

DOES IT MATTER IF A CHRISTIAN SINS?

Hebrews 12:6-11

Introduction: "Well, I'm saved now and I can do whatever I like ..." If a Christian is permanently saved and even if he/she sins, he/she will still go to heaven, what does it matter if the Christian sins or not? Can't the Christian "get away with sin?" From the viewpoint of a non-Christian, an unbeliever, it might appear that Christians are exempt from punishment of their sins for they are "saved forever..." Nothing could be further from the truth!

I. CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW NATURE

1. When a person trusts Jesus, he/she receives eternal life, is born again, becomes a new babe in Christ and is changed.
 - Condemnation of his/her sin is lifted.
2. A new life is begun and duties to God have just begun. How the Christian lives matters greatly.
 - If/when a Christian sins, God deals with him/her as a disobedient child.
 - Not as a judge, but as a Father.
 - *Hebrews 12:6-11*
3. Anybody who claims to be saved and thinks it makes no difference how he/she lives has never been truly saved.
 - *Proverbs 4:23; Colossians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 5:17*
 - The heart that once willingly served sin, after being saved, now desires to serve God.
 - The Holy Spirit dwells within each believer.
 - Having been born again has given the believer another, a new nature that does not want to sin.
 - There is a difference between falling into temptation and desiring to commit sin.
 - The indwelling Holy Spirit leads the believer to want to serve God and not to sin.
4. When a believer does commit sin, the Holy Spirit immediately convicts him/her of that sin.
 - The Holy Spirit shows the erring believer that it does matter how he/she lives.
 - Any believer who is sinning is out of fellowship with God and is miserably aware that he/she has sinned and stands in need of repentance and forgiveness.
 - *1 John 1:7*

II. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO LIVE RIGHT MORE THAN THEY WANT TO

1. *Luke 22:31-32*
2. God will never surrender, expel or take salvation away from one who has been born into His family.
 - Jesus cared much for His disciples and is just as caring for every single believer since then.
 - Every believer in Jesus belongs to Him for He bought every believer with a tremendous price.
 - Jesus will not ever take remove any believer from God's family.
 - Jesus will never allow any believer to remove him/herself from God's family.

3. The believer in Jesus is just as truly saved while under God's chastisement as when he/she was first saved or was restored back to fellowship after sinning.
 - ***Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 13:5***
 - Every Christian has sinned and will continue to sin off and on until he/she leaves this world.
 - Countless Christians can tell of their wayward, sometimes willful lives, sometimes because of neglect, sometimes because of temptation but the Holy Spirit never gave up and always brought them under conviction and God's chastisement.

III. TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST IS TO FOLLOW HIM

1. ***John 10:4, 5, 27***
2. If a person does not follow Jesus Christ, regardless of what he/she says about professing faith in Jesus, that person is not saved!
 - Some follow Jesus for a while, then fall away.
 - Time will show whether a profession of faith in Jesus is real or not.
 - ***2 Peter 2:22***
 - Countless have professed faith in Jesus, changed their outward ways for a while, but not having been born again, they eventually returned to their old sinful, natural ways.
 - Those who have truly believed in Jesus will follow Him, always.
3. Continuing to follow Jesus is the true test of a person's profession of faith, the real proof that he/she has been born again.
 - Ask yourself, is it your greatest desire to follow Jesus, to live a righteous life? If not then it is doubtful that you have been born again.

IV. TRUE BELIEVERS IN JESUS WILL NEVER WANT TO TURN BACK TO SIN

1. The Bible does not teach anywhere that it makes no difference what the believer in Jesus does or how he/she lives and still go to heaven.
 - It does make a difference what the believer does, how he/she lives and what sort of testimony he/she has among his/her fellow friends, etc.
2. The idea that one can live a careless life and still reach heaven NEVER enters the heart of a believer. For the heart has been changed and a new desire has been given to live above sin.

CONCLUSION:

1. When a person accepts Jesus and is saved, that person is then in the hands of Jesus. He/she is hid in Jesus Christ in God and both have their hands around that believer. Could there be any more security than that? ***John 10:29***
2. It is God who is faithful and able to keep the believer. ***1 Corinthians 1:9; 10:13***
3. The devil cannot have the believer back. ***2 Timothy 1:12***
 - It is the doctrines of man and the devil, not God, that say a believer can be lost again.