

# SAINTS or SINNERS?

# Am I a Sinner?

Once someone asked Sir Alexander Fleming, the famous discoverer of Penicillin, about the greatest discovery of his life, he humbly answered: *"I discovered am I a sinner"*.

What a powerful and moving statement voiced by a genius. It is only a corroboration that no matter how great, famous or prominent you are in the worldly matters, and no matter if one was born with a silver spoon or a handful of dirt in his mouth, the fact remains that he is a sinner and since sinners can not save themselves, they are in urgent need for a savior.

This is a faithful saying worthy of acceptance and strife, and totally corresponds with what the Apostle Paul declared that: *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief"* (1Tim 1:15).

Christ' statement: *"No one is good but God"* (Mark 10:18) makes no exception including Jesus, and confirms that no good in any of us, except by the Grace of God and through the stripes of Jesus. We are called to *"good works"*, not that good works in themselves will save us, as only Jesus can save by His shed Blood and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit. *"Many are called but few are chosen"* (Matt 22:14), those chosen ones who love the Lord with all their heart, mind, body and soul.

Sin came into our world with the fall of Adam, our earthly father, and consequently he suffered with Eve two *"Deaths"*: the first an immediate spiritual one, the second was a physical one multitude of years later. Hence, we are spiritually dead at the moment of our physical birth, and become born again through baptism and the confession of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The curse shall remain until the last person perishes or the Second Coming of Christ.

Sin in itself is a violation and transgression primarily against the Love of God and mainly against the Divine commandments, decrees, laws and ordinances of the Almighty God, the Creator, who planted them in each creature's inner soul, by which we consciously know and can distinguish between right and wrong, even if nobody teaches us. ... *"I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them"* (Heb 10:16)...

First and foremost, sin is *"The Secrets of Men"* (Rom. 2:16) related to *"Unbelief"* and *"Disbelief"* in the existence of God, His Word, His Commandments, His Doctrines, His Power, His Sovereignty, His Rewards, His Punishments, His Love and His Peace, His Creation and His Providence, Heaven and Hell. St. Paul admonishes us in his Epistle to the Hebrews: *"Lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin ... Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the Living God"* (3:13&12); as well as: *"In whom the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the Light of the Glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"* (2Cor 4:4).

Mankind like their father Adam opted to believe in and follow the Devil. They like to blame their sins and misfortunes on him. The difference between mankind and the devil, the later believes in the existence and sovereignty of God and tremble, (Jam. 2:19) whereas the first lukewarmly wavers between belief and unbelief.

*"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh CANNOT please God"* (Rom 8:7-8).

Pride is at the origin of sin, presumptuousness and ignorance are its spearhead, lures and illusions are its shield, insolence and wickedness are its forces, achievements and accomplishments are its canons, temptations and seducements are its slippery set ups.

The saying: *"Every forbidden is desirable"* fits the description of sin. Nevertheless, not every desirable is a sin, but some may fall into the category of: *is it profitable?* Such as a little wine make the heart rejoice but too much even if we do not get drunk is a sin.

From over 613 commandments, laws and ordinances of the Almighty, Jesus Christ has summed them up into only two commandments and linked both of them with love (Charity). Let see what the Bible say about sin and transgression:

- ↪ Sin takes root in *“the fulfillment of the lusts of the flesh, for the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit lusts against the flesh”* (Gal. 5:16-17).
- ↪ Sin manifests in breaking one or multiple of God’s commandments and their by-products: *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all...Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law”* (Jam 2:10; 1John 3:4).
- ↪ Sin’s major culprits are: *“Adultery, Fornication, Uncleaness, Lasciviousness, Idolatry, Witchcraft, Hatred, Emulations, Wrath, Strife, Seditions, Heresies, Envy, Murders, Drunkenness, Reveling, Wickedness, Covetousness, Maliciousness, Murder, Debate, Deceit, and Malignity”* (Gal. 5:19-21 & Rom 1:29).
- ↪ Sin’s major characteristics are: *“Whisperers, Backbiters, Haters of God, Despiteful, Proud, Boasters, Inventors of evil things, Disobedient to parents, without Understanding, Covenant Breakers, without Natural Affection, Implacable, and Unmerciful; (Rom 1:29-31) and much more in (1Cor 6:9-10).*
- ↪ Sin’s transgressors are: *“...the law is not made for a righteous man, but the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayer, for whoremonger, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for men-stealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine”* (1Tm.1:9-10).
- ↪ Sin is a sin, regardless of which commandment a person violates and breaks, and *“the wages of sin are death; but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom 6:23).
- ↪ Every sin is committed *“without the body except for fornication where one sins against his own body”* (1Cor 6:18).
- ↪ *“The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law”* (1Cor 15:56).

