



**Behold  he Lamb**  
Publications

**The nature of**  
**SIN**

by Leroy Surface

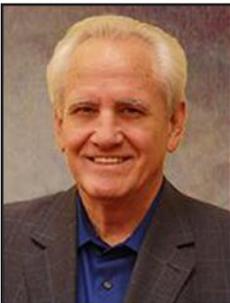
# The Nature of Sin

SIN is the greatest destroyer in the universe. It destroys souls, families, and nations! It destroyed Lucifer and Adam and it wants to destroy you! Where did it come from? And more importantly, how can you be free from its presence and power in your life?

There can be no doubt that SIN is the number one enemy of God. It is both a master over the sinner and the source of all his deeds. The Bible says that SIN entered the world through Adam's disobedience, but even before Adam disobeyed God, there was SIN. God did not create SIN, nor did He predestinate its existence, so how did it come into existence? The scriptures of the prophets tell us much that we need to know and understand about the origin of SIN. In this message we will examine in some detail those prophecies which reveal the origin of SIN, and the words of the apostles that tell us how God chose to deliver us from its presence and power.

## Behold the Lamb Publications

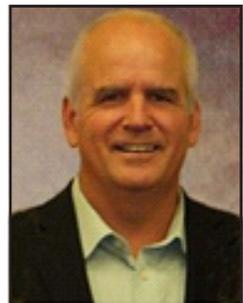
The purpose of Behold the Lamb Publications is to share the gospel



**Leroy Surface**

of Christ according to what the scriptures actually say. We dare not attempt to make the scripture fit any particular doctrine or show it to say something other than what God has said.

As a young man I was told by an elder minister that I should just accept what the leaders of "our movement" told us was true rather than



**Keith Surface**

believe what I saw the scriptures to be saying. I chose to believe that the word of God is true. Anyone that will do the same will find the gospel of Christ to be a simple message with the power to make everyone who believes it...free indeed!

*Editor's note: When you see the word **SIN** (all caps) in this message, it refers to the **sinful nature** that rules in the heart of the sinner. When you see the word **sin** (all lowercase), it refers to the **sinful actions** of the sinner.*

# The Nature of Sin

Message by **Leroy Surface**

## Introduction

*“Righteousness exalteth a nation, but **SIN** is a reproach to any people”* Proverbs 14:34.

SIN is perhaps the least understood subject in the entire Bible. Modern theology doesn't want to hear about it, and almost all of the remainder of the church doesn't know what to do about it. Few people today even know what SIN is. Most seem to think of sin as those things a person does in a time of weakness or when overcome by temptation. The truth of the matter is that SIN is not an action, but a nature. When Adam disobeyed God, he obeyed the serpent, and received the serpent's nature into himself. That “nature of the serpent” is Sin, which passed from Adam into every descendant of Adam from then until now. David said we are *“conceived in sin, and shapen in iniquity”* Psalms 51:5. All humanity became slaves to SIN, which was in their heart and nature from birth. The sinner is not a sinner because he sins; instead, he sins because he is a sinner.

SIN is the number one enemy of God. It is both a master over the sinner and the source of all his deeds. The Bible says that SIN entered the world through Adam's disobedience, but even before Adam disobeyed God, there was SIN. Where did Sin come from? God did not create SIN, nor did He predestinate its existence, so how did it come into existence? The scriptures of the prophets tell us much that we need to know and understand about to origin of SIN.

## The Origin of SIN

*“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.**”* Ezekiel 28:14-15

SIN originated in one whom God called “*the anointed cherub that covereth.*” It is in the prophecy of Isaiah that we discover his name is called “*Lucifer, son of the morning*” Isaiah 14:12, which means “*the shining one.*” Lucifer was one among three of the chief angels of God. These were “Lucifer, Michael, and Gabriel,” who are sometimes called “the archangels.” Lucifer, “the anointed cherub that covereth,” was a created being, as are all the angels of God. They were actually created by God to be servants, not to God only, but also to the man God created in His image Hebrews 1:13-14. It is commonly believed the angels were created without a “will” of their own, but if this were true, Lucifer could never have fallen into iniquity.

