

SIN NO MORE

In the Creator's judicial court, the Almighty Judge declares that all accountable men are found guilty of sin. All have sinned; all have transgressed (Romans 3:23). There are not just a few sinners, nor is it a majority. Everyone has committed lawlessness by disobeying God. This reality of sin in the world and of every man's own sinfulness does not mean that the being, who has been made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), is unable to turn away from a path of sin and to choose not to practice unrighteousness.

Unquestionably, men can be influenced, deceived, seduced and even pressured. The tendency, though, is that persons prefer to cast blame elsewhere rather than accept responsibility and accountability for their own actions and words. The free will of man is constantly involved when sin is committed. Temptation can be endured and escaped (1 Corinthians 10:13). The devil can be resisted. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7). The Creator knows what man is able and unable to do. None of His commandments are beyond the ability of man. His commandments to flee sin are attainable and doable.

God's "all men everywhere to repent" command reveals His expectation and requirement as well as man's ability to respond to that urgent call (Acts 17:30). True repentance is both an inward change and an outward change regarding sin. Man can change his character and conduct. He can change his ways and habits. After exposing the hypocrisy of Jewish leaders, Jesus told an adulteress, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:11). With correct training and effective discipline, moral and spiritual rehabilitation is possible. Divine love, mercy and grace grants the sinner the opportunity to personally respond to the Judge's verdict and plan.

Recipients of God's grace are partakers of a new walk, a new life in Christ. "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? . . . Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, . . . so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:1-2, 4) Forgiveness does not give sinners liberty and license to keep on sinning. "Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin," (6:12-13). Every Christian is expected to put forth the daily effort of resisting and fleeing sin.

A purpose of the gospel of Christ is to instruct in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16), which includes training disciples to sin no more. "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin." (1 John 2:1) God does not condone sin. Sin is inexcusable. Instead of making vain excuses about the sins we commit, how much better it would be to apply such energy to actually saying "NO" to temptations and fleeing temptations. Christians are commanded to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" (Ephesians 5:11). God's call to all men is a high calling. Stop sinning!