Armed with our chimera fancies of a Godless universe coupled with the theories of evolution, which claim no existence of God, we fancy ourselves of such news that allows us to glorify sin as a natural pursuit of personal happiness.

We tend to overlook our limited and myopic vision, the maximum stretch of which is the tip of our noses, we self-convincingly reason that if we can sin, and surely we did and will, against the Creator and alter God’s commandments to serve our selfish purposes without suffering immediate repercussions, punishment or wrath; therefore, it is of no consequence if we break civil and moral laws that rule the lands, which were, by the way, inspired and fashioned after the word of God.

We can learn from our Lord who admonished us to heed Sodom and Gomorrah’s fates: *“They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all”* (Luk 17:27-29).

It is so easy to dismiss God from our life and to alienate oneself by repeatedly sinning. We hide behind Lifestyles, Genes, Fashions, Times, Progress, etc... and we embrace the philosophy and the attitude that nobody is *“holier than yours truly”* and nothing is sacred anymore. The progress of human accomplishments in all fields infused a dimensional mutiny in their hearts and led to believe that if they can do what God did, then no need for God. It is a cycle that Adam first fell in and like father like son we follow as dull-witted sheep.

From the beginning, and through the pages of the Bible, you see the fierceness of God’s wrath, God’s anger and God’s indignation with regard to *“sin”*, but God being full of love

and compassion, forgave whoever repented and those who will repent their sins and iniquities.

Sin definitely brings sooner or later degrees of punishments, such as immediate physical and spiritual death, sanctions and sicknesses, wars, famines, calamities, “Acts of God” occurrences, national and international tragedies, gamut of bad “luck” encounters, be it temporary or permanent. Because of God’s promise of the coming of the Messiah and His promise to Noah, we ought to remember that David in his Psalm assured us that: *“Many a time, (God) turned His anger away, and did not stir up All His wrath”* (78:38).

The same Psalm sums up the wrath of God with regard to Israel continued sinning: *“Therefore, their days did He consume in vanity, and their years in trouble”. And according to the Word of God, may transcend from generation to generation”* (78:33).

The **pre-Christ** and **Post-Christ** eras carried two different illustrations of atonement, absolution and forgiveness:

⌘ Before the coming of Christ, God remembers His creation that: *“they were but Flesh and Wind that pass away and do not come again”* (Psa 78:39), and they have to atone for their sins through burnt offerings, and after death, the righteous enjoyed Abraham’s temporary bosom until Christ’s Glorious Resurrection.  
(Negation of re-incarnation theory)

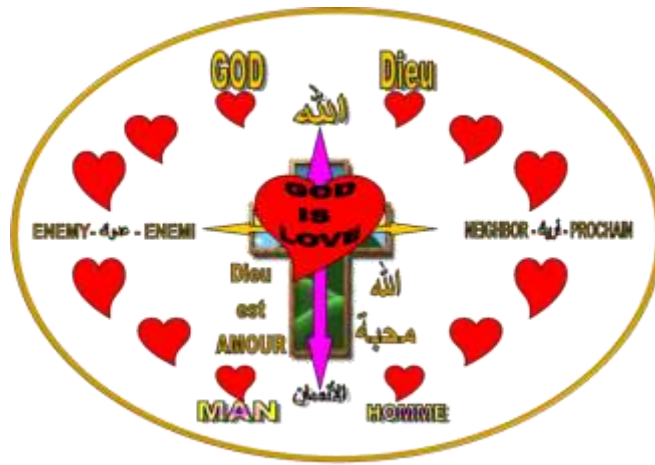
⌘ After the coming of Christ, He purchased us, **past**, **present** and **future** generations **once and for all**, with His Precious Blood on the Cross, and took **God’s full wrath** on His shoulders (Isaiah)... *But God commends His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only (so), but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. 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”* (Rom. 5:8-12).

⌘ As the only Slaughtered Lamb and Burnt Offering acceptable to the Father, God the Father promised to place our sins behind His Back, never to see them again: *“... their sins and iniquities will I remember no more, now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin”* (Heb 10:17-18).

From the above exposé, we conclude that two elements and states of being are opposite to each other: Flesh and Spirit, in that we can **FREELY** choose to curtail one on the expenses of the other.

In the flesh, we sin, but in the Spirit, we worship righteously the Living Lord. In the Spirit *“...sin shall have no dominion over you; for you are not under the **LAW**, but under **GRACE**. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **GOD FORBIDS**. Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto **DEATH**, or of obedience unto **RIGHTEOUSNESS**? Being then made **FREE** from sin, you became the servants of righteousness”*. (Rom. 6:14-18) Because: *“Who His own self bare our sins in His own Body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed”* (1Pet. 2:24). Thus we can joyfully shout with the Apostle Paul: *“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord: So then with the mind (Spirit) I myself serve the law of God; but with flesh the law of sin”* (Rom.7:25).