God said, “*Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*” Notice he was “created perfect,” and he continued in perfection “*until iniquity was found*” **in him**. Iniquity began as a single original thought. Again, if the angels were created without a “will,” an “original thought” would have been an impossibility. God, “*before whom all things are naked and open*” Hebrews 4:13, knew the thought the moment it conceived in His anointed angel. The “thought” gave birth to a “spirit of self-exaltation” in Lucifer, which guaranteed, he must be cast out of heaven, hence, the prophecy of Isaiah:

*“**How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!** how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! **For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.. He said in thine heart, I***

*will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High”* Isaiah

14:12-14.

SIN is deceitful. Lucifer was seduced by the thought of being “highly exalted” and “like God.” He had not thought of becoming one spoken of as “*the dragon*,” “*that old serpent*,” “*the devil*,” and tagged with the name “*Satan*” Revelation 12:9. His ambition was to sit on the throne of God in heaven and be “like God.” He said, “*I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.*” This is the location David gave of the temple of God in Jerusalem Psalms 48:1-2. Lucifer’s imaginations never told him he would be cast out of heaven Revelation 12:9-10, and find his final end in an everlasting lake of fire to be tormented day and night for ever and ever Revelation 20:10. Instead, he would be “*like God.*” In fact, in his imaginations, he would overthrow God and take the place of God even in heaven itself. SIN “in the heart” always paints a beautiful picture in the short term, but when SIN is finished the end is always “death” Romans 6:23, James 1:15.

From the moment the original thought to “exalt himself” developed in Lucifer, he was judged by God to be His adversary, and never again to be His trusted angel. In this message we will examine the deceitful nature of SIN and how it corrupted the entire creation and brought about the fall of one third of the angels and all of mankind.

## **The Deceitfulness of SIN**

*“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God”* Ezekiel 28:13.

Lucifer was incredibly successful in his scheme to take the place of God over men. It was actually in the Garden of Eden that Lucifer put his plan into action. By now he was called “*the serpent*,” but he was still the most beautiful and cunning among all the angels God had created. It should be noted that Lucifer had not been cast out of heaven at this time. He was probably in the garden for the benefit

of Adam and Eve. The idea that Eve was “seduced” by a “snake” is foolishness. God knew what was in the heart of Lucifer, but Eve had no reason to question his intent. It was not until their “*eyes were opened*” that they understood what a horrible deception they had believed, but it was too late.

The scripture says “...*the serpent beguiled (seduced) Eve through his subtilty (cunning craftiness)*” II Corinthians 11:3, and she was deceived. If the serpent had told Eve the truth, she would not have been deceived. Had he told the truth he would have said “*Eve, if you eat this fruit you will lose your fellowship with God. You’ll be ashamed in God’s presence. You’ll be driven out of paradise. You’ll suffer pain and sorrow all the days of your life, and all your descendants will forever live under a curse.*” However, this was not the message of the serpent. Instead he said “***Ye shall be as gods.***” This seemed to be a good thing to Eve. She reasoned that it would actually be better to eat of the fruit than not to eat of it. It was “...*good for food...*,” she reasoned, and “...*pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise...*” Genesis 3:6.

Eve was deceived. She really believed in what she was doing. She was very sincere as she took of the fruit and ate it. She thought she was doing the right thing when she gave it to Adam and he ate of it, but when they took the first bite a door was opened and SIN entered their hearts. Their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. A single moment before eating the fruit they had been master over all of God’s creation, including the Serpent. Now they were slaves to a cruel taskmaster named SIN. They had received “the nature of the serpent,” and the serpent had succeeded in becoming “*the god of this world*” II Corinthians 4:4. Every descendant of Adam and Eve were born with that same evil nature, and thus, Lucifer ruled over the entire world through that evil nature, which God calls SIN. Jesus called him “*the prince of this world,*” saying only days before His death on the cross, “*Now shall the prince of the world be cast out*” John 12:31. It was through the death and shed blood of the Son of God on the cross at Calvary that Lucifer, by now called “*the dragon*” was cast out of heaven.

“*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called*

*the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb ...***

Revelation 12:9-11.

