-Will" comes into play, do I listen to my sinful nature or do I listen to the Holy Spirit?

If I truly love God more than my lust, I will choose to listen to the Holy Spirit. If I give into my sinful nature, I grieve the Holy Spirit and sin against God. Conviction comes and I plead for forgiveness.

Now, is it possible for me to achieve a "perfect" and "sinless" state so that I don't even have the DESIRE to look at the women and lust?

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/31 16:13**

Quote:  
-----Now, is it possible for me to achieve a "perfect" and "sinless" state so that I don't even have the DESIRE to look at the women and lust?  
-----

Temptation is not sin nor is a natural attraction. "Lusting after" is sin.

Hbr 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we without sin.

This would be the biblical thing to do:

2Cr 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

**Re:, on: 2006/1/31 16:15**

I can testify of having the blessed experience of the beauty of holiness. This is not mere theology and ideology we are discussing, this is practical, this is true life.

Yes a Christian can sin BIG, and a Christian can sin SMALL, but a Christian doesn't have to sin at all.

A true Christian, if he finds he has sin in his life, will repent. If he doesn't he becomes a backslider or a hypocrite.

So I think it's really simple. If you have any BIG sins in your life, or if you have any SMALL sins in your life, simply repent

It's very important you make the distinction between TEMPTATION and SIN. You will never be above temptation, even Christ was tempted. But you can be above sin. You'll never be free from temptation until you die and receive a new body, but you can be "free from sin"(Rom 6:18) here and now.

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/31 16:16**

I believe whole heartedly that by the grace of God you can do 2Cr 10:5.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2006/1/31 16:21**

I agree that temptation is not a sin.

But is it possible not to struggle during the temptation?

**Re:, on: 2006/1/31 16:24**

You will grow in grace, meaning grow in strength. (You do not have to sin to grow in grace. Rather growing in grace is not sinning, but continually saying no to temptation as it becomes easier and easier. It's going from glory to glory)

The more you say no to temptation, the easier it becomes.

I used to do heavy drugs. When I first started saying no to the temptations, it was very hard. But I have grown in grace, grown in strength, and now I don't even think about doing any drugs. It's not a temptation to me anymore.

Let's be specific and make a list of sins men cannot live without until they die. Which sins are they?

Is it drunkenness? Is it lying? Is it stealing? Is it selfishness? Is it pride? Is it hatred? Is it sexual lust? Which sin cannot a man repent from?

Or as Ravenhill says in the Revival Hymn, "what are you saved from?"

It's not merely cleaning the outside of the cup, (the BIG sins) but it's cleaning the inside of the cup (the smaller, unseen sins). And Jesus rebuked sharply those who only cleaned the outside but not the inside!

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

**Re: - posted by alanrepent, on: 2006/1/31 16:26**

([http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id9359&forum35](http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id9359&forum35)) response here

Quote:

-----  
I believe the Scriptures teach that we can walk just as Jesus walked and that God commands us to be perfect like Himself.

The truth is I fall to sin.

I'm not going to try to pretend like purity isn't what the Scriptures teach, though, simply because I'm not living it.

There's probably a deeper battle going on inside me (and apparently others) though as to whether or not I believe the Scriptures. Mentally, of course, I assert they are 100% true, but then if my heart echoed my thoughts, why would I not be perfect? Is our Father a hard taskmaster or a liar? Would he give a command without giving us power to keep it, or would he lie and say his commands are not burdensome if indeed they are?

I don't think we can be perfect without the kingdom of God, and until we realize our need for one another, we won't be able to enter into this great salvation.

That's where I fall short.

**pure**

adj. pur-er, pur-est

1. Having a homogeneous or uniform composition; not mixed: pure oxygen.
2. Free from adulterants or impurities: pure chocolate.
3. Free of dirt, defilement, or pollution: "A memory without blot or contamination must be... an inexhaustible source of pure refreshment" (Charlotte Brontë).
4. Free of foreign elements.
5. Containing nothing inappropriate or extraneous: a pure literary style.
6. Complete; utter: pure folly.
7. Having no faults; sinless: "I felt pure and sweet as a new baby" (Sylvia Plath).
8. Chaste; virgin.
9. Of unmixed blood or ancestry.

**Re: - posted by pottershands (), on: 2006/1/31 17:06**

Lazarus wrote:

Quote:

-----Yes a Christian can sin BIG, and a Christian can sin SMALL, but a Christian doesn't have to sin at all.  
-----

Amen, bro. Jesse. I believe this, too.

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

"

The question many have is, "does God expect us to attain perfection, or just strive for it?". Since this verse comes at the end of the sermon on the mount, it seems it is intended to point out our utter dependence on God by showing us just how far we fall short of His perfect standard. What do you think?

Melissa

**Re: tinluke - posted by TaKa (), on: 2006/1/31 17:42**

Yes, I agree that we have to be constantly aware of the inward battle between the spirit man and the flesh. But again, the Bible says that if we walk in the Spirit, we WILL NOT fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Have you ever read Absolute Surrender by Andrew Murray? I think John Wesley and/or John Knox also wrote on the subject of entire sanctification.

The Bible says that if we confess our sins God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness. Does "all" mean "all", or does it mean something else? And if God is not capable of cleansing us from all unrighteousness, is He really God?

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

Yes, I agree with Lazarus when he says that a Christian certainly CAN sin, but certainly does not HAVE to sin. That's the good news of salvation! We don't have to sin anymore.

Did Jesus tell the woman at the well "Go and sin less" or "Go and sin no more"? He wouldn't have said "Go and sin no more" if it weren't possible for her to do so.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/1/31 17:55**

Quote:

-----Or what about spiritual pride, fear, doubt, unbelief??? These are "hidden" sins of the heart that are the root of many "big" sins. What about anger?? What about hating someone who is abusing you??? Can any of us say "forgive him father for he knows not know what he does." No, we can not do it, but the spirit of Christ with in us can. And sometimes we need to cry out over and over again. Lord help me love the person who hurts me!! Yes, hating even the person who is hurting you is still HATE and therefore still sin. So, this is the struggle that I am referring to.

And I feel the the Holy spirit has said this to me about those who are struggling with this.

THE OLD MAN IS DEAD... YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK THERE. YES, SIN STILL LIVES WITH US, BUT YOU ARE CHANGING FROM IMAGE TO IMAGE AND GLORY TO GLORY. REST IN HIS LOVE FOR YOU.  
-----

This is a wonderful post and I really think people need to read it again and meditate on it. I am not against holiness but when you say the word holiness you don't think of PERFECTIONISM or SINLESSNESS. I am striving to be as "holy as a sinner can be made".

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/1/31 18:08**

Admittedly, in places Wesley's teaching on Christian perfection is difficult to sort out. He makes an assertion, qualifies it, amplifies it, alters it, and then picks up a fresh approach to the same topic. And in fact nuances in his doctrine have given rise to various schisms within Methodism. Nevertheless, the lineaments of his teaching are clear:

- Christian perfection is not sinlessness in the sense of faultlessness;
- it is not a rising above human finitude;
- the sanctified never possess sanctification in such a way as to be independent of Jesus Christ, and they always stand in need of forgiveness; they do continue to grow in grace; they are on the road, as Wesley said one hundred times, to perfection in love.

from:  
<http://www.victorshepherd.on.ca/Wesley/newpage25.htm>

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/31 19:01**

Text Sermons on Christian Perfection:

[John Wesley](#)

(<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid1683>) Christian Perfection

[Charles Finney](#)

(<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid572>) Christian Perfection (1)

(<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid573>) Christian Perfection (2)

**Re: Must we sin? - posted by JFEdgar (), on: 2006/1/31 19:09**

Hello everyone,

An important question to ask yourself is, 'do I have to sin right now?' Whenever you are tempted do you have to sin? The Scriptures clearly teach that you do not.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

This scripture is clear as day. It very clearly teaches that there is ALWAYS a way out (through Jesus) when we are tempted. This causes the blame to be totally upon us when we fall. It was not because the devil caused us, it was not because the world caused us, it was not that we could not help it, because God made a way out. Therefore, every time we sin, we are totally to blame. And when we have victory, God deserves all the credit (for He made the way out).

The doctrine of 'Christian imperfection' is not only totally unbiblical, but is also entirely wicked because it gives believers an excuse to continue in sin.

Do I claim to be sinless? No. Do I claim that the verses here are true, and that I can be sinless because of Jesus' work on the Cross and the Life He now imparts to me? Ofcourse, and throughout my entire New Testament it testifies to that fact.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/1/31 19:13**

Quote:  
-----Do I claim to be sinless? No. Do I claim that the verses here are true, and that I can be sinless because of Jesus' work on the Cross and the Life He now imparts to me? Ofcourse, and throughout my entire New Testament it testifies to that fact.  
-----

But what is sin? is it just adultery and other outward sins (even though even these originate from the heart)? I want to know what people think about sins of the mind and even of WHO WE ARE! like everyday actions.. pride, selfishness, envy, backbiting.. sin!

**Re:, on: 2006/1/31 19:19**

"sin is transgression of the Law" 1John 3:4

I don't understand this teaching that you can get the BIG sins out of your life, but not the SMALL sins. What is BIG and what is SMALL?

Is pride SMALL? What if you have a lot of a small sin in your life? Suppose someone has A LOT of pride. Is it then a small sin that someone could get out of their life?

"Would you be free from your burden of sin? There is power in the blood. Power in the blood. Would you be free from your passion and pride? There is power in the blood of the Lamb."

"And in that fountain sinners plunge and lose ALL of their guilty stains."

**Re: must we sin - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/1/31 19:35**

If my flesh should cause me to sin, can I not through Christ's spirit crucify it?

If I be tempted, can I not escape?

If my thoughts be sinful can I not bring them into captivity to the will of God?

Am I not a new man who has died and been reborn?

Have not old things past away?

I cannot claim a sinless life, but it seems to me that I have been given every spiritual tool to enable me to live without sin, no matter how often I fall, should this not be my earnest goal? is this not the goal set forth by our lord (sin no more) and if so, how can I in good conscience teach others that it cannot be done.

**Re: Must we sin? - posted by JFEdgar (), on: 2006/1/31 19:39**

I would also like to add, that when you sin it is entirely because you chose to. This is what 1 Corinth 10:13 and many others say. God HAS free'd you, He already Has given you a way out, He already has killed your Old Man, whether you believe it or not. This means that right now you have the total ability to walk in the New Man, and deny the Old Man (for he is dead), and if you do not it is because you choose not to. Do not blame God for your sin, for He has freed you from it, and told you so in His Word.

I do not call this Christian Perfection, I call this christian accountability. It is time we began to be accountable for our actions before God. Let us stop blaming our sin on the "flesh", and realize that I AM THE FLESH AND I CHOOSE TO WALK IN IT. We are clearly commanded to walk in the Spirit, and not the flesh. This is because we have been freed entirely from it. This is what Romans 6-8 say! Yes Paul makes it clear what happens in the flesh in Romans 7, yet he shows what happens in the Spirit in Romans 8. Galatians 5 says "walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh". Do you believe God when He says this? He doesnt say 'you shall fulfill less of the lusts of the flesh'.

Do you commit fornication in church? Do you look at pornography in the pews? Do you lust after women when you know other brothers are watching? Are you as ready to show anger and annoyance toward others while at church as you are at work? Are you as likely to 'fib' when others might find out? You who do these things while you are alone, you hypocrits! You will not do them when others are watching, but when only God is watching, you indulge in these things and blame it on your 'sin nature'. You are able to abstain from sin before the eyes of others, yet when you are before only God, you suddenly have a 'sin nature' or a 'flesh' which prevents you from being able to be holy. This is hypocrisy.

Walk in humility towards God and man, for He is the one who has freed you. But walk in Holiness, for He has enabled you to. On the day of judgement, blaming your sin nature or your flesh will not do.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Romans 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Romans 7:21 **I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.**

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and **bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 7:25 I thank God through **Jesus Christ our Lord**. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me **free from the law of sin** and death.