*“God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (John 3.16), and *“God made the Lord Jesus Christ to be sin, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”* (2Cor 5:21) so he took away our sin once and for all.



*“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”*. (John. 1:17) and *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24) *“For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”* (Ga. 6:8).

The Bible assures us that we are: *“The temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you”* (1Cor 3:16-17), and by *“continuing sinning”* we defile the temple of God and God shall destroy us by throwing us in the lake of fire for eternity.

A follower of Jesus Christ boasts of being, *“Crucified with Christ: nevertheless he lives, yet not him, but Christ lives in him and the life he lives in the flesh, he lives by the faith of the Son of God, who loved him and gave himself for him”* (Gal 2:20).

As followers of Christ we should *“Put on the whole armor of God* (His Power, His Sovereignty, His Blood, His Cross, His Matchless Name and His Death and Resurrection), *that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”* (Eph. 6:11) coupled with His Promises to never leave us or forsake us, and to accomplish this task, *“He must increase and we must decrease”* (John. 3:30), so our weakness can be replaced by His Strength and our sinfulness by His Righteousness, lest we forget that our Lord has overcome the Devil.

We ought to remember that God is no longer looking for burnt offerings, He got the One and Only acceptable propitiation through faith in His Blood: Jesus Christ, and *“Him crucified”, by Whom the whole world has already been saved, to declare His Righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God”* (Rom. 3:25) *but that world have to humble themselves, to sincerely ask for forgiveness and to genuinely repent.*

Repent is a dreadful word for many people, because it requires changes in the lifestyle, the attitudes, the intentions, the commitment; but, love conquers all and with love, the impossible is possible. Love started with God Himself: He gave His Only Son. Jesus Christ loved us so much: He laid His Life for our original sin as well as our individual sins and took God’s wrath. The Holy Spirit loves us, draws us to Jesus, comforts us and guides us. With such love, aren’t you tempted to love back?

We can learn from the Cross the fellowship mechanism, in so that **Vertically** we can love, serve and glorify God, and **Horizontally** reflects that love and devotion to have a Christlike loving fellowship one with another.

The Creator talks to the Creature, his handy-make,  
The Creature in obedience glorifies the Creator and chats with Him,  
Through their love and chats  
They open their arms wide to embrace  
Through God’s love, patience and meekness  
Their Fellowman & Woman.

God longs for a contrite heart, which first seeks the Kingdom of God in humble obedience, in complete surrender, in sincere gratitude and in unconditional reciprocated love, for our *“Sabbath rest”* and *“Sufficiency”* has been already accorded to us according to the richness of God in Jesus Christ.

In conclusion: *“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not know the truth; but if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us of all sin, **IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES, and the truth is not in us, but IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE us our sins, and to cleanses us from ALL unrighteousness; if we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us”** (1John 1:6-10)*

*“...Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord and the Lord for the body... **Know you not that your bodies are the members of Christ?**” (1Cor 6:13, 15)*

If you are sincere in your love for the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Confess your sins, Repent,  
Love your fellowman and your enemy  
Pray without ceasing.

**Dear Heavenly Father,**

**I kneel on my face before you, Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner, I know I have frustrated Your Grace, and made my Savior’s death look in vain:**

**I am sincerely sorry for offending you, and  
For breaking your commandments and laws,  
For sinning against my body, the Temple of Your Holy Ghost,  
For trespassing against my brothers and sisters,**

**But now I come to Your Throne of Mercy to rejoice in You, shielded by the Blood of Your Precious Son Jesus Christ, shed for me on Calvary, and who is seated at Your Right Hand, and who is continually interceding for me, to accept my prayer and repentance in His Matchless Name and His Precious Blood and Love.**

**I confess with my mouth that the Lordship of Jesus Christ as my one and only Lord, and in my heart I believe that You have raised Him from the dead, I proclaim Him my only Savior. I promise you, Dear Heavenly Father, with Your Grace to sin no more. I commit myself to You today to love you back as You loved me, and to strife to do Your Will and to sincerely serve You in glory to Your Holy Name.**

**You have promised in Your Word that Your Grace is sufficient and I stand on Your Word and I believe in Your Faithfulness and Your Promises.**

**Thank you, Dear Heavenly Father, for convicting me by Your Holy Spirit and opening my eyes to Your Truth and for hearing my prayer and supplication, in Jesus Mighty Name, I pray. Amen**

**Remember : Your Tomorrow starts Today**

**The Temple of God is Holy!**

(1Cor.3:17)

**WHICH TEMPLE ARE YOU...?**