

FREE FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN

1 John 1:8-10

Introduction: Everybody does it! Everybody sins! There's nobody perfect! So what's the big deal about being a Christian? They sin like everybody else. All these remarks are true. Christians do sin just like everybody else to an extent, however there is a big difference in a Christian sinning and a non-Christian sinning. A sin is a sin, no matter who does it, even if it is the same kind of sin, so how is it different for a Christian to sin and for all others?

1. Christians ONLY have been delivered from the penalty of sin.

- Jesus Christ died for the sins of all people and those who accept what He did and put their entire lives into His keeping have their sins "paid for" by what Jesus did. Christians are free from the penalty of sin and upon repenting, they are free from the guilt of their sin.
- Christians still sin and many become alarmed and begin to doubt that they have been truly saved by what Jesus did for them at the cross, for they have the idea that once they have been saved, they will not sin anymore, which is wishful, hopeful, and what God wants but just doesn't happen while living here on earth. They have forgotten God's other provisions for their security.
- Not knowing God's Word causes Christians to fail in spiritual areas, like knowing they are safe in what Jesus has done for them.

2. Christians still have problems with sin.

- Unlike a non-Christian, the Christian has two (2) natures, the one he/she was born with, called the old sin nature and the new one that was given upon his/her belief in Jesus.
Romans 7:18; 1 John 1:8, 10; Galatians 5:16,17
- Christians do not habitually sin anymore as non-Christians do, and as they did before they became a Christian.
 - Christians work at not sinning. *1 John 3:9*
- Christians are in constant battle within them selves for each of their two natures wants/tries to overpower the other and have control of the Christian's life.

3. God's Law has been the rule of life for God's people in times past (Old Testament times).

- God gave His people, Israel, a set of 10 Commandments.
- The government of God's people (Israel) was based on the Commandments, God's Judgments, and God's Ordinances, all God-given.
- Any part of God's will revealed to His people in any manner was considered the Law of God.
- Any rule of conduct outlined by any of God's people for God's people was considered Law.
- The Law presented "conditional" covenants: do good and God would bless.
- The Law depended upon people obeying and fulfilling it all, thus by works.

4. God's Grace was given as a NEW rule of life for God's people.

- Christians are NOT under the same Laws Israel was under but a new condition/relationship called Grace, which included all the vital elements of the Law.
John 1:16, 17; Romans 6:19; 7:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:1-18; Galatians 3:19-25; Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14
- Grace delivers the Christian from the burden of "work," not in order to be accepted, but because the believer in Jesus has already been accepted.
- Grace delivers the Christian from living by his/her own efforts to please God, for the indwelling Holy Spirit empowers, therefore human effort is no longer needed.
- Grace does not let God treat Christians as they deserve, for Jesus has paid the debt, the penalty, the cost, the punishment of the Christian's sin.
- God saves by grace and only by grace and it is limitless, unrestrained where all human merit is set aside and all is done through Jesus Christ.
- It is GRACE and grace alone that keeps Christians saved. God's saving grace continues on to become God's keeping grace. *Romans 5:2; 1 Peter 5:12)*
- Grace has a rule in the Christian's life and that is the Christian acts NOT to be saved but because he/she has been saved and is kept by the power of the Holy Spirit.

5. God's Grace is the only way the Christian can live a life of victory over sin.

- Christians are not compelled to observe certain rules to be kept saved. *Romans 6:14*
- There is no way Christians can be rid of their original human nature (the old sin nature) while still living in their human-birth bodies. *Galatians 5:16; 1 John 4:4; 5:4; Romans 6:14*
 - There would not be the need of the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit IF the original human nature (the old sin nature) could be removed.
- Christians cannot live Godly lives apart from the indwelling Holy Spirit.
Romans 7:18; 23, 24; 8:2, 4
- Deliverance from sin comes by the Holy Spirit through what Jesus Christ has done.

6. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers/enables the Christian to live as God wants.

- The teachings of Grace present impossible standards for Christians to live by, it is a superhuman kind of life, therefore it only by Grace and the power of the Holy Spirit that it is possible.
- Christians constantly face Satan and his efforts to cause them to sin against God.
- Christians still have their old human nature (old sin nature) and are unable by themselves to keep it under control, but by God's Grace and the Holy Spirit, the old sin nature is kept in check.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every human being sins but only the Christian's sins have already been paid for and therefore only the Christian is free from the penalty of sin.
2. Only when the Christian leaves his/her earthly body will he/she finally be free from sin, but until then, he/she is kept by God's Grace and will be delivered to heaven by God's grace and not by any works of his/her own.