Romans 8:2 For the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**

Romans 8:4-9 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who **walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh can not please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

**Re: - posted by JFEdgar (), on: 2006/1/31 19:58**

Quote:  
-----But what is sin? is it just adultery and other outward sins (even though even these originate from the heart)? I want to know what people think about sins of the mind and even of WHO WE ARE! like everyday actions.. pride, selfishness, envy, backbiting.. sin!  
-----

My definition of sin, for myself, is anytime I am not walking with, and loving, God. In other words Walking in the Spirit, as opposed to the flesh. Sin does not occur only when the outward action happens, but from the state of being that produced the outward action as well. When I am enjoying the presence of God, I cannot become proud or envious or any of these things but for a second. I can be tempted, but it is easy to crucify these things when I am enjoying the holy and loving presence of the One who I know freed me from these things. Pride is not an issue, envy is not an issue, lack of love is not an issue when I look to Him. It all dissolves and Love and His Holiness fill their places.

"Who we are" is an interesting statement. Just as Paul did, I find two me's. There is me, and then there is Christ in me. When I am not walking the Spirit, I am walking in Me (what Paul calls, the flesh). This is always sin (Rom 8, the flesh is enmity with God). But it is dead, and I do not have to walk in it. It may try to rise up and take its throne back, but so long as the Spirit (the presence of God, walking with Him, loving Him, communing with Him) remains on the throne, I continue to walk in holiness.

Two things can happen to end this wonderful relationship and this wonderful state of holiness and perfection.

1.) I can stop seeking after God (usually this happens when a test comes and it becomes harder to commune with God), prayer is less, my heart is not directed toward Him or acknowledging His presence. Then I begin to fall to the outward sins. It is important to note that this does not give a person an excuse to sin because they are not 'walking in the Spirit'. For one, because they should be (and can be) walking in the Spirit right now (through the blood of Christ)! And second, because even when we are not seeking Him, there is still a 'way out' (1 Corin. 10:13), whether we believe it or not or want it or not. We are still accountable if we choose to indulge in Sin.

2.) I can give in to temptation to commit one of these actions (or indulge in pride and other states of mind), and immediately this state of communion seems to end until I have thoroughly repented and come back to God.

I would like to point out that neither of these two things has to ever happen, and if it does, it is purely on account of my own decision and will not to follow after God. God has fully enabled me to follow after Him at all times. He has never hid Himself from me yet. Through Christ, I may gaze on His glorious face and enjoy His Life giving, power giving, love giving presence always.

I do not intend to theologically prove all of this (although I think Romans 6-8, Gal 5, and all of 1 John pretty well show this). However, it has been my Christian experience. Hope this encourages you.

love,  
Joe

**Re: - posted by Combat\_Chuck (), on: 2006/2/1 2:32**

Quote:  
-----  
tinluke wrote:

Quote:  
-----Perhaps we have too narrow a view of what sin is and therefore we make it easy to claim perfection from sin.  
-----

You hit the nail on the head!

-----  
Regarding the definition of sin,



**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

I agree with what is quoted above me, however, I want to expand upon it.

Sin literally means to, "miss the mark". It was originally an archery term. When you missed the mark, it was sin. It didn't matter whether you missed by an inch or by a mile, it was sin.

God is the mark.

Anything that misses the mark is sin.

So, the issue is not so much that we have too narrow a view of what sin is, but that we don't have a large enough understanding of who God is.

Adam

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 7:27**

Quote:  
-----You are able to abstain from sin before the eyes of others, yet when you are before only God, you suddenly have a 'sin nature' or a 'flesh' which prevents you from being able to be holy. This is hypocrisy.  
-----

Whilst I fully appreciate your point here and perhaps I am thinking of slightly less obvious sins but I think this could cause some people who are not hypocritical and false to come under unnecessary condemnation. I think it is worth taking into account that although we never need to sin we sometimes do and it is more likely to happen when we are not amongst the rest of the church as we are easier targets when we are on our own or perhaps have made a mistake and got into a silly situation. I think the devil is a coward and tries to 'pick people off' whilst they are alone and vulnerable rather than in the company of God's people so I don't think that everyone who sometimes falls down either in some private way or just not in front of the church is necessarily a hypocrite. I am not saying that I think that this is always the case and I am not completely trying to argue the point that you are making. It also says confess your faults one to another not your specific sins. I am also not saying that it is not possible to withstand sin in private as I totally think it is and I get your point about 'blaming our flesh' when we had a choice.

**Re: Sin - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/2/1 7:38**

Forgive me if this has been covered prior, but a wise sage here has in the past brought up the idea of 'first instance' in the scriptures. Chronologically, canon wise, unsure how accurate as to "First", but it's a layman's attempt. Took one from the Old and the New Testament:

Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, **sin**(2407) lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

**H2403**

&#1495;&#1496;&#1468;&#1488;&#1514; &#1495;&#1496;&#1468;&#1488;&#1492;  
chat&#803;t&#803;a&#770;'a&#770;h chat&#803;t&#803;a&#770;'th  
khat-taw-aw', khat-tawth'

From H2398; an offence (sometimes habitual sinfulness), and its penalty, occasion, sacrifice, or expiation; also (concretely) an offender: - punishment (of sin), purifying (-fication for sin), sin (-ner, offering).

Mat 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of **sin**266 and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

**G266**

&#945;&#788;&#956;&#945;&#961;&#964;&#953;&#769;&#945;

hamartia  
ham-ar-tee'-ah  
From G264; sin (properly abstract): - offence, sin (-ful).

Have wondered about the phrasing of 'missing the mark', something not quite satisfactory. It appears from these examples to be **offense**.

Ultimately, it is always offending God. Another comes instantly to mind, with a parallel;

Jam 4:17 *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

Rom 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, **they glorified him not** as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

"Missing the mark" actually seems to be a very poor definition. How about *defiance?* *rebellion?*

Psa 51:4 **Against** thee, thee only, have I sinned, and **done this evil** in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Interestingly, took from this the above, 'sinned';

## H2398

𐤇𐤃𐤑𐤏;𐤇𐤃𐤑𐤏;𐤇𐤃𐤑𐤏;  
𐤇𐤃𐤑𐤏;𐤇𐤃𐤑𐤏;𐤇𐤃𐤑𐤏;  
khaw-taw'

A primitive root; properly to miss; hence (figuratively and generally) to sin; by inference to forfeit, lack, expiate, repent, (causatively) lead astray, condemn: - bear the blame, cleanse, commit, by fault, harm he hath done, loss, miss, (make) **of fend** (-er), offer for sin, purge, purify (self), make reconciliation, (cause, make) sin (-ful, -ness), trespassive

"Miss" is there, but seems otherwise still.

Something about '*On purpose*'. In other words, not so much as "missing the mark", but aiming the arrows at God.

## Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/1 9:05

Quote:  
-----Have wondered about the phrasing of 'missing the mark', something not quite satisfactory. It appears from these examples to be **offense**.  
-----

Mike,

I think you are bringing too modern a meaning to the word 'offense'. Without claiming a knowledge of the 'word history', let me throw a few more (other than you've mentioned) terms into the arena - *iniquity*, *evil*, *wickedness*, *transgression*. My simple understanding is that a 'transgression' is a crossing of a line (in the sand?) and this would count as an offence. That is, the rule or law is clear and well known, but a person breaks that rule or law. That's a transgression - an offence against that rule or law.

I have not read the thread so far, so this next point may have been made, which is that one can have a change of attitude to a certain behaviour *after* one comes to know God.... One may have been so busy trying not to sin in certain ways, that one hedged oneself about with many tiny exaggerations of the rules, simply to try to keep within them all the time. Then, after one has power over one's will (through new birth), and is delivered from certain previously irresistible temptations

ons, one finds it possible to do things which previously one would have avoided. I don't mean one now *sins* with a 'clear conscience', but, that one has a sense of liberty in Christ, and as one walks in the light with Him, 1 John 1:7 is being out worked 24/7, so that one stops feeling as if one is sinning all the time and beating one's brains out about whether one has offended God inadvertently.

And from that point on, it is harder for the accuser to convince one that one is secretly sinning all the time, because one simply will not receive the thought - the LIE - because one IS perfected by His one offering and one IS walking in the light and one IS living in the Holy Spirit.

**Offense - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/2/1 9:45**

**Offense**

**OFFENSE, n. offens'.**

1. Displeasure; anger, or moderate anger. He gave them just cause of offense. He took offense.
2. Scandal; cause of stumbling. Christ is called a stone of stumbling and rock of offense to both the houses of Israel. Ps a 8.
3. Any transgression of law, divine or human; a crime; sin; act of wickedness or omission of duty.

Christ was delivered for our offenses, and raised again for our justification. Rom 4.

4. An injury.

I have given my opinion against the authority of two great men, but I hope without offense to their memories.

5. Attack; assault; as a weapon of offense.
6. Impediment. Mat 16.

Ye Old Websters 1828 Dictionary

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/2/1 9:52**

I had a thought today:

Can we completely submit our whole being to Christ?

If we completely submit our whole being to Christ will we sin against Him?

Maybe we need to start a thread on sin? What is the definition of it? That might help clear some things.. whether we must sin or not.

**Re: - posted by tinluke (), on: 2006/2/1 10:43**

I can't believe the post is still going. I did not want to reply as I was afraid of doing so just to prove a point, but as I was praying this morning the Lord just began to speak to me about this.

ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

All of our righteousness is as filthy rags.

Do we all sin?? YES!

Are we holy? YES!!

We are not HOLY because we DO NOT sin, we are HOLY because of THE BLOOD OF THE SLAIN LAMB!  
NO OTHER REASON! NO OTHER REASON! IF WE FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE IN A DANGEROUS PLACE.

## General Topics :: Must we sin?

I know who I am when I stand before the Lord. I am a sinner saved by grace, washed in the blood of the lamb. And yes, even my little white lie was enough to nail PERFECTION to a cross. I sent a perfect man to die!!

Jesus wants our hearts, not perfection! Are our hearts open to Him or are we more concerned with proving a point or "doing it right". I went to the Lord and asked Him to show me my heart in all of this. My sin greives me! I love the Lord so much, I NEVER want to sin again because I know the price He paid!!! But, the reality is that I will sin again. And when I do, I will run to the Lord in repentance and open heart before Him. And He is so mercifull and patient that will forgive me. And He will continue to tell me that I am HIS precious jewel. And He will sing over me and tell me that I am HIS. NOT because I am perfect and sinless, but because my heart belongs to HIM. And I am open to allow Him to cleanse me and lead me all the days of my life. I will give Him whatever He asks and go wherever He tells me to go! I am HIS!

STAY AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS!! NEVER LEAVE... NEVER FORGET WHO YOU ARE!! IT'S ONLY BY GRACE THAT WE STAND!!

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/2/1 11:05**

Your righteousness isn't a filthy rag if its Christ's righteousness in you. Are we actually made holy? Or just holiness accounted to us? Are we actually righteous? or just righteousness accounted to us? (EDIT: Would it not be both?)

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

2Cr 5:21 For he hath made him sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1Jo 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

Regardless if you believe you can or can't be without sin, both believe VERY strongly that you cannot do anything alone, but only by the grace that is found in Christ.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 12:03**

There was another forum on this subject called: A Sinless Life-Is it possible?

I learned alot of living a sinless life through Watchman Nee. I rarely ever catch myself sinning anymore unless I neglect my prayer life and time in the word. Even then I rarely sin anymore.

There is alot in the bible about mortifying the deeds of the body. That all has to do with self denial. The truth is that alot of christians really like themselves more than they know. When you deny yourself you loose yourself and take on the likeness of Christ. You will never be the same once you walk in self denial. Alot of christians say they want to live without sin and I know their spirit man does but they still love their TV set for instance more than the agony of the cross.

Jesus said if any man come after me He MUST deny himself and pick up his cross and follow me. First you have to get to the place that you are willing to give it ALL up. If you say to yourself that you'll give up all of your sins except for your TV set for instance your not in self denial. It doesn't work that way.

Most christians who read this will get frustrated and ignore what I'm saying here because they are not willing to accept what I'm saying and they would just like to pretend that what I'm saying is not true. But if any man be ignorant let him be ignorant.