## **How We Became Sinners**

*“Wherefore, as by one man SIN entered into the world, and death by SIN; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law SIN was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.”* Romans 5:12-14

Every person born into this world is a sinner in two ways; by inheritance and by transgression. Everyone is born a sinner by nature. This was our inheritance from Adam. Even if it were possible that a child would be born and grow to adulthood without committing any act of sin, yet that person would be a sinner because SIN is his nature. Paul said, in the scripture above, **“...death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression...”** From Adam to Moses there was no law, and therefore no transgression, as Paul said in the previous chapter, **“...where no law is, there is no transgression”** Romans 4:15. God destroyed man in the days of Noah, not because of their transgression, but because of what they were: *“the imagination and thoughts of their hearts were only evil continually”* Genesis 6:5. Even though these people were doing every evil and vile thing that was in their heart, they could not have been convicted in a court of law because there was no law against the things they were doing. Their problem was a heart problem. Their nature was depraved, they were *“by nature the children of wrath,”* the enemies of God and God destroyed them as He saw fit. It was the same with Sodom in the days of Lot. Sodom was a proud and

prosperous people with an abundance of leisure time. Their nature was perverted and from their nature they committed the abomination that brought the wrath of God upon them Ezekiel 16:49. They were destroyed because of what they were.

The law was given to control SIN by defining what sin is. Paul says in Romans 7:7; “**...I had not known SIN, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.**” Israel had been sinning before they knew what sin was because SIN reigned in their nature. It wasn’t until God met them on Mt. Sinai and gave them His commandments that they knew what sin was. Now the wrath of God would come on them when they worshipped the golden calf and committed the abomination. Now they would become even more corrupt than Sodom Ezekiel 16:48-53, because now they were not only sinners by nature, they were also sinners by transgression. They had received the holy law of God, but were still ruled by SIN. This is the experience the Apostle Paul relates in Romans 7:8; “**But SIN taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence** (desire, turmoil, and struggle).” Wanting to do good, yet doing evil, Saul of Tarsus recognizes for the first time in his life, that SIN is dwelling in him Romans 7:17, 20. Further, realizing that he is a slave to SIN, he cries “**O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?**”

## Enter “Religion”

Amazingly, the first “religious work” was when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in order to become “as gods.” They chose “religion” (knowledge of good and evil) instead of “life” (the tree of life). The second religious work was when they sewed fig leaves together and made aprons to cover their bodies. Before their transgression, “**...they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed**” Genesis 2:25. Now shame filled their hearts and lives. They covered their bodies with fig leaves, but they were still ashamed, so they “**...hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden**” Genesis 3:8.

The nakedness that made them ashamed was not their bodies, but SIN in their hearts. Fig leaves could not cover it and they could not hide it among the trees of the garden. Their shame brought terror to their hearts at the presence of God. They could no longer walk in fellowship with God. God's response was to clothe them with animal skins and drive them out of His garden. They were still ashamed and in the eyes of God they were still naked.

## A Covering for SIN?

For thousands of years man has searched for a way to cover the shame of his nakedness. Thousands of religions have arisen, each seeking to cover that which Adam tried unsuccessfully to cover with fig leaves. You see, Adam's shame was not caused by the nakedness of his body, but by the nakedness of SIN in his heart. He found the words to be true as spoken by the Apostle Paul; *"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do"* Hebrews 4:13.

Religion's answers have always been centered on the "outward man," while the problem has always been in the "inward man." Religion's first answer, initiated by Adam, is a covering. I call this answer "fig-leaf religion." This doctrine is found in virtually every religion throughout all history, beginning with Adam. It was practiced by almost every religion on earth including the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus's day, and by many in our day who are called "Christian." The doctrine is simple; the more of my body I cover, the holier I am. Hear the warning against such religion given by Jesus: *"Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces...which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation"* Mark 12:38-40. (Please note: The gospel message does NOT contradict the New Testament admonishments toward modesty or moderation in all things.) Jesus compared these scribes and Pharisees to a graveyard full of bones, saying to them, *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward,*

*but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity”* Matthew 23:27-28.

The sacrificial Law of Moses was given as a covering for SIN because it was not possible “...**that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins**” Hebrews 10:4. Under the law, sins would be remembered again every year, and must be again covered by the continual offering of sacrifices Hebrews 10:1-3. This law was to be in effect only until Christ would come into the world Galatians 3:19 to offer the one sacrifice that would “*put away sin*” forever Hebrews 9:26.

*“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for SIN, condemned SIN in the flesh”* Romans 8:3.

