

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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Impatience and Adultery

We received a letter recently from a lady who said we thought ourselves to be perfect and just like God because we teach freedom from sin through the blood of Christ. The article below is my reply I sent to this lady. I am sharing this in hopes it might be helpful to others.

Dear _____,

I usually do not respond to letters if I feel the writer is just attacking or wants to argue. Since I did not sense this was your purpose in writing to us, I will seek to address some of the things you said.

You claimed that a person sinned if they were impatient, if they overeat ice cream, if they argue a point with their spouse concerning finances, if they injure themselves and say "O darn," or if they defend themselves from a person who is beating on them. I do not believe it is your intent, but in making these claims you sound like those God rebuked because they "*make a man an offender for a word...*" Isaiah 29:21. Do you really believe, as you stated in your letter, that everyone has sin in their thoughts every day?

The Bible does not say those who do the things

you mentioned will not inherit the kingdom of God. However, when the Bible speaks of *“Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like”* it says, **“...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”** Galatians 5:19-21. The Apostle Paul is so adamant about this that he repeats it in I Corinthians 6:9-10 and in Ephesians 5:5-6. Those who seek to make impatience to be the same as adultery, hatred, and drunkenness, are in effect telling the adulterer, the hate-filled, and the drunkard that God will receive them when his word clearly says he will not.

Those who ignore Paul’s repeated warnings about what and who will not inherit the kingdom of God can conjure up beautiful philosophical doctrines about how God will sweep sinful people into his eternal presence, but if you have to ignore the word of God to say it then it is just not true.

We preach the blood of Christ that makes the believer free from sin, first because it is the word of God, and secondly, because it is the only answer that takes the adultery out of the adulterer and hatred out of the hater, because it takes sin out of the sinner. Since all were unrighteous, and the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God, then salvation must deliver the unrighteous from their unrighteousness and make them righteous. This is exactly what Jesus Christ did upon the cross. The Bible says, *“For as*

by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Romans 5:19.

We are not saying that a child of God might not sometimes be impatient or even grumpy. This does not mean that sin is in their heart, but rather they may be lacking in the fullness of the fruit of the Spirit which increases as we draw close to Christ. An apple tree that is lacking apples still cannot bear oranges. A child of God may be lacking the fullness of love, but they will not possess the sin of "hate" unless something has gone very wrong in their walk with God. Remember, the Apostle John told us, "*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*" | John 3:15. If the Apostle John says no one who hates a brother has eternal life in them, why do you dispute with us for saying the same thing?

You accused us of giving a list for salvation. In no way have we ever done such a thing. No good work earns or proves salvation, but true salvation always produces good works. God's list, however, is written in the heart of his people. He said, "*I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.*" Hebrews 10:16. Do you believe that God keeps his word and writes his law in the hearts and minds of his people? That is why a child of God does not do the things which the Bible says shall not inherit the kingdom of God. God changes their heart. That is what true salvation by grace is! Yes, as you said, a person can receive salvation ten seconds before they die,

but if they did not die, everything in their life would be different because their heart was washed by the blood of Christ.

Finally, you asked if we knew the compassion of Jesus Christ. Does compassion assure someone God will receive them into heaven when they are doing things which the Bible clearly says shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Is not a lie filled with love and tenderness still a lie? I believe true compassion would tell them the truth, whether they love to hear it or not. In that same spirit, I have not written to offend, but to share the truth of Christ.