Self denial is basically being dead. I tell people all of the time and we've talked about this here before on the other forum. Ask yourself this:

**CAN SATAN MAKE A DEAD MAN SIN?**

The gosple is easily understood for those who want to understand. The truth is that most christians really don't want to hear because they love some of their sins. Sure theirs alot they would like to get rid of but theirs alot they would like to keep

eeep so they turn a deaf ear.

Not only that but self denial is very humbling. But you can't get the gold till you've been through the fire.

Just think of the first time you stood in front of a bunch of strangers and started preaching. That was a fire! Now you anticipate the whole thing. Why? Because you denied yourself. So it is with every area of your life. It's hard at first because you have to put the flesh to death. The pride had to die. That was humiliating standing in front of a bunch of strangers barely able to speak. It's not hard now though is it? Now you look forward to it.

If any man have ears (ears that want to hear) let him hear.

**Re: Must we sin? - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/2/1 12:14**

Firstly, To the S.I community I have read every thread posted in regards to the original post. I would like you all to know that at this question was not rhetorical on my part and that your efforts are much appreciated.

Secondly, At the risk of seeming to want this thread to go on endlessly, I pose a question in regards to (Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God)

Do you wake up each morning with the need to convince yourself that "God is real" or do you struggle daily with merely believing in God? If not then why would you need to repent constantly?

are not these the very Principles( basics )of the faith?

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 12:44**

THERES ONLY ONE MAN THAT SATAN CANNOT CAUSE TO SIN AND THATS A DEAD ONE!!!!

...AND WE CAN GIVE ALL THE GLORY TO JESUS BECAUSE ONLY THROUGH HIS DEATH WAS HIS LIFE PERFECTED IN US!!! PRAISE THE LORD!!!

...HOW SATAN HATES THIS TRUTH!!!

**Re: - posted by tinluke (), on: 2006/2/1 15:34**

It seems to me that many who are in the "no sin camp" seem to think that I am advocating sin. I just want to state for the record that that is totally NOT THE CASE! I am the first big mouth out there to preach Holiness at all cost!! The need to separate ourselves from the world and forsake everything in it!! I have done this. I don't watch tv, I don't go to the movies, I don't even listen to christian music anymore. I am down to 2 cd's... Keith Green and Kelly Wilkerson.

I raise my children this way too. I spend my days in the Word and reading authors like T Austin Sparks. My downtime is on this site listening to sermons and writing teachings. So I totally get it, BUT I am still a sinner!

God is not impressed with the fact that I live my life this way either!! The only thing that the Father is impressed with when He looks upon me is the Blood of Christ. But my soul rejoices when I choose to live this way because I am not weighed

d down by the burden of sin.

So I do consider myself to live a holy life, but I still sin. And I still need to come to Jesus everyday and allow Him to examine my heart. We are all bent on backsliding!! We are not even aware of the decept in our own hearts or the intent of our "good works" unless the Lord reveal it to us.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 16:14**

tinluke, if anyone makes you feel like you are advocating sin, they are what God called Pharisees.

The ONLY group that Jesus called names, while He was here in the flesh.

'Chuck' hit it on this previous page and I dare anyone to prove this differently by that vulgar practice of just making their own list of what "they" consider "sins".

Sin IS MISSING THE MARK and the Mark is Rom 8:29, Gal 4:19 ... The actual Image of Christ.

Not just the cessation of outward things or whatever people narrow "sins" down to, in their own puny thinking, but sin is anything that is not in or of The Image of Christ Himself.

That is "the goal" of the Holy Spirit inside of us ... that by our Cooperative fellowship with Him, that we would come into His very Image.

Anything done in our own strength is sin also ... Romans 8 again and Galatians 5.

If anyone's preaching the Sinless Perfection Teaching on here ... I advise they take heed, lest they fall.

I don't know if someone is or not, because I haven't read this whole thread ... but if someone is, then they are narrow minded regarding the Scriptures and don't know the definition of "sin".

Who here does EVERYTHING THAT JESUS WOULD BE DOING IF HE WERE TRULY LIVING INSIDE OF YOU ?  
But that's the "mark" and what we're to aim for and not just talk.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Just reading All of James ought to straighten us out some and show us how far we are from "the goal".  
Or Matthew 25, Etc. etc.

It's our puny definition of "sin" that has made Christianity as ineffective in this world as it has become in the last 50 years or so.

The Lord won't bless Pharisiticism.

Phi 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Phi 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Phi 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Phi 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Phi 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Phi 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Phi 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Phi 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Phi 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Phi 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Phi 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Love 1st ... right ?

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 16:32**

I only brought up television because it is a common problem for most christians.I have a television set but I rarely watch it.The only thing I watch is the news because I don't like the commercials ect... now I just get the news off the internet.

I believe in sinless perfection.Let me just say that God never throws the whole ball of wax at you.We are being perfected little by little.You have to carry your cross constantly.Not put it down and then pick it back up.That is what I call selective sinning,which is NOT self denial.

Isn't that what the Revival Hymn is all about??? It makes a good sermon but how many will apply it and how many will just applaud it?

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 17:08**

Can somebody tell me why, that whenever "missing the 'mark', which is the exact Image of Christ" is brought up, it is always passed over and the threads or conversation always go right back to this "sin" and that ?

Are we posting His Word in vain and prefer to hear our own words instead ?

I don't know, but it's happened every where I've heard this doctrine spoken on, for as many years back as I can remember.

Puzzled & Troubled.

**Re: - posted by tinluke (), on: 2006/2/1 17:25**

PHEW!! This thread has worn me out! I've been thinking and praying about it for 2 days now! I really love all of my brothers and sisters in Christ. None of us have all the answers, but thank God we know the ONE who does! Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Never grow weary of seeking His face.

Peace out,

Tina

**Re: - posted by JFEdgar (), on: 2006/2/1 17:29**

Quote:

-----  
Whilst I fully appreciate your point here and perhaps I am thinking of slightly less obvious sins but I think this could cause some people who are not hypocritical and false to come under unnecessary condemnation. I think it is worth taking into account that although we never need to sin we sometimes do and it is more likely to happen when we are not amongst the rest of the church as we are easier targets when we are on our own or perhaps have made a mistake and got into a silly situation. I think the devil is a coward and tries to 'pick people off' whilst they are alone and vulnerable rather than in the company of God's people so I don't think that everyone who sometimes falls down either in some private way or just not in front of the church is necessarily a hypocrite. I am not saying that I think that this is always the case and I am not completely trying to argue the point that you are making. It also says confess your faults one to another not your specific sins. I am also not saying that it is not possible to withstand sin in private as I totally think it is and I get your point about 'blaming our flesh' when we had a choice.

-----  
Clueless,

Good point. I hope no one misunderstands me. Fellowship with the brothers does encourage and help us to stay from sin.

MeAgain, and others,

The argument seems to me to be going like this:

It is as if someone is telling us to go to the moon. And those who are against the idea that we can make it to the moon are saying "You do not understand how far and high the moon is! You do not understand all of the minute details that it would take to get there, and all of the engineering troubles that must be overcome before we undertake this. You must be ignorant, and you must be proud to think that you can actually go there."

And the ones who are promoting it are saying "Yes, but we have been given a teleporter and spacesuits. All we must do is push this button. We didn't create the teleporter or the suits. But they have been given to us for this task. Let's go right now!"

I would like to point out that the point is not whether or not someone has attained it, but whether or not we are lifting up the same standard that Jesus and the rest of scriptures do. The bible says that this is a high task (for yes, we are saturated in sin), but it also says over and over that we have been given the tools to go there, and that those tools were put right in front of us when we were saved. It also says that all enemies that do not want us to accomplish this have been either killed or put in subjection to us (the flesh and the devil). Therefore, when we do not accomplish this task, it means we are failing to use these tools. Yes it is a high task, but they are powerful tools that have been put in front of us! And how could anyone take pride when they have accomplished this, for the tools were put right in front of them. All they had to do was push the button!

It is important not to have a fatalistic attitude, but to have confidence and trust in scriptures like 1 Corinth 10:13, and 1 Thess 5:23. Rom 6-8 and Gal 5 show us that the flesh is dead, and that it does not need to reign over us anymore. We can have victory and live for God, and it is through Jesus' victory alone. Do I have to serve sin? Did God call me to a life where I have to continue to serve Satan? I challenge you to find that in the New Testament. Instead we are shown over and over again in Scriptures the victory that He has won for us. We need to be lifting up the standard that God has given us, rather than having a fatalistic attitude. If we have the attitude that we cannot have victory, then we aren't really "missing the mark" when we do sin, because we never had a mark to begin with. Instead, let's actually press for the high mark of perfection that God has called us to and given us the ability to attain.

This fatalistic attitude to me is totally wicked and of Satan. It presents a false idea of where we stand with God, of what Jesus did for us, it takes away our accountability for our actions by putting the blame on our 'flesh' (rather than on ourselves, because the flesh is dead!). It is also blasphemy, for it puts the flesh and sin ABOVE GOD in power. This is a totally wicked doctrine.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 18:19**

I was talking to a friend of mine named Miles today about this and he said, "If you can name the sin, then you can repent from that sin."

I like that.



Re:, on: 2006/2/1 18:43

Just as unbelievers become hardened TO sin ,I believe christians become hardened FROM sin.It is the normal christian life.

I love talking about this and I NEVER get tired of it.

There is a law that is working in our members Romans 7:5.Just like there is the law of gravity.What goes up MUST come down.The law in our members is also a LAW and the law is basically this:

WHEN A MAN IS DEAD HE CANNOT SIN!!!!PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Re:, on: 2006/2/1 19:56

Here is an excerpt from Watchman Nee:

#### THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE

God's normal for a christian can be summarized as follows:I no longer live! Now it is Christ who lives His life in me (Gal. 2:20).

There are two aspects of salvation that should be manifest in a Christian's life: the first is the forgiveness of sin; the second is his deliverance from sinning.Anyone who is not experiencing both of these aspects in his life is living beneath the privileges that God has accomplished for us in Christ.

Because of our limited comprehension of the state of our fallen nature,we do not have a true appreciation of how helpless the natural man really is. Thus,we still have some expectations in ourselves.And as a result of this faulty line of thought,we think that we can please God.

The blood can wash away my sins but it cannot wash away my "old man" (Rom 6:6).For this we are in need of the cross,that the old man may be crucified.Though the blood deals with sins, it is the cross that deals with the sinner.

At the beginning of the Christian life,we are concerned with our doing and not with our being; we are distressed more by what we have done than by what we are.We think that if only we could rectify certain things we could be good christians; therefore,we set out to change our actions.We try to please the Lord,but we find that something within us does not want to please Him.And the more we try to rectify matters externally, the more we realize how deep seated the problem really is.

Since we came into the world by birth, we must go out by death.To do away with our sinfulness, we must do away with our life.But how do we die? It is not by trying to kill ourselves.Rather,we die by recognizing that God has already dealt with us in Christ.This is summed up in the apostles statement, "As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death" (Rom.6:3)

**Re: Let's not tire then ..., on: 2006/2/1 20:19**

No space suit needed .... ;-)

Again, the definition of sin is ...  
MISSING THE MARK and the "Mark" is ... The actual Image of Christ.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Not just the cessation of outward things or whatever people narrow "sins" down to, in their own puny thinking, but sin is anything that is not in or of The Image of Christ Himself.

That is "the goal or mark" of the Holy Spirit inside of us ... that by our Cooperative fellowship with Him, that we would come into His very Image.

Anything done in our own strength is sin also ... Romans 8 again and Galatians.

If anyone's preaching the Sinless Perfection Teaching on here ... I advise they take heed, lest they fall.

The Word is speaking of us being transformed into the very image of Christ, not Just stopping this or that.

To say that "the mark" is anything less than the "Image of Christ", is narrow-mindedness regarding the Scriptures and Not knowing the definition of "sin".

Do you do EVERYTHING THAT JESUS WOULD BE DOING .. IF HE IS TRULY LIVING INSIDE OF YOU ???

IF in every second of every day, you were "dead" and "walking in the Spirit" alone ... you would be doing 'exactly' what He would be doing, every second of every day nonstop.

That's the "mark" and what we're to aim for as Paul has written and as we see him talk about in Phil 3.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Etc from James.

A "dead" person is identical to Christ and walking in the Spirit 24/7.  
Is there anyone here who claims that this is where they are ?

