

WHEN A CHRISTIAN SINS

1 John 1 - 3

Introduction: Sin is sin, regardless who commits it, either by a Christian or by an unbeliever. However, the Christian's sins are against a greater light, against a more intimate relation with God, as a Father-son, from a higher position (as being in Jesus Christ), and against a more exalted standard of living, for the Christian is to be living as much like Jesus Christ as possible.

The Christian is bothered more, beset more, and tempted more than the unbeliever and is in constant battle with the world, the flesh and the devil.

Unlike the unbeliever though, the Christian has a divinely provided help, the Word of God, the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and the interceding of the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself.

I. EFFECTS UPON THE CHRISTIAN WHEN HE/SHE SINS

1. Christians are family members, children, of God's Family, or household.
2. The effect of sin on the Christian does not bring an excommunication or dissolution from the family of God, but rather injures his/her family relationships.
 - **1:6** - The light of God is turned into darkness.
 - God's light searches the life and reveals sin and the Christian is to confess and repent of the sin and then move on living the Christian life within the God's family.
 - **1:4** - A loss of joy of the presence of God.
 - **1:3** - A loss of family fellowship.
 - **2:5** - A loss of being able to be used by God to love others.
 - **3:4** - A loss of peace for sin in a Christian's life brings distress into the heart.
 - **3:19** - A loss of confidence in prayer.
 - **2:28** - A loss of confidence when Jesus returns, he/she will be ashamed.
 - A loss of spiritual power and "fruit."

II. EFFECTS OF THE CHRISTIAN'S SIN UPON GOD

1. Is God so holy that when a Christian sins, it causes him/her to forfeit his/her salvation and he/she must be re-saved?
 - Which sin is it that causes one to become unsaved again?
2. Sin, in its most unoffensive form is still exceedingly sinful and if it wasn't for Jesus Christ's blood, sin would separate the sinning Christian from God forever.
 - But since Jesus Christ's sacrifice covers ALL sin, sin's power to separate a Christian from God is annulled, rendered non applicable, non condemning.
3. How, then is the Christian's sin handled? God alone has the remedy as He did with salvation.
 - **"My little children.."** - Those born again, saved, redeemed, of the family of God. (**2:1**)
 - **"...these things write I unto you, that ye sin not..."** - Eternal life is not a license to sin and to live just however one wants, but it is an incentive NOT to sin.

- "...*if any man sin...*" - If any Christian sins through the world, the flesh or the devil, God has provided three restraining factors: His Word, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and the interceding Jesus Christ. Sadly, even with these three great powers, the Christian still sins.
- "...*we have an advocate with the Father...*" - God, the heavenly Father, is the judge, the devil is the accuser (prosecutor), and Jesus Christ, the intercessor (defense).
 - As "advocate" Jesus does not ask the Heavenly Father, the Judge, to be lenient nor does He make excuses for the sinful Christian, or attempt to divert or confuse the issue of the Christian sinning.
- "...*Jesus Christ, the Righteous...*" - Righteous, not just His character, but the basis or means by which He (advocate) is able to deliver the Christian sinner.
 - Jesus as advocate presents the evidence of His OWN death and proves the fact that He bore that Christian's sin on the cross.
 - What Jesus is saying is that that Christian's sin has already been paid for and there's no double jeopardy in God's court!

CONCLUSION:

1. The work of Jesus as ADVOCATE does not in any way lower the standards or judgments of God concerning the Christian, one of God's own family.
2. The Christian is preserved by the CONTINUING value of the blood of Jesus Christ at His death.
3. The cure for the Christian's sin is based upon the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and that the Christian recognize, admit, and confess his/her sins in sincere repentance.
4. There are no human terms that can bring about a cure for a Christian sinning.