
Words of Truth

If A Disciple Of Christ Is A Sinner He Or She Can't...

By: Brian A. Yeager

I have been amazed at how many that call themselves churches of Christ teach and believe that we are all sinners. More times than not, when I communicate with individuals claiming to be members of the church, they cling to the idea that no one can cease from sin. God is not of that mindset (I Peter 4:1-2). Faithful Christians are NOT sinners (Romans 6:1-23, I Corinthians 15:34, II Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 4:17-5:11, Colossians 3:1-17, Titus 2:11-14, I Peter 1:13-16, I John 2:1, etc.). If you are a sinner, you are NOT a child of God (I John 3:1-10).

I have often wondered, for those who think it is okay to sin, why did they ever seek anything related to conversion? How logical is it to teach people to repent and be baptized/converted (Acts 2:38-41; 3:19) if you think change is really not possible? How logical is it to tell people to walk in the light (I John 1:6-7) if you believe escaping darkness is only temporary? How logical is it to teach that God does not hear sinners when you then turn and teach that everyone among you are sinners? It is unscriptural and absolutely stupid to teach faithfulness and sinfulness as equal attributes of Christians.

Aside from all that I just briefly wrote, I would like to take some time in helping us to consider what sin prevents between man and God. I will start with a point I alluded to briefly above. Let's start with the point of what sin does to one's relationship with God.

The Effect Sin Has On A Person's Relationship With God

We read this in the book of Isaiah: *"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:1-2). In both the Old and New Testaments, we see that God consistently refuses to give His hearing ear to those whom sin against His will (Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 15:29, Isaiah 1:10-20, John 9:31, and I Peter 3:12). Solomon wrote: *"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination"* (Proverbs 28:9).

Now think about the Scriptures you should have just read and the points made therein? How can anyone of us, claiming to be followers of our Lord, think we have a relationship with Him if we are sinning against Him? He has plainly said He turns from those whom sin. How

logical is it to think if we are “all sinners” that anything we say or do is accepted by Him? If He won't hear you if you are in sin, how could you conclude it's okay to remain in such a state? If a person is in sin, and not repenting of that sin, God is not pleased in hearing from that person.

Most who proclaim to be members of the body of Christ know that the Lord's Supper is to be partaken of on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Most know it is to be unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:17-29). Most know we pray to give thanks for the bread and fruit of the vine and that the eating and drinking is the actual memorial of Christ's death (I Corinthians 11:23-26). What appears to be unknown by most is what occurs to a person who partakes of the Lord's Supper while in sin. Notice: *“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body”* (I Corinthians 11:27-29).

The only way for an erring Christian to regain his or her relationship with our Lord is to confess and repent of all of his or her sins (II Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 28:13, Luke 13:1-5, Acts 26:18-20, James 4:6-10, I John 1:9, and Revelation 3:14-22). A person cannot force his or her way back to the Lord by ignoring his or her sinful state. In addition to a ruined relationship with God, sin also separates Christians from other Christians and even from being able to help the lost be saved.

Sin Affects The Erring Saint's Relationship With Mankind Too

An unrepentant erring Christian, that has refused correction, is to be avoided by faithful Christians (Matthew 18:15-17, I Corinthians 5:1-13, and II Thessalonians 3:6-15). So, how can a reasonable person conclude that we are always sinners and yet okay? There would not be a single congregation on earth if such were the case. Proper fellowship requires all parties to be faithful (II Corinthians 6:14-18, I John 1:3-7, and II John 1:9-11).

In addition to the erring not having a spiritual relationship with the faithful, the erring also would add to their sins if they tried to teach someone while they have sin in their own lives (Matthew 7:1-5 and Romans 2:1-29). Therefore, if all Christians sin, there is no one on earth that is permitted to teach. Think about that! All of mankind would be doomed.

Conclusion

A sinner cannot be a Christian (II Timothy 2:19). The only way you can talk about a Christian as a sinner, is in discussion of his or her sinful past (I Corinthians 6:9-11 and Ephesians 2:1-10). Anyone claiming to be in Christ, while engaging in sinful behavior, is a liar (I John 2:3-6). It is illogical and unscriptural to say someone is a Christian and a sinner!