It's our puny definition of "sin" that has made Christianity as ineffective in this world as it has become in the last 50 years or so.

I don't tire of saying that last sentence neither.

**Re: - posted by JFEdgar (), on: 2006/2/1 21:06**

Quote:  
-----Not just the cessation of outward things or whatever people narrow "sins" down to, in their own puny thinking, but sin is anything that is not in or of The Image of Christ Himself.  
-----

You can keep raising the mark (to its proper place, I might add), and I can keep showing you that the scriptures promise us the tools and ability (through Christ alone) to reach that, and then command us to do it (gal 5, 1 corinth 10:13, Rom 6-8, 1 thessalonians 5:23 etc etc). Indeed, you are only insisting upon the far distance of the moon, must I continue to insist

t upon the entire-sufficiency and ability of the teleporter? Christ is entirely sufficient and powerful enough. Let us walk in His image, without excuses, for He has promised us the ability.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 21:23**

MeAgain said:

The word is speaking of us being transformed into the image of Christ, not just stopping this or that.

That is exactly what I have been saying.

MeAgain said:

Do you do EVERYTHING THAT JESUS WOULD BE DOING.... IF HE IS TRULY LIVING INSIDE OF YOU???

The bible tells us not to judge ourselves. The life that Jesus lives through you may not be by having you walk on water. Look at the Christians in China. I just read where the Chinese Christians are not only being killed and persecuted but sent to mental hospitals. There may come a time where 15 minutes of preaching will cost you a 15 year prison sentence. Does that sound like the ministry you've always dreamed of? There is no telling what kind of life we will have in the future or what another day holds. You just have to live out each day of your life crucified with Him. This is the only life that is pleasing to the Lord.

MeAgain said: If in every second of the day, you were "dead" and "walking in the spirit" alone... you would be doing 'exactly', what He would be doing, every second of the day nonstop.

The ministry that God has for one is not always the ministry He has for another. There is one thing we all have in common in our walk with the Lord and that is less of us and more of Him. You might spend your entire life just being spoken against. Jesus said GREAT is your reward when men speak against you. Have you ever heard of anyone wanting a ministry of "Being Spoken Against???"

It's not WHAT we do it's who we are!

**Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/1 21:39**

Rebecca said

Quote:

-----The bible tells us not to judge ourselves.

-----  
What do you make of this verse, then?

(NKJV) 1 Corinthians 11

30 For this reason many weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 21:58**

Dorcas,

1 Cor.11:30-32 is referring to judging our actions,not ourselves.

1 Cor. chapter 4 talks about how we are not to judge ourselves; v.3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgement, I judge not mine own self.

2Cor 10:12,18 For we dare not make ourselves of the number,or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise. v.18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

"Dead men cannot sin!"-Rebecca

**Re: Must we sin - re Rebecca, on: 2006/2/1 22:29**

Hi Rebecca,

I think the verses you quote prove my point not yours, because in them Paul is talking about man's judgement, whereas the only judgement that matters, is God's, and if we can concur with *His* judgement of our sin, then, we will not be condemned later.

By the way, I agree that dead men cannot sin. That's why, if we agree with God that we are worthy of death, (that is, judge ourselves according to I Cor 11:31), then, as we partake of the bread and wine, we are acknowledging our need for the Saviour - which is how we can live free from sin as you say.

**Re: Sin - posted by TaKa (), on: 2006/2/1 22:39**

A Pastor friend of mine said that years ago in the community he lived in people were taking their televisions to their back yards and shooting them. A Pastor friend of his asked him, "Are you going to shoot your television?", to which he replied, "No, I don't believe in violence".

Someone mentioned hymns. I heard someone say awhile back that Christians don't say lies, they just sing them. When we sing, "I surrender all", do we really mean it?

Yes, I have read The Normal Christian Life. Watchman Nee in his great wisdom has helped me understand many things through his books.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 23:22**

JFEdgar, I have no differences with your post.

You explained your teleporter well enough and I agree, because you were wise enough to add, that we've been "commanded" to get on ... Indeed.

I only used the "space suit" as a fun opener.

But I haven't "raised" the mark to the moon.

The 'mark' is in the Word and I didn't set it or raise it or changed it in any way.

We are told to walk in the Spirit. Romans 8 that I keep referring to.

My only disagreement with others, is when "the mark" is lowered, by making "sin" just these outward or whatever "things", rather than what it truly is.

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

It puts an even greater demand on us to "walk in the Spirit" and puts more import on the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Romans 8:28 should ALWAYS be quoted with verse 29.

As I said in my first post, it is a Cooperative Fellowship we have with the Holy Spirit.

So, I don't see where we disagree, nor have disagreed at all, that was why I added without "space suits" to my post. I felt you were seeing it.

Thanks for your reply.

Love.

Annie

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 23:23**

This is how the bible defines sin:

"sin is transgression of the Law" 1John 3:4

That is the biblical definition of sin, violating God's Law - the Ten Commandments.

Let's be careful not to make new commandments, and thereby say "see, nobody can be perfect". The road is already narrow, let's not make it narrower. There is no need to higher the bar any higher than it already is.

Someone could say, "well, I can't be perfect because I don't read my bible 24 hours a day, and if I was perfect, then I would be reading my bible 24 hours a day." And thereby make a new commandments to justify the lack of keeping the commands that we already do have!

The truth of the matter is, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIN!** And repenting means you stop it.

It is loud and clear in the bible, you don't have to sin:

1 Corinthians 10:13 - "There hath NO temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will NOT suffer you to be tempted ABOVE THAT YE ARE ABLE; but will with the temptation also make A WAY TO ESCAPE, that ye may be ABLE to BEAR IT."

So there it is. When you are tempted, it is never more than you are able to bear, and you always have a way of escape, so that you don't have to sin, meaning, you don't have to violate the Law.

This is not being legalistic. There is nothing legalistic about keeping God's Law. Legalism is turning the commands of men into the commands of God - Matt 15:9. But Jesus taught keeping the commands of God, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Joh 14:15

Those who do not break the Law are not under the law, only those who violate the Law are under the Law as it clearly says in Ga 5:23 and also 1Ti 1:9

**Re:, on: 2006/2/1 23:38**

Rebecca, I only would like to address your "Dead men cannot sin!"

I've read about 30 Watchman Nee books back in the 80's and I still love the man ... but, in The Release of The Spirit ... you read that this "death" is not something that we'll ever really see the end of.

How could Paul write what he did in Phil 3 if that were the case ?

We strive to die, {put to death} by our second by second choices.

We "choose" second by second, to obey the Spirit of Truth inside us, or our flesh.

We will not see perfection until we See Him.  
That is Scripture.

But the times that we cease to move in the Spirit, we go backward.

There is no such thing as being stationary in our growth.  
Like swimming up stream ... if we quit paddling, we're going to go backward with the current.

If you claim you are already dead, then you are no longer "striving" as The Word admonishes us to.

Have you read Release of the Spirit ?

The Word of God alone is sufficient anyway, even if you haven't.

God Bless you.  
Annie

**Re:, on: 2006/2/2 8:50**

Me Again,

What Watchman Nee is saying I believe is that there cannot be a release of the spirit without brokenness. Brokenness comes by denying ourselves and picking up our cross.

Paul said that there was a struggle going on in his members. The will to do good was present but at times he found that he was not able. I believe that what he was saying is that we all have areas and that God deals with them one by one. This letter was one of his first I believe at the beginning of his ministry.

How do we deal with these areas? By denying ourselves and nailing them to the cross. This is the race. The holy spirit points to an area and he says "this must go". One area at a time until we are all made perfect and complete. Which I believe is the mark of the high calling. God in Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus in us in all its fullness.

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, THE SAME IS ALSO A PERFECT MAN AND ABLE ALSO TO BRIDLE THE WHOLE BODY.

This is the mark of perfection. How do you know if you're perfect? Because you do not offend with your words. Is your heart pure? You will know by what comes out of your mouth because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

The bible says that the tongue can be tamed but v8 says that no man can tame it so then how can it be tamed? Well you can't tame the tongue by trying harder you can only tame the tongue by dying to yourself and getting out of the way so God can do it. The bible says the tongue can NO MAN TAME.

How do you get patience? Is it by trying harder to be patient? No, it's by getting rid of our impatience. We already have patience, it's the fruit of the spirit. Patience though can't come forth because the spirit of impatience is in the way so you must nail it to the cross than patience can come.

If you want love get rid of hate, if you want joy stop complaining, if you want peace stop worrying, if you want patience get rid of impatience ect... How by dying!

We have a new nature in Christ. You just have to clear all the debris away! This is what the release of the spirit is all about. How do you release the spirit. Well evidently the flesh is blocking it so we have to nail the flesh to the cross than the spirit can be released.

The spirit is inside of you it just needs a way out.

I agree with you that we never stop dying this is why we have to pick up our cross daily. Only one man can be on the throne. It can't be us and Jesus so we have to get out of the way.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/2/2 9:05

Greg:

Quote:  
-----But what is sin? is it just adultery and other outward sins (even though even these originate from the heart)? I want to know what people think about sins of the mind and even of WHO WE ARE! like everyday actions.. pride, selfishness, envy, backbiting.. sin!  
-----

Lazarus:

Quote:  
-----This is how the bible defines sin:

"sin is transgression of the Law" 1John 3:4

That is the biblical definition of sin, violating God's Law - the Ten Commandments.  
-----

1Jo 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth **also** the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Before the "law" written on tablets of stone, there was this; "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the **knowledge of good and evil**, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Gen 2:16-17

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit, of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, **Ye shall not** eat of it ....

"Do not" in the simplest of terms. This is not a mark to be missed, a target to 'shoot at'.

***that God has an absolute right to prescribe what we may and may not do*** ~ Gill

The devils lie and the first exposing of his cleverness, that he twists and mingles truth with error and deception;

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Gen 3:4-5

The truth part is in *knowing good and evil*.  
The very thing God would have man to not know;

And the eyes of them both were opened, and **they knew** that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. Gen 3:7

Self realization. The very beginning of death.

*The soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

Eze 18:20

Self awareness.  
Self dependence.

Self-ish-ness.

It was and is still a command to be obeyed;

And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which **I command you** this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul... Deu 11:13

Again to reiterate;

*that God has an absolute right to prescribe what we may and may not do-* Gill

Attempted earlier to give a biblical definition, what the meaning of the word sin is. Strangely all kinds of extrapolations came forth. By definition it is *offense*, that is not something I poured into the word. An equation;

Do not - I will do as I please = offense.

Sin.

Transgression.

Dis- *obedience*

However you want to couch it, still fail to see where the ideal is a bullseye on a target to shoot at and where Greg's earlier question, better, statement;

Quote:

-----WHO WE ARE! like everyday actions.. pride, selfishness, envy, backbiting.. sin!  
-----

gets more to the core of the matter. If I am recalling correctly, I believe Philologo's put it that the worse thing we can do is to say "no" to God.

Surely the above mention of transgressing the law is absolutely correct but the **also** is where the attempt to go backwards, prior to.

And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. Gal 3:18-25

It was mentioned elsewhere but a great example was the messages from Frank Drown and his wife from "The mission to the Headhunters" where he proved the point of the matter with the indigenous people who had no bible, no 'understanding' in the sense that we do of giving commentary and definitions and so forth.

They knew right and wrong instinctively as all do and therefore ...

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse:** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but **became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of **their own hearts**, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: **Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator**, who is blessed for ever. Amen. Rom 1:20-25



They knew who God is even without our particular ways of wording things. He does a far greater job of proving this out than I can here.

Master, **which** is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two **commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**  
Mat 22:36-40

Sin, it's a heart issue.

**Re: - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/2/2 10:40**

Saints,

The question is not what is sin. The question is must we sin? let us agree for times sake that sin is every nuance of wrong be it in thought, action or in-action. The point is that if God had said it were a sin to breathe, then we should all suffocate trying to do his will or be condemned with every breath.

What is sin? no The question is What is Christ!

What are the limits that we place on his empowering spirit. The Bible says "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (NOT SIN) sin was defeated long ago on the cross.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/2 11:25**

The Israelites crossed over the Red Sea and they were baptized in the cloud and in the sea but they never entered in to the promised land. There are two areas that Christians have to die from. One is sin and the other is self.

