

Sin and the Christian II

What is sin? James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Does the Bible really say that Christians sin?

Controversial Scriptures:

I John 1:8-10

- read verses 7-10 for context
- describes how the blood of Jesus cleanses from sin and all need cleansing; everyone has committed sin at least once in their lifetime; anyone who says otherwise is not telling the truth
- this does not mean that sinning continues on into Christianity
- chapter 2:1- sinning is not the norm after salvation, but it is possible (then, God can forgive); forgiveness is necessary "if any man sin"

Romans 3:10, 23

- read verses 9-10 and 22-23 for context
- verse 10- Jews and Gentiles are all under sin before salvation (comparing Old and New Testaments); both need to be saved; everyone is born unrighteous and in need of a Savior
- verse 23- righteousness through faith in Jesus is available to all because "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" ("there is no difference" between Jews and Gentiles)

Romans 7:14-21

- verse 14 shows that he is not saved and giving his testimony of his unsaved life (Romans 6:14- sin does not have dominion over a Christian; here, Paul describes how he was "sold under sin")
- Romans 7:24-25 and 8:1-4 show the contrast between his life in salvation and the life he lived before; now he is saved and free; he no longer lives after the flesh

Other Scriptures (to show that a Christian does not have to sin):

- John 5:10-15- Jesus told the man to go and "sin no more;" He would not have told the man to do something that he was incapable of doing
- Romans 6:1-2- a Christian is dead to sin; therefore, no longer committing it
- Romans 6:12-15- sin no longer has dominion over a Christian
- Romans 8:1-2- a Christian is no longer condemned by sin because he is not committing it
- I Peter 2:21-22- we are to follow Christ's example
- I John 3:9- a Christian cannot sin as long as the seed of God is within him
- Jude 1:24- God gives a Christian the power to keep from falling into sin and to keep him "faultless"

Conclusion:

- the Scriptures do teach that all are born "under sin" and in need of a Savior; however, sin stops upon salvation; once a person becomes a Christian, they never have to sin again
- it is possible for a Christian to return to sin, but if they do, something is wrong because the standard is to "sin no more;" it would have to be a conscious choice for them to return to sin