The shame of the modern view of the blood of Jesus Christ is that it does no more for the believer than the blood of animals under the law. This view says that SIN in our hearts is “covered forever” by the blood of Jesus, and if we immediately ask God’s forgiveness when we commit sin there is no break in fellowship. Others believe we are all sinners; but for the “believer” there is no record kept of sin. In this view, SIN in the heart and the sins we commit are both “covered” by the blood of Jesus, and God can never see them. They think they have found the “covering” Adam sought when he sewed those fig leaves together so long ago. They are mistaken. The blood of Jesus is not a “covering,” but rather it is holy blood, vested by God with the power to wash away every sin.

*There is a fountain, filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins.  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,  
lose all their guilty stains.*

## **A Lid for SIN?**

Another “answer” for the SIN problem is the teaching that God will give you “power over SIN” if you please Him. These see SIN as an outward enemy lurking in the shadows to tempt them at some

unsuspecting time. If this were the case it is possible their solution would be a valid answer, but SIN is not an outward problem, it is a heart problem. SIN'S dwelling place is in the hearts of the people. SIN is in the vessel. Sins are that which flow out of the vessel. SIN in the vessel is continuously producing sins that flows out. Trying to exercise power over SIN is like trying to put a lid on the vessel. You may be successful for a time, but the pressure builds and you find yourself in a struggle to keep the lid on. Such a person knows that God hates sin, yet he is determined not to fail. He will fast, pray, sacrifice, or do whatever he or she is told, seeking power to keep the lid on. They will be successful only to the extent of their determination and will power.

## **One Day at a Time?**

Over the past two decades, another solution for SIN has become very popular. It is the blending of modern psychology with the teachings of the church. They believe Jesus was the “master psychologist,” and the scriptures must be viewed only through the smoked glass of “Christian psychology.” According to their thinking, it is an error to “believe” what the scriptures actually say. The idea that anyone could be “free from SIN” is gross error to these thinkers. In fact, these believe there is really no such thing as inherited SIN, or a SIN nature; only “problems” imposed upon us when we were small children through “abuse” or “neglect.” These “problems” must be worked through with counselors and/or group therapy and in many cases with other methods that are more “Hindu” than “Christian.” This segment of the “church” is spending millions of dollars at dozens of “Christian Counseling Centers” located across our nation. They have no hope of ever being “free” from their problem; only that they may be able to live victoriously over the problem, *“one day at a time.”*

This philosophy of the modern church is very similar to, though actually weaker than that of “Alcoholics Anonymous.” The goal of the alcoholic is to stay dry. He is taught that he can never be free from his bondage, as each day he works his way through numerous principles meant to help him stay dry. Among those principles is

his or her confession, “I’m an alcoholic and I will always be an alcoholic.” Then he asks his “higher power” for help to stay dry for one more day. He will never say that he will not drink tomorrow, because he thinks only of today, “just one day at a time.” While on one hand I honor “Alcoholics Anonymous” for helping many alcoholics stay dry, I must also say it is a horrible thing when the churches adopt these methods to deal with the sin problem. Millions of “believers” are both prisoners of religion and slaves to SIN. They continually confess, “We’re all sinners and we’ll always be sinners. We’re saved by grace, but we sin every day.” This religious philosophy is weaker than that of “Alcoholics Anonymous” because the “successful” alcoholic will cease from drinking alcohol, but the religious man, in his religious plan, can never cease from sin.

## A Control for SIN?

*“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses”* Hebrews 10:28.

The Law of Moses had a built in control factor. It identified sin through a system of commandments as in ***“Thou shalt not....”*** The person who disobeyed the commandments was identified as a “sinner.” The law could not destroy SIN so it’s only answer was to destroy the sinner. That which the law could not control had to be destroyed. The Law of Moses was never God’s answer for SIN. It was only a temporary measure that used the fear of death to control the sinner until Christ would come to “take away SIN” at Calvary.

The person who is struggling with SIN is fighting with something in their own heart. None of religion’s answers are of any eternal value at all, and none of them will stand the scrutiny of our holy God. We may seek a “covering” for SIN, yet ***“...all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do”*** Hebrews 4:13. Seeking to exercise power over SIN only perpetuates the struggle. The harder you push against SIN the harder it pushes back. Trying to hold SIN down is like trying to hold a weight up. You may be successful for a time, but ultimately you will fail. The person who seeks an answer through religious

psychology is trying to reprogram human nature to make it less responsive to SIN. Such a person will never know “...*the glorious liberty of the children of God...*” Romans 8:21. As long as a person has hope in anything short of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, they will never see the real answer to SIN. God’s answer for the SIN problem is a “finished work” which was accomplished at Calvary, and must only be believed.