After a while of being a Christian one can recognize sin more easily but next you have to die to self. If you are not dead to yourself than sin will try to revive. Once you're nailed to the cross you can't come back down. The apostles were more mature because they entered the fullness by self denial. This is the promised land for the believer. Not many enter in because of a lack of faith. They don't believe that greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.

Yes, I believe we do not have to sin. The absence of self is the absence of sin that's why it's important to stay on the cross.

BACK TO THE CROSS  
By Watchman Nee

For the Christian death to self is the door to life. It is the only way to fruitfulness. Hence, death is absolutely necessary. But how many of us are really dead? Death to self is the cessation of all self's activity!

Christ is not only the savior who saves us from our sins but He is the savior who saves us from ourselves. To die to the self life is the only pathway to spiritual life. The turning point in experiencing God's full salvation lies in being delivered from self. And only God can cause us to die from self; no one else is able to do so.

If you have not experienced the death of self your spiritual life will have little real progress.

Though, as Christians, we have the fact of our inheritance, this does not necessarily mean that we have come into the experience of enjoying our inheritance. Hence, fact and experience are vastly different from one another.

In order to possess and enjoy an inheritance, the inheritor must take two steps: first, he must believe that there is such an inheritance; second, he must singularly arise to take possession of this inheritance.

Re:, on: 2006/2/2 11:46

May I do a bit of English analysis on the question 'Must we sin?'

The word 'must' is an imperative. Jesus said 'you must be born again'. Jesus doesn't use the word 'must' very often, but, there is no escaping its meaning when He does.

Using 'must' at the beginning of the question, rather than say 'need' (Need we sin?), may give the impression that to stop sinning is only within our reach in conjunction with a huge amount of effort. I don't think this is how our freedom from sin works. I believe it works at a spiritual level, where our inner man is kept clean by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Under the Old Covenant (There must be a good thread explaining this thoroughly, somewhere on SI.....?) every year on the Day of Atonement, there was a ceremony to lay all the abstract sins - thoughts, wishes, intentions, omissions (etc) on the head of a goat, who was sent out into the wilderness *bearing away* those sins. (This is only part of the sacrificing which was made on the Day of At-one-ment every year.)

Now, according to Hebrews 10 (NKJV)

17 "Their sins and their lawless deeds **I will remember no more.**"

18 Now where there is remission of these, **no longer an offering for sin.**

19 **Therefore**, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and a High Priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.

'having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience'

Earlier in Hebrews, there is reference to 'an evil heart of unbelief' (3:12) and it is clear that FAITH in the blood of Jesus to cleanse our sin, is what moves us from striving to keep ourselves without His help, to the 'rest of faith' in which we stop striving to keep ourselves, and begin to believe that HE is keeping us, and His blood continues to cleanse us.

This is not to say we never feel guilty or know we *have sinned*, but *that* is not our continuous condition before God.

Hebrews 12

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, **and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than Abel.**

Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/2 11:55

Just to finish the thought.....

This is why I referred to 1 John 1:7 in a previous post. This is the key to living free from a continuous sense of failure.

'Must we sin?' is not about not sinning, it's about **walking in the light**, where the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

John ends his first letter with that same key, **faith** which begins the Hebrew letter.

1 John 5

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is He who came by water and blood -- Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

9 If we receive the witness of men, **the witness of God is greater**; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

10 **He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself**; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

11 And this is the testimony: that **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.**

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 These things I have written to **you who believe in the name of the Son of God**, that you may know that you have eternal life, **and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.**

This is why Hebrews 10:14 is such a key verse to accept right into the middle and depth of our beings... or as Jesus used to say 'let this sink down into your ears'.

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 **But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,**

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

14 **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

That's us, beloved, if you believe the word.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/2 11:59**

It boils down to this:

Its like standing on the rivers bank and looking into the land that God gave you, YOUR INHERITANCE and God says to you; "See those big fat juicy grapes over there? There all yours! Now go get'em!"

Sometimes I think what if I were there and we were all standing there looking into the promised land,I would hope that I would be one of those that said; "Giants? Who cares!!! That's mine and I'm goin in!!!!"

I don't just want to survive.I want to thrive!!!

**Re:, on: 2006/2/2 13:36**

It appears we've all "missed the mark" and need to repent ...

"It's turned into this".

[http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id=9369&forum=36&4](http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=9369&forum=36&4)

:-P Preach.

And some of us silly kids thought that this thread was interesting and going along nicely.

"It's turned into this."

Now can ya beat that ? :-?

:-D

**Re:, on: 2006/2/2 13:50**

I don't feel like I need to define what sin is. I'm quite comfortable in this thread!:-) But if the water gets too hot please feel free to do so. I'm just going to stay here and soak my feet!

**Re: - posted by tinluke (), on: 2006/2/2 14:18**

How clever we all are! What persuasive arguments we can make!! It's kind of ironic that we are discussing a sinless life, yet NO ONE here is trying to prove their point... aka pride = sin!!

NO ONE here feels just a teeny tiny bit of frustration... aka anger = murder = sin!!

You must ask yourself this question; Are you here bringing up all of these persuasive arguments to bring honor and glory to the name of Christ, or just trying to prove your point??

This thread has come down to splitting hairs! I see no glory in that. To quote my 4 year old.. it's all just "yucky"!!!

Is it possible that we have made mistakes?? Is it possible that no one has all the answers?? Possible that we've all missed the mark??

How much time have we spend asking the Lord what He thinks?? Have we really sought Him and asked Him to show us our hearts in all of this, or are we more interested in being right??

I admit that I do not know everything, but my desire is to know Christ in His fullness and bring honor and glory to His name. I will never assume that I know it all. As a matter of fact I always assume that the other guy may be right. Then I bring it to the Lord in prayer and reading the word.

Stay at the CROSS saint!! Let's not make the cross of Christ void!!

**Re:, on: 2006/2/2 15:00**

I love reading Watchman Nee! :-) His book "Secrets to Spiritual Power", is a great book! It has a compilation of 63 of his books.

The Communion of the Holy Spirit

If you can bear the digging up and burrowing down that the Lord does in your life, you will be used greatly by the Lord. But if you fret and have controversy with God, you at once lose your victorious life, and any outpouring of the Holy Spirit will be of no help. Let the cross cut and pierce you deeply, for each cutting of the cross severs something from you that you love and long for. These cuttings are the work of the Cross for an increase of the measure of His grace in you.

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/2/2 15:33**

Quote:

-----  
MeAgain wrote:

It appears we've all "missed the mark" and need to repent ...

"It's turned into this".

[http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id=9369&forum=36&4](http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=9369&forum=36&4)

:-P Preach.

And some of us silly kids thought that this thread was interesting and going along nicely.

"It's turned into this."

Now can ya beat that ? :-?

:-D

-----  
:-P This thread is going along alright. I was just thinking how can we say we are with or without something if we all have a different idea of that 'something.' Just as in talking about 'Christian Perfection,' the Bible clearly talks about perfection but you have to define what the Bible means by 'perfect' to even be able to discuss it. One says we are perfect, the other not, one says we are sinless, the other not. It's because we both have a different thought on the subject... wouldn't you agree?

**Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/2 15:46**

Quote:

-----Is it possible that we have made mistakes?? Is it possible that no one has all the answers?? Possible that we've all missed the mark??

-----  
Dear Tina,

Do you think there are people here who think they never have sinned, or, who think they never sin now?

Do you think that's why I posted what the Lord has shown me about how to live free from condemnation? I was not trying to be controversial, or, to suggest that what others have contributed is irrelevant.... but, we can spend a lot of time looking at the minutiae of our lives and all we are doing is making it less likely we will live in the victory Christ won for us. That's all I was getting at.

This is not to say we should not identify what is wrong in our lives and, with a WILL, put it right with God and keep it right with God. But, I can only do that for me - not for anyone else - and vice versa. ;-)

The 'What is sin?' thread is shaping up beautifully, too. 8-)

**Re: Must We Sin? - posted by TonyS (), on: 2006/2/2 16:01**

Whether or not this fits with the thread you decide, but I thought maybe there would be a few who would enjoy this short excerpt from H. A. Ironside's work (Holiness: The False and the True, 1912). This book concerns Rev. Ironside's struggle with perfectionist doctrine as a young Salvation Army officer.

"The teaching of holiness in the flesh (perfectionism) tends to harden the conscience and to cause the one who professes it to lower the standard to his own poor experience. Any who move much among those in this profession will soon begin to realize how greatly prevalent are the conditions I have described. Holiness professors are frequently cutting, censorious, uncharitable and harsh in their judgment of others. Exaggerations, amounting to downright dishonesty, are unconsciously encouraged by and often indulged in their "testimony" meetings.

Holiness advocates have all the little unpleasant ways that are so trying in many of us; they are no more free from penuriousness, tattling, evil speaking, selfishness, and kindred weakness, than their neighbors.

And as to downright wickedness and uncleanness, I regret to have to record that sins of a positively immoral character are, I fear, far more frequently met with in holiness churches... than the outsider would think possible. I know whereof I speak; and only a desire to save others from the bitter disappointments I had to meet leads me to write as I do." --H.A. Ironside

I am reminded of Paul's words near the end of his Ministry "not that I had already obtained, either were already perfect" and "I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it YET." (NASB).

God Bless,  
tonys

**Re: You are dead!!!, on: 2006/2/3 6:50**

Do you not know that Christ has died? Do you not know that you died with Him? Do you not know that your death is no less truly a fact than His? If not, seek the Lord until you KNOW the finality of the word: "I have been crucified with Christ"

to read the message DO DEAD PEOPLE SIN?  
Go to <http://www.victoryoversin.com/dead.htm>

**Re:, on: 2006/2/3 10:36**

Thanks freed for that website! It's so exciting when you get the revelation that dead people cannot sin! There are actually two things that Jesus has saved us from. One is from our sins and the other one is from sinning.

You really just have to be willing to give it all to Him. A lot of Christians really are not willing to give up ALL of their sins. They want to keep some like pride for instance. That's a hard one to give up. Apologizing when you're wrong is especially hard. You have to give up a lot of your so-called rights. Like when people speak against you even though you know they're wrong but keeping your mouth shut anyway. That's hard but it produces the character of Christ in you. Most Christians would just like to take their salvation to the bank though and forget about the rest. It's a great loss!!!

Brother Yun (The Heavenly Man) from China is being spoken against and called a phony. There are some people trying to say that what he experienced in China never happened. But he says that he does not have any unforgiveness but only love for the people who are doing this to him and he never tries to prove anything to anyone, he just loves them.

Re: Must we sin? - re DO DEAD PEOPLE SIN?, on: 2006/2/3 12:10

Quote:  
-----Do you not know that Christ has died? Do you not know that you died with Him? Do you not know that your death is no less truly a fact than His?' If not, seek the Lord until you KNOW the finality of the word: "I have been crucified with Christ".  
-----

Hi freedd,

I agree with your tack which goes perfectly with Heb 10:14, BUT, *I think* people are looking for practical advice about how to 'do' their practical lives..... rather than only the substance of their faith. No doubt I'll be corrected by some kind person if I'm wrong on that point..... But just in case I'm not, I'd say the apostle John has the most useful terminology. It occurred to me today that there is a little more to be said about the light. (Of course, there is no light in a grave.) Therefore, this advice is for those who are born again, or seeking to be born again, and willing with all their might to live a life as pleasing to God as possible. Not forgetting 1 John 1:7

(NKJV) John 3

19b'...**light has come into the world**, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone practising evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 "But **he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.**"

In so 'doing' - that is, coming to the light - the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

(NASB) 1 John 1

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.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and **yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth;**

Re:, on: 2006/2/4 0:18

There are two levels of maturity. There is denying yourself which is resisting temptation through self denial and there is the second level of maturity which is being dead.

A christian can go through their walk with the Lord resisting the temptations in their life or they can live the life the apostles had which is a crucified life.

The apostle Paul said I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live (Gal.)

