

We Cannot Lower God's Standard

I. Introduction: A common worldly concept is: "When all else fails, lower your standards".

A. False teachers have long quoted **Romans 3:23**, completely ignoring the context (**Romans 3:9-24**).

1. Jesus never sinned (**Hebrews 4:14-16**).
2. Children are not sinners (**Matthew 18:1-4**).

B. Others teach a doctrine of continual cleansing by perverting **I John 1:7**.

1. Read the context (**I John 1:3-2:6**).
2. Did Jesus die and provide for us the means of salvation for us to continue to sin (**Romans 6:1-23** and **Galatians 2:17**)?

II. Body: The Standard Is For Saints NOT To Sin (**Psalms 4:3-4**, **I Corinthians 15:34**, and **II Timothy 2:19**).

A. What differentiates the children of God from the children of Satan (**I John 3:1-10**)?

1. What are saints created in Christ to do (**Ephesians 2:1-10**)?
2. In Christ, what are we to put off and put on (**Ephesians 4:17-27**)?

B. The bar is not too high (**Matthew 11:25-30** and **I John 5:1-3**).

1. The bar is set to present every man perfect in Christ (**Colossians 1:23-28** and **II Timothy 3:14-18**).
2. This bar includes plenty of liberty (**James 1:25**) so long as we do not desire to use such liberties for the satisfaction of sinful fleshly desires (**Galatians 5:13**).

C. The path of sinlessness is set before us (**Titus 2:11-14**).

1. Have your desires in the right place (**Hebrews 11:8-16**).
2. Avoid what is tempting to you (**Mark 14:38**).
3. Don't provide things in your life that satisfy sinful, fleshly desires (**Romans 13:12-14**).
4. We have patterns to follow (**Matthew 5:48**, **I Corinthians 11:1**, **Ephesians 5:1-2**, and **I Peter 2:21-22**) and NOT to follow (**I Corinthians 10:1-13**).

D. **If** one of us err, we have a path back to our Lord, our brethren, the fellowship of the faithful (**Psalms 32:5**, **Ezekiel 33:14-16**, **Luke 13:1-5**, and **II Timothy 2:24-26**).

1. This process means to go and sin no more (**John 8:1-11**).
2. Depart from the wrong and be clean (**II Corinthians 6:14-7:1**).
3. Thankfully, as we have consider in this lesson already, the saint that sins has an advocate in Christ (**I John 1:7-2:1**; cf. **Romans 8:34**).

III. Conclusion: Do NOT Err (**James 1:13-16**).