## Are All Sinners?

Have we all sinned? Yes! “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” Romans 3:23. Are we all sinners? NO! If this seems to be a contradiction it is because the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not known. We were all sinners when we were born, “...*having no hope, and without God in this world*” Ephesians 2:12. By our very nature we were the enemy of God, for SIN was in our nature. This is the reason Christ came and died on the cross, to “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. SIN in our nature was crucified with Him and we were made free from SIN. Notice the words of Paul, “...*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*” Romans 5:8. Notice the wording; “...*while we were yet sinners!*” We were sinners, but we who have been “crucified with Christ” Romans 6:6, are no longer sinners. We have been raised again with Christ in newness of life. Our nature is no longer SIN, but righteousness, and “Christ is our life”

Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:4.

Many people quote Romans 3:10 as though it were the first principle of their faith: “*As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one?*” Notice that Paul says, “*As it is written....*” When he said “*there is none righteous,*” he was not establishing gospel truth but quoting from the

**Editor’s note:** The law says to all who are under the law, “...*there is none righteous.*” Grace says to all who are under grace, “...*many are righteous.*”

“*For as by one man’s disobedience (Adam’s) many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus Christ’s obedience to the death of the cross) shall many be made righteous*” Romans 5:19.

law. He concludes his quotations from the law with this explanation, ***“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law”*** Romans 3:19. It is the law that says there is none righteous. Any preacher or teacher who teaches there is no one righteous since Christ died *“to make many righteousness,”* is denying the truth of the gospel, and bringing the condemnation of the law upon themselves. Those who believe their doctrine will also continue in their personal struggle with SIN until they turn away from the lie and acknowledge the truth II Timothy 2:24-26.

*“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe”* Romans 3:20-23.

Real righteousness and true holiness is available to every person living on this earth today. It is a gift from God. No one will be denied this righteousness for it is ***“...unto all...”*** It is offered to the vilest of sinners; but can only be received by believing the truth of the Gospel. God’s righteousness is ***“...upon all them that believe.”***

## **To Cease or Not to Cease?**

Peter prophesied (please read the **second chapter** of II Peter) concerning false teachers who would bring damnable heresies into the churches, which many would follow. They would speak evil of the way of truth (the Gospel of Jesus Christ) and make merchandise of the churches through covetousness and feigned (fictitious) words. Peter seems to be describing the condition of many churches today as he describes in detail the folly of these teachers. In verse fourteen, Peter strikes at the very heart of their problem: these are those who ***“...cannot cease from sin....”***

It is an obvious truth that a sinner cannot stop sinning. No one can save themselves or change their own nature. These which Peter spoke of, on the other hand, are religious teachers with multitudes

of followers, all traveling down the broad road of religion which leads to destruction. They may have different backgrounds and hold several different doctrinal beliefs, but they all have one

**Editor's note:** The secret to understanding who those are who "cannot sin" is found in the phrase "...his seed remaineth in him...", which is a conclusion reached in I John 3:5-6; "...ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. **Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not.**" Understand I John 3:9 in this way, for it is what the Greek wording says; "**Whosoever is born of God doth not commit** (Greek word 'poieo' means 'to make or do' and refers to a 'single act') **sin; for his seed** (God's children) **remaineth** (abide) **in him: and he** (this word 'he' is not in the Greek test) **cannot sin, because he is born of God.**" God's children do not sin because Christ has "taken away" their SIN, and they "**abide in Christ,**" (verse six) where there "**is no SIN**" (verse five). If anyone is moved away from total trust in Christ-crucified, sin will revive, and they will enter the continuous struggle. The answer to the sin problem is to "**abide in Him.**"

common denominator that ties them together; they "*cannot cease from sin*" II

Peter 2:14.

*"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God"* I John

3:9.

John tells of a people who, in his words, "**...cannot sin....**" Who could these people possibly be? How have they obtained such such a degree of perfection in this life? Surely they live lives of total seclusion, in continual prayer and fasting! No! John identifies who they are. He said they cannot sin "*because they are born of God*" I John 3:9.