When you are dead there is no temptation. When you step down off the cross than you are tempted. The enemies attack will become more severe but if you are dead it works to your advantage because it is squeezing the life of Christ out of you like a winepress, that is if you don't step down off the cross. If you want wine the grapes have to be crushed. As soon as you step off the cross the work stops and temptation moves in. Coming off the cross is opening yourself up to temptation.

Once you begin living the crucified life you will never go back to your old life because you will realize that greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. There is a difference in hearing that truth and experiencing the reality of that truth and you must experience it yourself.

You will get to where you look forward to more persecution and then suddenly the devil will realize that you know something that he's known all along and that is that persecution and temptation work for our benefit if we don't step off the cross. Then he will take away the persecution from you when he realizes his plan is failing and his efforts now are only working to make you stronger and he will try something different. The reality that the devil does not want you to know is that God is allowing satan to tempt you in the areas where you are weak so He can deliver you from them. If you die to them there is deliverance and satan's plan to destroy you is now being used to produce life in you. This is a truth that you will find out as you overcome each temptation that satan does not want you to know.

It becomes a race. If you don't give in to the temptation than once you've died to it than you will learn a great lesson from it as the Lord gives you the revelation. Once you receive the revelation of your problem you will not return to that again because you know better. Than the Lord will present another area of your life to you again and again until you reach to full maturity and finished your course that is if you decide to keep the race.

**Re: - posted by seekup, on: 2006/2/4 2:31**

Forgive me brothers and sisters if someone has already pointed this out, I am not always blessed with the time to read everything in a well established post. I am burdened by seeing that there are those who suppose they live a sinless life. I would suggest that the human mind is incapable of understanding the paradox of a "sinless life". Christ lived outside of our limited human understanding so he was able to do so. We, on the other hand, cannot achieve a sinless life. The paradox is this, we sin out temptation of the flesh, as Christians we strive for sanctification by doing the best we can to resist the temptation to sin. We all achieve this at different levels, but resistance to all temptation is not a sinless existence. Sin is thought, word and deed that glorifies the flesh over the spirit. Not matter how much we resist, when we are tempted, we are about the sin we are resisting, thereby sinning in thought. Not matter what deeds we resist, we can not stop the involuntary thought of sin that comes from our flesh selves. Only Christ was able to defeat this earthly paradox and save us from our evil lives. His perfection brought his imperfect sheep to him. We remain imperfect but are protected from the evil that devours lost sheep who will not live with the shepard. The good news in Jesus is that we do not have to be sinless because we are forgiven. With this great gift comes great responsibility to our fellow man to lead them to Jesus and to seek to live in the spirit and deny the the flesh. May God bless and keep you, I pray that we continue to reflect and debate, seeking God's glory and find understanding in the spirit. Thanks Chris

**Re: - posted by claydough, on: 2006/2/4 3:53**

we do not have to sin, sin is a willful transgression against the law of God. to him that knows to do good and does not do it. to that person it is sin.

**Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/4 5:59**

Dying to self has been mentioned - mainly by Rebecca but I am very familiar with this doctrine.

Please could someone give scripture for it?

I mean, scripture which clearly explains what *you* mean by '**self**', whoever you are who thinks in these terms. Thank you



Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/4 6:02

Rebecca,

I noticed you refer to 'levels of maturity'. I know what you mean, but, you have children..... surely you realise this is a gross oversimplification of the truth - which is that we **grow** into maturity - not in leaps but in tiny little increments which please our Father's heart?

Re: Must we sin? - to Lazarus, on: 2006/2/4 6:03

Jesse,

Mike mentioned in his last post the verse you quote 1 John 3:4 (KJV)  
4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Breaking the law is described as 'lawlessness' in several translations.

John 15

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and your joy might be full.

12 **This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

Isn't this the commandment (or law - the Royal Law - the 'new commandment') to which John is referring in his epistle - to love one another as Christ loved us?

This would explain the 'also' in the KJV. Because as you rightly pointed out, the old law is for the lawless. The law is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. But, once Christ's, are we not now obliged to keep Christ's law - the law of love, one for another.....? I put it to you that you can read the New Testament with this thought in mind, and it will still make sense. The verses which refer to the Old Covenant, or the Mosaic Law, are very clearly defined, and thereby, limited.

Re:, on: 2006/2/4 8:53

dorcas,

In Matthew 16:24 Jesus said If any man come after me he must deny himself and pick up his cross and follow me.

The first step is denying yourself.

Many christians will selectively deny themselves when it suits them but they end up going in circles in the wilderness only to come back to the same area in their life the Lord has been trying to get them to give up.

The second step is picking up your cross.

This is the promised land. When you pick up your cross there is no temptation because dead people can't sin. This is the life the Apostles had. This is the easy way for a christian because instead of working at trying to stop sinning you just die. Sure the storms in your life will get stronger but what cannot kill you will only make you stronger.

You were asking about how with our children that they learn little by little. God will NEVER give you more than you are able to bear. That is a promise in His word. If it is presented to us that we can bear it or it never would have been presented. We only think we cannot bear it because we are reasoning with our human minds instead of declaring greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.

**Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/4 13:06**

Rebecca - good answer.... but I'm concerned about the truth which Jesus also said, 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

Young's translation of Matthew 24:16 says

Then said Jesus to his disciples, `If any one doth will to come after me, let him **disown** himself, and take up his cross, and follow me,

I find that alteration in emphasis *very* helpful. It ties in with the idea of us being bought with a price, and what could we ever do to repay Him, except obey His commands willingly?

You see, I think one of the reasons Christians go round in circles on this one, is the very idea of *denying oneself*, leans towards penance (as opposed to penitence), and could be taken as far as self-phlellation, at least in the way the person thinks... whereas, it is more an attitude, or a decision, to not **please** one's 'self'.

While Christians are busy trying to please God by a rarified variety of self-destruction, they are not only not coming to Him for the healing of their hurts which they *need* but they are actively working against a normal aspect of human nature - the having of self. (Jesus had a self.)

I was looking, this morning, at Heb 12:2 looking to the author and perfecter of faith--Jesus, who, over-against the joy set before him--did endure a cross, shame having despised, on the right hand also of the throne of God did sit down; (Young)

Before He endured the cross, according to Young, He had already despised the shame.

This speaks to me of a Man who had thought through the implications of obedience..... This was a Man who was completely whole, and in the prime of His human strength (including his soul), Who chose to lay aside all other legitimate interests, in order to do what His Father had asked of Him.

He Himself had had to enquire of His Father how this death would work (John 10:18), and He uses the word 'I' all the time. When Paul says 'not I, but Christ lives in me', it is not that he has no 'I' and has stopped being 'me'.... it is more that he is allowing the 'I' of Christ to be in control. It is the *flesh*, with the affections and lusts which is crucified, not the whole 'being'..... One still has a mind, a soul, strength and a new heart, which, with the body, are expected to come under the influence of the Holy Spirit, now that the previously controlling 'life of the flesh', has been baptised into His death.

I don't think that a consciousness of baptism into the death of Christ, is the same as 'picking up your cross' I don't think anyone can pick up their cross, until they have been baptised into His death. This may be what Watchman Nee is getting at, which you quote (dead men cannot sin) but the fact is, while we have a body, we have to translate that spiritual truth into real daily life.

When I asked the question, I had no idea I would write this in reply. I'm not trying to upset your theology too much.... only to question whether we - any of us - are communicating with *realism*, about how to 'think' about sin and how to experience the overcoming of it.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/4 13:19**

That's wonderful Linn ... you brought up the 1st & 2nd Commandment.

THAT'S IT !!!! Yaaaaaay for you.

That's what was missing for me in Nee's books, although I love the man and we still read and keep his books ... it was another man, who's still alive ... an older man, who showed us that without AGAPE, the whole ball of wax is a wasted mess.

Anyway, I won't go into all that, because I don't think anyone here needs me to ... I think we're all very aware of Agape and how if we 'truly' Agape we 1- won't desire 'sin' and 2 - it's the fastest way to die to 'self' and 3 - brings us into the very Image of Christ.

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

Thanks Dorcas, all this mucking around in circles comes to an end with your bringing up the 2 Commandments ... that fulfill all the law and the prophets.

Not a "self" centered teaching neither, like all the rest that I've heard.

Bless yer heart sis.  
Thank you.  
:-D

Oops. Edit to add #3.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/4 14:48**

dorcas,

Im going to try to answer to what you said Im just having a hard time trying to understand what you are saying, which may be my fault.

There are MANY areas in the bible that you could look at as literal. Jesus and His disciples all had one thing in common; they were always being accused as being WAY OVER THE TOP. What does he mean by drink His blood and eat His flesh? The disciples themselves even questioned in their minds "What is He saying?"

No we don't kill ourselves or stop being an individual. We took on a new nature when we became saved. This is a reality not an idea. When you were water baptized this symbolized being buried with Him in baptism. Why were we baptized this way? Was it just another creative and interesting idea or a reality?

You don't stop ever being you but you have a new nature now. Old things have passed away and all things have become new. The problem is that even though the dog has become a cat he is still trying to dig holes and bury his bones.

Christians are still trying to sew fig leaves together to hide their nakedness. You don't have to sew fig leaves anymore. Christians don't have to spend all of their time trying to cover up their old man when they realize that they no longer live.

You don't have to worry about upsetting my theology. You can't upset me. It's not about me it's about Him. I don't have to prove anything to anyone and that's not meant to offend anyone that's a truth. If God gives me the opportunity to share with someone than praise the Lord if no one cares that doesn't bother me. Im just here to occupy till He comes. My life is in His hands. Every thing that happens in my life throughout the day is no mistake. The Lord giveth and sometimes the Lord taketh away.

I just know what I believe and if no one else on the face of the earth believes as I do that's fine with me. That's just part of being a christian. The last thing that the apostle Paul said was that "ALL men forsook me..." Jesus died alone and all of the disciples I believe died alone. Spiritually speaking a christian is alone when they live a crucified life because the Lord sets you apart. Im used to people not agreeing with me and have no problem with it. It doesn't hurt my feelings! I enjoy the journey!

:-) :-) :-) :-) :-)

**Re:, on: 2006/2/4 16:24**

MeAgain,

I don't understand what you meant when you said, "without AGAPE the whole ball of wax is a wasted mess?" Then you said that was what was missing in Nee's books...???

Watchman Nee always preached love.He was one of the greatest preachers of love!!!Certainly there must be love!!! God is love!!!

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, soul, mind and strength.That's alot of love and to alot of people they would say we don't really need to love the Lord that much it's too extreme.Get the light out!Too much light!It doesn't matter what area a person preaches on the truth is most people just want to stay in their comfort zone and ANYTHING you do is ALWAYS going to be too extreme.

**Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/4 17:10**

Please listen to this.

A Simple Gospel (compilation) with Ernest O'Neill

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=8908>

**Re:, on: 2006/2/4 17:42**

Hia Rebecca,

This is gonna be a hard one for me to answer.

Like I said, we love Nee, in fact, we keep giving out 'Release in the Spirit' and today my husband had to go order another to replace his cuz I wouldn't give up mine (again) ... Ha.

But, this old guy we know, that I mentioned above ... explains Agape in such a way, that I could never do right now. At least not when I'm not feeling Really perky (to say the least).

But he speaks of an "experience" of when God's Love hits you like ten thousand tons of bricks ... but he doesn't word it that way.

We all know we are 'to' love and that it is the 1st Commandment, but this man taught of an experience that is much like a Dying type experience, that happens quicker than most other "dying" type experiences, when 'His Love' is seen almost in it's fullest.

Talk about being "blown away in the Light".  
Well, that's what he meant.

Right now, I'm sort of exhausted from a secular forum, but if I can do this teaching any justice at all, I should wait till I'm

**General Topics :: Must we sin?**

more awake or feeling better.

Nee talks much of "death to self" and that's great ... and yes, he talks about love ... but this other guy has Agape as his only talk and it's more intense than anything I've read in 30 years of searching.

I didn't want to try to "explain" it, as he does, because I don't want anyone here to think that I think I've "made it".

I've experienced the POW explosion of what he is talking about, but found, since now dealing with physical infirmities, that it puts things on a different testing field, that I didn't have to deal with 3 years ago.

