



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Do You Trust God with Your Sin?

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9 NASB).

God’s call to the unbelieving world is to “repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38a), “because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed” (Acts 17:31a).

For those who heed the call of God to repent and put their trust in Jesus, God will cause them to “be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3b), and He will “cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Hebrews 9:14b). This is a work that Jesus does in you, to change you, and we have confidence that “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6b). It is necessary because “unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3b), “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

We have been made God’s own possession, for Jesus was “slain, and purchased for God with [His] blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9). We are adopted into God’s family and are sealed by His Spirit (2 Cor 1:22) to be raised under His discipline to receive a share in Christ’s inheritance when we enter eternity.

But as Believers we still sin. How do we reconcile this, for “if we go on **sinning deliberately** after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for

sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment” (Hebrews 10:26-27a ESV). This refers to a deliberate state of living in sin (or “practicing sin”—1 John 3:9). Can we who were saved from “*sin still live in it?*” (Romans 6:2b). No. We still sin, but a Believer admits to God that “*when I kept silent about my sin...Your hand was heavy upon me...I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’; And You forgave the guilt of my sin”* (Psalm 32:3-5). David was not “deliberately living” in sin, for when the weight of God’s conviction got through to him, he confessed. To confess is to admit we are wrong and declare God right, but our first reaction when we sin can be to shrink back from confessing it because sin makes us feel bad about ourselves. No one likes feeling bad about themselves, so we try to hide our sin by making excuses, shifting blame, ignoring it—anything to deny it is sin. We don’t want to “lose face” with God or man, but the truth is, we never had a good face to begin with, for it is the righteousness of Jesus that makes us acceptable to God. Therefore, we must confess our sins to Jesus, and those we hurt (James 5:16), and He forgives us.

Do you trust Jesus’ love for you enough to admit your sin to Him without fear of punishment (1 John 4:18), or do you try to make yourself acceptable by turning your “best” face towards Him and others? We want people to see us as we want to be seen, but He sees us as we are, and He wants us to acknowledge the truth about ourselves and the truth about Him. Do not court God’s discipline, but be diligent to confess your sin to Him, admitting He is right. Do not fear punishment, and do not shrink back from confessing, for “*we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul”* (Hebrews 10:39). Even so, Amen.