The normal response to John's teaching in this text is to say it is too hard, that no one could possibly overcome SIN to such a degree. This is very true, but knowing the truth of the Gospel does not give the

believer *power over SIN*, but rather **freedom from SIN**. The SIN nature dies with Jesus on the cross and we are made partakers of His divine nature. It is natural for the SIN nature to sin, but righteousness is just as natural for the divine nature. The very liberal professor of Christ will say we are all sinners by nature who must sin every day. The very strict professor of Christ will agree that we still have a sin nature, but will teach that we can overcome our nature and should not sin. Both these teachings miss the mark of truth. If John had said we “**should not sin, because we are born of God,**” that would be hard; in fact it would be an impossible command that would keep the believer in a constant struggle against SIN. We who know the truth should thank God He did not say we “**should not sin,**” but He said, we “**cannot sin.**” That, dear friend, is the secret to the “glorious liberty” of the children of God who see and believe the truth of the Gospel.

Consider for a moment what these apostles have told us. Peter said there are many in the churches that “*...cannot cease from sin...*,” while John tells of some in the church who “*...cannot sin, because they are born of God.*” Which of these groups are you identified with? Jesus told of the broad way of religion that would lead a multitude to destruction, and of a strait way that leads to life, which few would find. Which of these ways are you in? The stakes are too high to gamble. Your eternal soul is in the balance.

## **Old Man, New Man, Inward Man, Outward Man!**

*“...though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day”* II Corinthians 4:16.

Due to all the teachings about the old man, new man, inward man and outward man, it would be easy to wonder “just who am I?” Let’s take a few moments and find ourselves as pertaining to these “men.”

**The Outward Man...** The “outward man” is your body. Of itself it can do nothing, as James says, “*...the body without the spirit is dead...*” James 2:26. Everything the body does is in obedience

to the “real you” that lives in the body.

**The Inward Man...** The “real you” is called the “inward man” of the heart. The “inward man” is either an “old man” or a “new man,” but it cannot be both. This determines whether you are a sinner or a righteous person. You may be a sinner, or you may be righteous, but you cannot be both.

**The Old Man...** The “old man” is what every person is until the time they are born again of the Spirit of God. The old man may be a violent, vicious, uncivilized monster of a person, indulging in the filthiest of sins without any conscience of right or wrong; OR, the old man could be a professor of religion, a doer of good deeds, and an upstanding citizen in the community. The “old man” can want to please God, but will always come short of the glory of God. He can obey religious laws and principles, but they can never bring him into perfect peace with God. Paul describes the “old man” in the **seventh chapter of Romans** and reveals why he is the “old man.”

*“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under SIN. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but SIN that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but SIN that dwelleth in me”* Romans 7:14-20

This is the record of an “old man” trying to please God. He wants to do good but he cannot. He wants to cease from sin but he cannot. Paul tells the reason why he “cannot.” Two times in this text he says, “**...it is no more I that do it, but SIN that dwelleth in me.**” The “inward man” is the “old man” as long as SIN dwells in him. There is nothing anyone can do of themselves to change this SIN condition. No one can take SIN out of their “inward man.”

This is the sad state of the sinner. It is also the condition of the religious man that has not been “*by faith,*” crucified with Christ Romans 6:5. This is the reason Christ came into the world.

*“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for SIN, condemned SIN in the flesh”* Romans 8:3.

**The New Man...** The new man is “*Christ in you....*” Paul’s testimony to the Galatians reveals much about the new man: “*For I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...*” Galatians 2:20. To the Romans, Paul revealed his struggles with SIN while he was yet “in the flesh” Romans 7:5, before he was “born of God” I John 3:9, 5:1. “*Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me*” Romans 7:20. While SIN was his master, Paul said, “*not I, but SIN...*” When Christ came in, Paul said, “*not I, but Christ.*” He continued to say, “*...the life which I now live in the flesh (the mortal body) I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*” What could have made such a difference in his experience? Only one thing, his “*death*” by “*crucifixion with Christ,*” which he received in the moment he first believed.

Just as the new man is “**Christ in you,**” the old man is “**SIN in you.**” Both the sinner and the religious man greatly fear the cross of Christ because it is a place of death. Paul says “*...our old man is crucified with him (Christ), that the body of SIN might be destroyed....*” Romans 6:6. Notice, when the old man is crucified with Christ it is **the body of SIN** that is destroyed. Crucifixion does **not** destroy the man, but the SIN that dwells in the man. The believer is made free from sin because the SIN that reigned in his inward man is destroyed by crucifixion with Christ. We are buried with Christ, and raised again in newness of life. Coming out of the tomb, we are “*in Christ*” I John 3:6, and “*without SIN unto salvation*” Hebrews 9:28. Now it is no longer “*I,*” an old man ruled by SIN, who lives; but it is “*Christ who liveth in me*” Galatians 2:20. It is Christ who **is my life** Colossians 3:4.