Aw, I don't feel I'm doing this any justice, so maybe I'll try another day or let Dorcas or Diane take it from here. They have a brain left. :-D

Love.  
Annie

**Re:, on: 2006/2/5 0:05**

Hi Annie,

I just got back from work so I didn't get to reply. I just really enjoy reading Watchman Nee and I've learned more from him than anyone else but it may not be for everyone. I don't think humanly speaking we could experience all of the love God has for us because it would probably kill us. I am one who believes that our lives have already been written. If God can prophesy 2,000 years ahead of time than you can bet He knows our end and our beginning so there is no need to try to work anything out. God knows how to get you from point "A" to point "B". We are written in the palm of His hand and even the hairs of our head are numbered. He knows when we sit down and when we rise up. Even if we made our bed in hell He is there too. Jesus said my sheep know my voice and a stranger they will not follow. I don't intend on following any strangers and know you don't either. So if we follow our shepherd's voice than we can't lose right?

And I don't have a brain left either right now I've been doing house work and taking care of my five kids all day and I just got home from work and it's midnight. So if I'm not making any sense right now than you'll have to forgive me.

**Re: - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/2/5 4:02**

MUST WE SIN! Perhaps I should rephrase this question. WHY DO SO MANY CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO SIN?

Since I first posted this thread some time ago, I have read (I think) every response. The sad thing is that I have come across many who assert that it is impossible to live sinless, But few if any who have qualified the assertions with scripture.

We have become so satisfied with our take on sin, that many of us have moved on to whatever is perhaps more interesting or popular at the moment. WELL WE BETTER HAVE IT RIGHT! because there is no room for error. Some of us have categorized so many things as sin that we have convinced ourselves that we can't help but sin, to this I say "IS THERE ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD"

Finally, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" But qualify it with the word.

**Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2006/2/5 5:56**

hi, must we sin is a question from mount sinai, but can we be holy as He is holy is a question from mt. Zion jimp

**Re: - posted by seekup, on: 2006/2/5 7:01**

Quickend, Thank you for the challenge to qualify my statements in my last post. I still offer those verses to support my conclusion. (matt 15:16-20, matt 5:27-28, Romans 7:18) However, I am forced to reflect further on that conclusion. I realized that the bulk of my reason is based on how I view the function of the mind and not how I view the meaning of scripture. I will continue to reflect on the verses in regards to sin. I guess that I was missing the part about growing in the spirit. Just because I have not learned to live a life without sin does not mean it is not possible. I only know one thing for sure. I make it through my day to day life by His grace only. I am not fully convinced that I was wrong with my conclusion but I will enjoy diving into scripture to find the truth of His word. Please, keep asking the hard questions. Thanks Chris

**Re:, on: 2006/2/5 11:20**

I need to rephrase what I meant when I wrote "that we don't need to work anything out." What I meant was that it's no longer I that live but Christ that liveth in me. We do need to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling as the scripture says.

I will have to probably explain myself more later but I have to leave to work again. :-)

**Re:, on: 2006/2/5 11:35**

Hi Rebecca,

I'm sorry to hear you have to work sooo hard! I hope you enjoy it. Anyway, it's good for us to understand what each other are up against in 3D.

I just want to say thanks for the reply you made to me. My post wasn't particularly simple, as I deliberately covered a lot of ground which I believe the church is confused about. The church doesn't think it's confused, so, it's not seeing the inconsistencies in the forms of words it uses. You did say you were not sure you understood me.... sometimes, the answers to questions come through other people's posts, so, I don't mind leaving things as they are. But, do ask if you want.

The main point I wish to convey, is that we do not put ourselves to death or lay down our soul life, to become like Jesus. We have soul, of which David said 'He restores my soul' (Ps 23) and the only putting to death we need do, is of the 'sins of the flesh'. There are many other activities of the flesh which are not sinful of themselves.

By living in the Spirit and walking in the newness of life which the Spirit makes possible, our lives are pleasing to God.

With regard to the restoration of the soul, this work is partly seen in Jesus's ministry to sick people, long before He started talking about how a disciple would need to deny (disown) himself and take up his cross to follow Him. I desire for my soul to be as reflective of the life of Christ - His physical and mental Health - as possible, so that I may endure to the end and see the salvation of my soul completed by being received in heaven.

**Re: - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/2/5 12:37**

MUST WE SIN! Perhaps I should rephrase this question. WHY DO SO MANY CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO SIN?

Since I first posted this thread some time ago, I have read (I think) every response. The sad thing is that I have come across many who assert that it is impossible to live sinless, But few if any who have qualified the assertions with scripture.

We have become so satisfied with our take on sin, that many of us have moved on to whatever is perhaps more interesting or popular at the moment. WELL WE BETTER HAVE IT RIGHT! because there is no room for error. Some of us have

categorized so many things as sin that we have convinced ourselves that we can't help but sin, to this I say "IS THERE ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD"

Finally, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" But qualify it with the word.

---

And he said unto me my grace is sufficient for thee

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/2/5 12:56

Quote:  
-----The main point I wish to convey, is that we do not put ourselves to death or lay down our soul life, to become like Jesus. We have a soul, of which David said 'He restores my soul' (Ps 23) and the only putting to death we need do, is of the 'sins of the flesh'. There are many other activities of the flesh which are not sinful of themselves.  
-----

Not so. This sounds like compartmentalizing. To 'become' like Jesus? That is an impossibility. Emulation or transformation?

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

**Col 3:5 - Mortify therefore your members,....** Not your bodies, as the Ethiopic version reads, nor the members of the natural body, but of the body of sin, indwelling sin; which as a body consists of various members, which are parts of it, rise out of it, and are used by it, as the members are by the body; and intend the sins of the flesh, or sinful actions, which are generally performed by the members of the natural body, in which the law of sin is, and by which it operates; so that the mortification the saints are here exhorted to, in consideration of having a spiritual life in them, and a hope of eternal life in Christ, from whence the apostle argues, is not a mortification or destruction of the body of sin itself, or of the being a principle of it in the soul, where it is, and lives, and dwells, and will as long as the saints are in this tabernacle, but of the deeds of the body, or of sinful actions, as to the life and conversation; and signifies a denial of them, an abstinence from them, and a non-performance of them; See Gill on Rom\_8:13. These members, or deeds of the body, or acts of sin, are called "your": for as the old man is ours, the vitiosity of nature is what we bring into the world with us, and is rooted and incorporated into us; so the actions that flow from it, and are done by it, are not to be ascribed to God, nor even to Satan, but they are our own actions, and which are performed by the members of our mortal body, or by the faculties of our souls: and are,

**which are on earth:** or earthly; are concerned about earthly things, the things of the world, worldly lusts and pleasures, which rise out of earthly mindedness, and incline unto it, and are only what are done here on earth, and will have no place in heaven. The particulars of which follow:

**fornication;** the sin of uncleanness committed by single persons, or out of the state of marriage, and which the Gentiles did not account sinful: hence so much notice is taken of it, with a censure, and so often, by the apostle, in almost all his epistles, and dehorted from, as a sin against the body, as what disqualified for church communion, and was not to be named among the saints, who should be dead to that, and that to them, as to the commission of it.

**Uncleanness;** of every sort, all other impure actions, as adultery, incest, sodomy, and every other unnatural lust; all which should be abstained from, and never committed by those who profess to be alive unto God.

**Inordinate affection;** which may intend the passions, or first motions of sin, stirred up by the law, and which work in, and operate by the members of the body, and bring forth fruit unto death, and therefore to be opposed by such as have a life in Christ; and also those vile affections, which some in a judicial way are given up unto, and prevail with those who are effeminate, and abusers of themselves with mankind, and which are to be abhorred and denied by all who are heirs of the grace of life, and expectants of an heavenly one.

**Evil concupiscence;** so called to distinguish it from that natural concupiscence, or desire after things lawful and necessary, and which is implanted in nature by God himself; and from that spiritual concupiscence or desire after spiritual things

s, and that lusting against the flesh and carnal things, which is formed in the heart of a regenerate man by the Spirit of God. It is the same with the evil imagination, or corruption of nature so much spoken of by the Jews. This here is what is forbidden by that law, "thou shalt not covet", Exo\_20:17; and includes every fleshly lust and inordinate desire, or every desire after that which is not lawful, or does not belong to a man; as what is another's property, his wife, or goods, or anything that is his; and so very naturally follows,

**covetousness**; an immoderate love of money, the root of all evil, an insatiable desire of having more, and of having more than a man's own; and is enlarged as hell, and as death is not satisfied, but still craves more, without making any good use of what is possessed:

**which is idolatry.** The covetous man, and the idolater, worship the same for matter and substance, even gold and silver; the covetous man lays up his money, makes no use of it, as if it was something sacred; he looks at it, and adores it, and puts his trust and confidence in it, and his heart is so much set upon it, that he neglects the worship of the true God; and indeed no man can serve God and mammon. Some think, that by this rendered "covetousness", is meant, that greedy desire after the commission of all uncleanness, and impure actions, which were perpetrated by the followers of Simon Magus in their religious assemblies, and under the notion of worship, and as acceptable to God, and therefore called idolatry; and which ought not to be once named, much less practised, among the living members of Christ. Moreover, such filthy actions were performed by the Gentiles in the worship of their deities.

John Gill

1Co 9:22 To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.

1Co 9:23 Now I do this for the gospel's sake, that I may be a joint partaker of it.

1Co 9:24 Don't you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run like that, that you may win.

1Co 9:25 Every man who strives in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.

1Co 9:26 I therefore run like that, as not uncertainly. I fight like that, as not beating the air,

1Co 9:27 but I beat my body and bring it into submission, lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected.

**Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/5 13:28**

dorcas (myself)

Quote:

----- the only putting to death we need do, is of the 'sins of the flesh'.  
-----

Hi Mike,

You've quoted one of the verses I had in mind when I wrote that. I agree completely that the sins of the flesh should be mortified. That's what I believe. That's what I said.

I assume you've read the preceding post (the last one before MeAgain, p10) of which my latest before this one, was a clarification. In that context, I should have emboldened 'selves' - see below - and 'soul life', for even greater clarity.

Quote:

-----The main point I wish to convey, is that we do not put **ourselves** to death or lay down our **soul life**,  
-----

There are a number of verses in scripture which agree with Col 3:5. I'm not in dispute with any of them.



Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/2/5 13:49

Quote:  
-----These members, or deeds of the body, or acts of sin, are called "**your**": for as the old man is ours, the vitiosity of nature is what we bring into the world with us, and is rooted and incorporated into us; so the actions that flow from it, and are done by it, are not to be ascribed to God, n or even to Satan, but they are **our own** actions, and which are performed by the members of our mortal body, or **by the faculties of our souls**:  
-----

Brings to mind a wise word heard before;

"There is just 'you'."

Re:, on: 2006/2/5 13:53

Mike,  
  
Could I ask for clarification of the origin of the quotes in your last post, and whether these were in any measure a response to my last post?

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/2/5 18:43

Quote:  
-----Could I ask for clarification of the origin of the quotes in your last post, and whether these were in any measure a response to my last post?  
-----

The origin? It was from the the same commentary from John Gill earlier, in the first section. And yes, in response to your last post.

Re: Must we sin?, on: 2006/2/5 19:22

Mike,  
  
I'm not disputing the need for individual responsibility for sin. I hope you don't think I am. The fact is, Jesus Christ took responsibility for paying the price for each individual's sin. That's the gospel. We are not supposed to continue languishing under the effects of past sins, but, we do, because they have made their mark on our souls. That's why the blood is required to be constantly cleansing our souls, as we walk in the light. (1 John 1:7)

What I'm disputing is this: that to *cease from sin*, we must 'lay down' our 'soul's life' - and I'm disputing it, because it doesn't make any sense. God **restores** our soul. He is offering us the chance to preserve our soul, by accepting the death of our old man through baptism into the death of Christ. (Rom 6:6)

What we lay down/mortify/put to death are the 'sins of the flesh' which are *contrary* to the life of the Spirit. We still have to live in our bodies, but not everything which our bodies do, is sinful.

The outworking of the mortification of 'the sins of the flesh', is that our soul is **no longer** in jeopardy of hell; the life of the Spirit *quickens* (brings to life) the flesh (Rom 8:11) and as we stop sinning (as listed), we (our souls) are being **healed** of the harmful effects of such previous sins.

