

Dear Friend,

At the conclusion of the Lord's encounter with the woman caught in the act of adultery, Jesus told her to "Go and sin no more."

John 8:10-11 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? [11] She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

What else can a holy God say? That is what God has always said, even to the first people in the garden of Eden. Sin was never part of God's plan for man. Man was made in God's image and God is HOLY!

1 Peter 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; [16] Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

He created man with a righteous nature who had free will so he could choose to live holy. By living holy he could live in full fellowship with His Father God. Remember, Adam was not just a creation of God. Adam was God's son on earth. Adam was not deity, but Adam was a man born of God in his spirit. The Bible calls Adam the son of God.

Luke 3:38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.

At heart, God is a Father and He wants children, not slaves. He could have created a billion more angels if He simply wanted more servants. He wanted children with whom He could fellowship. He wanted the joy of loving, and being loved by, His children born of His own Spirit.

Only God defines what sin is. Without choice, why give free will? Without choice, there is no expression of love, of loyalty, and trust. God defined what sin was for Adam. God gave Adam His own nature by grace so Adam would have the power to choose righteousness instead of sin. Adam was not wearing fallen flesh then like we do now after the fall. There were no "motions of sin" in his flesh, as described in Romans chapter seven. What was God's will? GO AND SIN NOT, MY SON!

Eve was deceived by the serpent. Adam was not deceived. Adam made a conscious choice who to believe. Who would Adam believe? God or the serpent? God had said he would die if he ate

the forbidden fruit. Satan had said he would not die if he ate. Adam watched Eve eat the forbidden fruit first. By all the evidence of his five physical senses, she did not appear to die.

Adam had a choice to make because somebody was lying. Either God was lying or the devil was lying. Adam knew what God had said. But Adam's five physical senses told him that what Satan had said was true. It did not "appear" that Eve died when she disobeyed the word of God. Adam made the conscious choice to believe that Satan was telling the truth and that God had lied. Adam chose to believe the evidence of his five physical senses over the word of God.

God had told Adam the truth. Adam did not believe God. Now that unbelieving nature has been passed down to all the generations spawned by Adam. Unregenerate man is not of God ... not born of God ... not born of God's Spirit.

John 8:43-47 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. [44] Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. [45] And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. [46] Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? [47] He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

It was rare indeed to find people down through the centuries who would actually believe what God has said. Those are the heroes of the Hall of Faith in Hebrews chapter 11. How outstanding that these descendants of Adam would believe what God said.

God came up with a new plan in order for man to be able to hear and believe God's Word. God devised a way for us to experience a new Genesis. It is a new way for man to be born again. It is a way for man to be born of God's own Spirit once more, to be recreated in the image of God spiritually. To be once more born "of God" so we can hear and believe God's Word.

By God's grace, He has reborn us in His own image. We are able to hear and believe God's Word because we are now "of God" again. Just like with the first Adam before the fall, we have been given by grace God's own nature. We once more have the ability to say no to sin.

Unlike the first Adam, we are wearing flesh that has the "motions of sin" within it. Unlike the first Adam, we live in a fallen world where there is sin and temptation on every side. Even with those disadvantages, however, we have been given the strength of Christ Himself in order to say no to sin. That is the true grace of God:

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, [12] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Christ is the firstborn from the dead. He is the beginning of a whole new species. He is not generating new spirits the same way Adam and Eve did. He is creating this new species by quickening the dead spirits of the children of Adam from death to life. Christ is the firstborn of many brethren.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

I'm not a big advocate of the Message Bible, but they did a really good job translating that verse.

Rom 8:29 God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. MESSAGE BIBLE

We truly are being conformed to the image of Christ. The work is done instantly in our spirit by grace alone the moment we put our faith in Jesus Christ to save us. But the transformation, the metamorphosis, the outward change in our daily walk only occurs as our mind is renewed to the truth of what God has done for us and in us.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Let us continue always giving the Holy Spirit free access to us in spirit, soul, and body. Let us continue to stand fast in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and deny every form of ungodliness. Let us go and sin no more.

Your friend and co-laborer,

Gary