## Freed From SIN

God's answer for SIN is not to cover it, control it, subdue it, or live with it. God's answer for SIN is to utterly destroy it through our crucifixion with Christ, and this He did at Calvary. God's answer for the sinner is never to destroy him, but to make him free from

**Editor's note:** The writer does not deny the possibility of sin "reviving." Sin will absolutely revive in those who trust in anything other than "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" I Corinthians 2:2. What does this mean to us? The "cross of Christ" is for our "justification" Romans 6:6-7, and the "blood of Christ" was shed for our "sanctification" Hebrews 13:12. Trust in nothing else.

*For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died" Romans 7:9.*

SIN by destroying the SIN nature that reigns in his heart. This He also did at Calvary. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him that the body of SIN might be destroyed..." Romans 6:6. The old man is the person you were before you were "born of God" I John 5:4. You were "in Adam," an heir of Adam's nature, and a servant to SIN. At Calvary the "old man" is crucified with Christ, the "body of SIN (the entire nature of SIN)" is destroyed, and the "new man" is resurrected with Christ. The believer is "in Christ," a

partaker of the divine nature, and a servant to righteousness.

The Apostle Paul, in response his own cry of anguish, which he made just before he met Jesus on the Damascus road ("*Oh wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*" Romans 7:24), declares the answer for every man in the next verse, "*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" The one who said "...it is no more I that do it, but SIN that dwelleth in me" Romans 7:20 became the one who later said "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; YET NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME.*" Before his "crucifixion with (in union with) Christ," it was SIN that dwelt in Paul; and what he did was the result of being a

“slave to SIN” John 8:34. Now it is Christ who lives in him, and what he does is the result of righteousness, which is his new nature. The answer for Paul was “*crucifixion with Christ,*” which can only be received “by faith,” that is, by believing the truth of why Christ died for us.

Crucifixion is the present condition for the believer which was accomplished at Calvary in the Son of God. The apostle Paul spoke of this: “*Always bearing about in the body the dying (the death) of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body*” II Corinthians 4:10.

As many as have been “*born of God*” I John 5:1, have first been “*crucified with Christ.*” It is a strange doctrine indeed that tells us we must “seek to die” after we have been “born again.” The apostle Peter rejoices in God in the beginning verses of his epistle, saying, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...*” I Peter 1:3. We are “born again” with a “new heart” and a “new spirit” Ezekiel 36:26, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

“*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin*” Romans 6:6.

The word “with” in this verse was translated from the Greek word “*sun,*” which “denotes union,” and is used properly to say “*Our old man died in union with Christ on the cross.*” When Christ died on the cross, it was not a “penal death” as many say. Christ did not come into the world to take the “penalty” for sin. Instead, He came to “make an end of sins” Daniel 9:24, to “take away the sin of the world” John 1:29, and to “take away our sins” I John 3:5. God had no desire to “punish” the world for sin, but to “deliver” the world from sin. For this purpose, Christ (the Word), who was “with God” and “was God” John 1:1 became a man to die on the cross, to “reconcile the world” II Corinthians 5:18 to God. This He did for everyone who believes the truth.

*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"* Romans 6:3.

Those who are presently "*in Christ*" have been made "*one with Him*" in His death, which simply means, when Christ died on the cross, our "*old man*" died "*in union with*" Him. The gospel believer is "*one with Christ*" in His death Romans 6:6, "*one with Him*" in His burial Romans 6:4, and "*one with Him*" in His resurrection. We "*died to sin*" in His death, and we were "*made alive to God*" in His resurrection.

*"For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord"* Romans 6:10-11.

For those who know and believe the truth, Christ's death is our death, His burial is our burial, His resurrection is our resurrection, His life is our life, and His victory is our victory. We are at rest in Christ, freed from sin Romans 6:7 and from Satan Hebrews 2:14. We have found it to be exactly as Jesus promised to all those who would "come unto Him:" He said, "*My yoke is easy and my burden is light*" Matthew 11:28-30. There is rest for your soul.

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