I hope you are not suggesting that it is impossible to stop sinning the sins listed in the verse you quote?

**Re:, on: 2006/2/5 20:20**

Dorcas and Mike,

I think were all three pretty much saying the same thing. We die to our sins which is our old man and we receive a new man which is created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world but BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

The word "transformed" in the Greek is METAMORPHOO which means transformed or transfigured by a supernatural change, as in Mt. 17:2; Mk. 9:2; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor 3:18.

As we die to our sins we are at the same time dying to our old man and our minds are BEING (active verb) transformed.

**Re: - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/2/5 20:54**

Dorcas,

Thank you for your patience and understanding in regards to the PM that I sent both you and Rebecca5. Your response was so thoughtful, it really humbled me and addressed all of my concerns.

In regards to your question about posting the answer is an emphatic no!  
Please continue to post in this forum.  
I do not disagree with your points at all.

Quote: Dorcas,

"Isn't that your point? You want them to battle with the possibility that they don't really have an excuse to sin, and to find that scripture supports your point...? Yes?"

YES...Exactly

Thanks again for such a direct response. My first thought was to post the entire PM that you sent me. It expressed my thoughts so completely.

Quickend.

**Re: Must we sin? - posted by RandyJ (), on: 2006/2/5 22:30**

Hello there,

I have briefly looked over the previous discussion and am constrained to give my opinion. I not only do not think that it is impossible to not sin but I think that it is perfectly absurd to say that it is impossible to stop sinning. I do recognize, as was said in this discussion, that people have differing definitions for the term 'sin'. The Bible also uses different definitions for the term 'sin'. When speaking of sin I prefer to use the same definition that John Wesley used that sin is "a willful transgression of the law". The Bible supports this definition in many verses such as the following:

"Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression." Rom 4:15

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1st John 3:4-9

It is absurd to suggest that willful sin is unavoidable for it flatly contradicts the very definition of sin. Sin, in my preferred definition, cannot but be seen by God as willful. God does not look at such sin and say "Oh my poor creature, thou art so subjected to ill influences that thou art necessitated to live a sinful life of rebellion against me but I am merciful." Nay I answer, God is not such towards sin.

Someone has put forth the question whether anyone would be able to say that they are living free from sin. I would suggest that doctrine should not be predicated of personal experience but rather from reason and the word of God. I humbly confess that I have probably sinned more than anyone on this website however I think that would qualify me to speak on the nature of sin persevered in. I know and am conscious of the fact that I am guilty of all my sin. Guilt for sin implies the ability to not have sinned. What!? Guilty for sin that was unavoidable! Nonsense!

Let me suggest that no one on this website will ever attain freedom from sin while they entertain such notions of sin. I do also confess that I have had a degree of victory in my life. I boast in nothing but the cross of Jesus Christ by which the world is crucified unto me. I have sinned recently and am nothing but ashamed for it but I know that as long as I deal with sin as not normal then God will grant me victory again.

If the will is free then willful transgression of the law is so avoidable that it merits the most heavy punishments such as the scriptures present to the sinner. On no other ground could God justly damn millions to hell than that sin was both perceptibly wrong and perfectly avoidable.

I do most zealously encourage anyone who is reading this now to look to God when they are tempted for He is able to deliver you. When you are tempted say a prayer and pick up your Bible and read a passage or more and pray, pray, pray until God bestows upon you the Holy Spirit in a tabgable way that assures you of His approbation and then move on in victory. We are not to buckle under the pressures of this world, the flesh and the devil but are to be more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

Randy

PS I do not usually have time to be on here so I probably will not be able to receive a reply. I apologize for this. If you would like to reply then you could do so via pm and I will receive it in due time.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/5 22:58**

I can't say for sure but it's possible when God created the butterfly He had us in mind. Im sure He did!

When I was studying that word "transformed", and looked it up in the Greek as meaning; "metamorphoo", the first thing that comes to mind is the butterfly and that's a good example as to what takes place in the life of a christian.

The butterfly as we all know is first a catapillar and is slowly changed into a butterfly. ITS STILL THE SAME INSECT THOUGH. The old insect is changed or transformed. The old man slowly leaves as the new man takes over. I guess the DNA somehow suddenly changes, I don't know I'm not a scientist.

Out with the old and in with the new. God doesn't take away anything without putting something back. Doesn't that make sense?

**Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/2/5 23:20**

Well said Randy!

Re:, on: 2006/2/5 23:49

Since the earth declares the glory of God here's what I found on the metamorphosis of a butterfly. Just thought it would be interesting to read to some and maybe you will glean something totally different from it. God talks about the animals and nature all throughout the bible. Interesting if nothing else.

#### METAMORPHASIS

From the time a caterpillar hatches it eats so much that its skin can't keep up. It sheds its skin several times as it grows bigger and bigger. Eventually it forms a chrysalis and one day splits open and a butterfly emerges. Insects with a complete metamorphosis pass through a larval stage and then enter an INACTIVE STATE known as a pupa (or chrysalis), finally emerging as the adult form. Many observations have indicated that CELL DEATH plays a considerable role during physiological processes of multicellular organisms, particularly during embryogenesis and metamorphosis.

Re: - posted by Quickend (), on: 2006/2/6 3:37

Quote:RandyJ

"Someone has put forth the question whether anyone would be able to say that they are living free from sin. I would suggest that doctrine should not be predicated of personal experience but rather from reason and the word of God"

Well said Brother Randy

Re: Must we sin? - posted by CJaKfOrEsT (), on: 2006/2/6 5:39

In a word, "No!":-)

The real question is, **how** do we obey?

Re: - posted by claydough, on: 2006/2/6 14:54

must we sin? the answer is no. if we say that we must then we must state that adam and eve had to eat the apple, or whatever it was, the fact is they did not have to eat the apple, they chose to.

when you read 1 john 2:1

1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. the first thing this verse says is so that you may not sin. the second thing that is said is "IF" no when. am i saying that we do not sin? not at all, but according to the scripture we do not have to. we have a choice. lucifer became satan because he chose to, not because God told him to. he chose that and so do we choose to sin or not. it is only through the power of the holy spirit that guards our hearts. that we can live a life of as little sin as we can. the bible does not anywhere state that we have to or that we must. 1 cor. 10:13

Re:, on: 2006/2/6 19:57

I don't understand, what am I saying different that has not already been said on the Revival Hymn everyone is so excited about?

"Why should a person come to the cross? Why should a person EMBRACE DEATH WITH CHRIST? Why should a person go in identification down to cross into the tomb and up again? I'll tell you why because its the only "WHAT???" Did someone say "ONLY WAY to get glory out of a human being???"

"We pray that some of us may go to our own..." WHAT??? Did someone say "funeral tonight and end all the failure and

d all the weakness???" Our beloved Leonard Ravenhill that's who.

**Re:, on: 2006/2/6 20:54**

Rebecca, I just had the neatest experience looking over this thread, as one would who has never been to this website before.

The other day, I said, this is the first forum I've ever come back to or ever wanted to.

Now, if you sit back and look at what we are saying, just on this one thread "collectively" ... I dare anyone to find a bunch of people, so dedicated to finding the heart and desire of GOD in their own lives as here, right now.

Unbelievably beautiful.

No one is contradicting each other really, nor disagreeing, but everyone's playing the same symphony but on their own individual instrument.

But it's still the same song and I truly and sincerely believe that this song, on this one thread alone here, is rising up into the very ears of God our Savior and He is pleased.

We're striving and the beauty I see is we're striving together toward the same goal and encouraging each other toward that same goal, at the same time.

For as long as the freedom remains to do this one thing together, I say, sit back and ENJOY THIS ... isn't it WONDERFUL!

**Re:, on: 2006/2/6 21:01**

Randy,

You did say that you believe it's impossible to stop sinning. Then you go on to say that God does not look at sin and say, "Oh my poor creature, thou art so subjected to ill influences that thou art necessitated to live a sinful life of rebellion against me but I am merciful. Nay, I answer God is not such towards sin."

Then you go on to quote John 3:4-9 Whosoever is born of God cannot sin for His seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God.

Then you go on to say that God can deliver us from temptation. If He can deliver us from temptation as Jesus prayed; "Lead us not unto temptation..." Doesn't temptation come before sin and if temptation comes before sin and we are delivered from temptation than it's impossible to sin right?

**Re:, on: 2006/2/6 21:07**

MeAgain,

This is a GREAT websight your right! Im just trying to understand where everyone is coming from. Especially all of those who are always quoting Leonard Ravenhill and Paris Reidhead.

As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another.

Sharpening is a good thing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Re: - posted by RandyJ (), on: 2006/2/6 23:14**

Hello there Rebecca,

I must apologize for my language in my last post "I not only do not think that it is impossible to not sin but I think that it is perfectly absurd to say that it is impossible to stop sinning". It unwittingly turned into a tongue twister but if you read it slowly then you will know that I never said that I believe it is impossible to stop sinning. Someone stated that they are glad to see that there are people seeking God and I second that. I will give mine opinion here also that the primary way in which we may please God is to obey. It is not witnessing, praying, churching, studying, but obedience. Those things are, of course, aspects or manifestations of obedience but not the whole. "For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law." James 2:11  
There is no such thing as partial obedience.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt 6:24

Oh to be so filled with God that the world could see Christ! My prayer is that we would have more people that are truly filled with God!

"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth" John 14:15-17

Remaining in Him, Randy

**Re: not sinning - posted by jubilee, on: 2006/2/13 0:43**

My pastor once said " we are now free not to sin". I believe that is true. Love is a person and if we abide in that person the love of God is manifest in our lives. Love the Lord your God will all you are and your neighbor as yourself. God has written these things on our hearts that we might not sin. I also believe that the in I John we see that we are called to not sin. God is the enabler as we abide in Him.

**Re: Must we sin?, on: 2007/11/24 18:15**

Quote:  
-----We have all sinned, but must we continue to sin? From everything I read, the gospel speaks of empowerment. I can do all things... we are more than conquerors... greater is he that is in thee...we are told to mortify (kill) the flesh through the Spirit.  
-----

As silly as this (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSuui8s3Fuk&feature=related>) CLIP is, it's so true about the lust of the flesh. The attractions around us to lure us away from our steadfastness is sometimes overwhelming. You'll laugh your head off as you see yourself in this, at least I did anyway.

We start out with determination and slowly the world the flesh and the devil begin to eat away at us.

**Re: Must we sin?, on: 2007/11/25 9:36**

It's true

Quote:  
-----You'll laugh your head off as you see yourself in this, at least I did anyway.  
-----

I did. But....

Quote:  
-----We start out with determination and slowly the world the flesh and the devil begin to eat away at us.  
-----

It's when we find we can't overcome in our own strength, that the death of Christ becomes precious to us..... is it not?

Having said that, I believe some of our desires are an attempt to comfort a wounded soul, and the answer is not the cross, but the balm of His healing.

**Re: - posted by AuthorOfLife, on: 2007/11/25 10:04**

Harry Ironside begins his testimony with: "It is my desire, in dependence on the Lord, to write a faithful record, so far as memory now serves me, of some of God's dealings with my soul and my strivings after the experience of holiness, during the first six years of my Christian life, ere I knew the blessedness of finding all in Christ."

Harry Ironside believes as you and I do that we are to be holy. Harry Ironside, though, in sharing his account of ministering within the Holiness Movement at the pinnacle of the Salvation Army's crusades, goes on to express a very important side note. That in the holiness movement men could not confess their sins to one another for fear of being "not one of the holy ones", and this lack of accountability led to a lack of true strength through the body being able to tend to one another.

And here is another problem here quoted: "I remember that often I prayed God to give my dear mother the blessing He had given me, and to make her as holy as her son had become. And that pious mother had known Christ before I was born, and knew her own heart too well to talk of sinlessness, though living a devoted, Christlike life!"

His testimony on this is much better than I can sum up into words, the full context of his testimony is essential to the balance he brings on the topic of holiness and grace. You can find the testimony broken into a 2-part letter here on sermonindex.

Again, we all believe we are to be holy, but there is a "true" & a "false" holiness (as the name of his testimony is titled):

part 1:

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=10275>

part 2:

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=10276>