

## What Happens When a Christian Sins?

1 John 1:6 – 2:2

### INTRODUCTION

1. During VBS each year I have the pleasure of sharing with the children each morning during the joint worship time
2. During that time we talk about salvation using a bracelet called “The Salvation Bracelet”
3. On Thursday morning of VBS, we offer an invitation –
4. During VBS of 2013 one child – a second grader - came forward wanting to ask a question
5. The question was this:  
*If God is holy, what happens when we sin? Does God leave us when we sin - because He is Holy?*
6. Now folks – that is a profound question – a thinking person’s question – deep and thoughtful
7. I want us to think about that question today
8. What happens when a Christian sins?

### I. God Is Holy and We Are Not

1. The holiness of God is beyond our ability to comprehend
2. Absolute purity – righteousness – sanctification - is beyond our mental capabilities
3. We have nothing with which to compare this type of holiness
4. God’s holiness is absolute holiness that is not measured by degrees – He is never 90% holy
5. Isaiah the prophet encountered the perfect holiness of God in the temple and he was overwhelmed (READ: Isaiah 6:1-8)
6. We must take holiness seriously because the Bible takes holiness seriously (Ps 24:3-4 - HCSB) says –  
*<sup>3</sup>Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup>The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not set his mind on what is false, and who has not sworn deceitfully.*
7. To Israel first- and then to the church - God said, “Be holy, for I am holy” (Lev 11:44 & 1 Pet 1:16)
8. We face a great dilemma – for no man can say, “I am holy”

9. With Isaiah we should cry out in response to God’s demand for holiness -“*Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips*” (Is 6:5)
10. But few of us are as honest as Isaiah
11. We have become accustomed to un-holiness
12. Moral failure doesn’t surprise us – it is a fact of life – we have come to expect it and accept it
13. “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Rom 3:23)
14. And we continue to fall into sin . . .

### II. What Happens When a Christian Sins?

#### 1. What does **NOT** happen

- a. God does not leave us
  - 1) Heb 13:5 – “*I will never leave or forsake you*”
  - 2) The NT teaches God’s abiding presence with believers
  - 3) In the OT the Spirit came and went – but since Pentecost the HS has been poured out on all true believers (Acts 2)
  - 4) God does not leave us when we sin – He dwells in us
  - 5) Our bodies are the temple of God!
  - 6) *God does not leave us*
- b. We are not disowned (2 Tim 2:13)  
*“If we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.”*
  - 1) When someone is saved, they become a child of God (Jn. 1:12) by a supernatural birth (1 Pet. 1:23)  
*“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*
  - 2) If you have been spiritually born again, nothing can change the fact that you are God’s child
  - 3) You have eternal life - you are secure – not because of your faithfulness to God – but because of His faithfulness to you
  - 4) *Having been adopted, we will never be disowned*
- c. We are not damned (John 5:24 - KJV)

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

- 1) Salvation means that God has forgiven, cleansed and covered us in His righteousness
- 2) This happens through the cross and ransom’s price being paid in the blood of Jesus
- 3) 1 Cor 6:20 says – *“For you are bought with a price; therefore glorify God”*
- 4) Where there is real faith, we belong to God and can never be separated from Him
- 5) Rom 8:1 says, *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”*
- 6) God has written *FORGIVEN* upon our life – all of it - every act and thought you ever committed - or ever will commit!
- 7) *When we sin, we are not damned*

#### TRANSITION:

- Though a believer's sins have been paid for, the sins he or she commits in daily life after being saved DO have consequences.
- This is why we must take sin seriously

#### 2. What Does Happen?

- a. Our fellowship with God is broken (1John 1:6 - KJV)

*“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth”*

- 1) We all know what broken fellowship feels like on the human level
- 2) Fellowship with God is hindered when a believer sins
- 3) We do not lose salvation, but we do lose that sense of closeness
- 4) We feel distant and the things of God begin to lose their attraction
- 5) We feel uncomfortable in God’s presence, so we avoid it
- 6) The problem is not God – but us
- 7) Eph 4:30 tells us that we are not to *“grieve the Holy Spirit”*
- 8) We are so wired by God that we condemn ourselves when we sin

- 9) Sin results in broken fellowship with God
- b. We lose the blessing of peace in Christ
    - 1) Jesus told his disciples in Jn 14:27 (KJV) -  
*“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*
    - 2) The peace that Jesus gives is a peace that *“passes all understanding”* (Phil 4:7)
    - 3) Is 57:17 says *“There is no peace for the wicked”*
    - 4) Restlessness – anxiety - agitation – nervousness – worry – stress – result from sin in the life of a believer
  - c. Joy begins to fade
    - 1) David (Ps 51:12)
    - 2) When a believer sins, he will begin losing the joy of Christian activities
    - 3) Some here today are backslidden – not where you once were and not where you want to be
    - 4) Some people blame others for loss of joy
    - 5) It’s a personal problem related to your own personal relationship with Jesus
    - 6) The problem is sin
  - d. Your witness is compromised (Matt 5:16)

#### III. What To Do

1. Confront it – David & the prodigal (Pr 28:13)  
*“No one who conceals transgressions will prosper, but one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”*
2. Confess it (1Jn 1:9)
3. Consecrate (Ps 51:12,13)  
*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.*