

Go, And Sin No More

Jesus told the woman caught in adultery in John 8:11 “[go, and sin no more.](#)”

Jesus told the lame man he healed in John 5:14 “[sin no more.](#)”

Almost all denominational people and even some Christians would be incredulous at the thought. To them it is impossible to live above sin, but that is exactly what Jesus is asking us to do. So it must be possible! Now notice, I did not say we do live above sin; I just said it is possible. And there is a big difference. If we have the view it is impossible to keep from sinning, then we won't feel responsible for our sins; instead we are in effect blaming our sins on God himself for creating us the way we are. If our goal is to only do 5 out of every 10 things right in the Bible (because 10 out of 10 is unreachable), then when we do 5 out of 10, when we fail 5 out of 10 times, when we sin pretty much constantly, we won't be disappointed in ourselves, and we won't repent. But if we understand the truth that God commands us to “[Be ye therefore perfect](#)” (Matt 5:48), then whenever we fail to reach perfection because of sin, we will be disappointed in our actions and repent. And repentance is the only way to gain forgiveness from God: Jesus said in Luke 13:3 [I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.](#)

But I don't think most believers really think repentance is necessary to be forgiven ...

One of my relatives once said “[I asked God to forgive me before I did such and such.](#)” She obviously thought she could be forgiven without repentance. To the contrary:

- Acts 2:38 [Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.](#)
- Acts 3:19 [Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.](#)
- Acts 8:22 [Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.](#)
- II Pet 3:9 [The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.](#)

And many of those who do understand repentance is required don't seem to really understand what repentance means ...

In one of my Bible studies recently, my student was talking about how his wife wasn't treating him right and how he was thinking of divorcing her (not for fornication). When I explained to him how that would be a sin (Matt 5:32 “[... whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery](#)”), he said yes, but “I can repent later; we are under grace.”

I'm sure a lot of believers think like this, because they don't understand the nature of repentance. Repentance is a “change of mind leading to a change in action” (Matt 21:29). It's not something one can do before he sins, because if he truly "repents" before hand, then he won't commit the sin to start with. And my student here didn't want to understand that repenting of divorcing your wife demands reconciliation if she will take you back (I Cor 7:10-11). Yes, my friend doesn't understand the nature of repentance, and true repentance is always necessary to forgiveness:

Prov 28:13 – “[He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.](#)”

I am sure if Jesus had a conversation with us today like he did the lame man and the woman caught in adultery, he would tell us the same thing he told them – “sin no more.” So let’s look at a list of sins in I Cor 6:9-10 and talk about what “go, and sin no more” would look like – “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” (NKJV):

- fornicators – I study with people who are living together and they are considered faithful members of the congregation where they attend
- idolaters – I don’t know anybody who actually literally worships a statue, but I know plenty of so called believers who appear to be worshipping money and what money can buy. And Col 3:5 says “covetousness ... is idolatry”
- adulterers – I know of many believers who are in second or third marriages that violate Matt 19:9 (“...Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”) and they are considered faithful members of the congregation where they attend
- homosexuals – we even have gay churches and other churches that fully condone homosexuals – Rom 1:26-27 “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”

Jesus said “go, and sin no more.” And that is what we should say, do, teach, practice, etc.