



Walking in Sonship

You first have to have sonship before you can have fellowship. You receive sonship the moment you become born again. Fellowship is what you build from His Word so that you can know Him and share Him with others.

(1 John 5:18 KJV) We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

Perhaps one of the greatest messages of deliverance—that wicked one toucheth him not. So often, men and women are troubled by sin, by constant reminders of past sins. The message of forgiveness is clear: once you are born again, that wicked one cannot touch you. Literally, forgiveness keeps you protected from the father of sin. That's what "cannot sin because he is born of God" refers to. The "born of God" entity cannot



be touched by our mortal enemy, satan, hence, cannot sin. There's more to it than that, though.

What is sin?

This discussion begs the question, "What is sin?" The simplest answer I can provide is, "Breaking God's Word."

With my free will and my own thoughts, I can choose to sin. Simply put, I can choose to not walk according to God's Word. I could lie, steal, cheat, fornicate, be wrathful, and so on. Sin is unrighteousness and God wants us to walk righteously, according to His Word.

What I do in my walk determines whether I have fellowship with God's Word, but it does not alter my sonship with God. There's nothing I could ever do to change this sonship. It is up to me to control the carnal category of my life. The carnal side of man, and the spiritual side of man are always at odds.

(Rom 8:7-9 KJV) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. {8} So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. {9} But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

It would be there that I walk away from God's Word. If I never walk according to the Word, but am born again, I am still a son. How simple this now becomes.

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The gifts of God are not carnal.

(2 Cor 10:4 KJV) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

We must learn to gaze through the spiritual side of life. God is not carnal.

Backsliding

Have you ever heard of the term "backsliding?" To say it is a mis-used term used by bible skeptics is an understatement. Once you know the truth of sonship, you should never be skeptic again. As for people who run after Christians, telling them how bad they are, they need to absorb the truth of justification.

(Rom 8:33 KJV) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

A child of God, a Christian, cannot backslide. The word "backsliding" is never used in the New Testament, but it is often used by uninstructed preachers and teachers. Consider the earthly family. A

son cannot backslide so far that he is not his father's son. Likewise, a son of God cannot backslide so far that he is not God's son. Seed cannot be removed. Think about it. If many sins could remove the gift from on high, holy spirit, then one sin would surely do the same, for sin is sin.

If you'd like to take a more pragmatic approach to this tender subject, find a single New Testament verse that supports God's alienation of you because of your sins. Begin with the book of Acts, and crawl all the way through 2 Thessalonians. There isn't one.

Servant versus son

In the Old Testament, God's people are called servants. Seed was not available, so they couldn't have sonship and that is precisely why they could backslide. Sonship came with the Day of Pentecost. A servant could slide back so far that his services could be terminated. When Israel is referred to as sons, it is because they were adopted, not born again. When you are born again, you become God's son. No

adoption there! You will always be God's son by birth!

(Rom 11:29 KJV) For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Once God gives a gift, He cannot take it back. You will always be His son.

The past is dead

Once you are born again, God removes your sins forever. If someone says they know all about your past, bringing it to memory after you have been forgiven is from the devil. In the Old Testament, the people had to offer sacrifices in order to be forgiven. For us, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice. Our forgiveness came from that sacrifice, and will never come from yours. In terms of becoming a son of God, additional sacrifices for past or future sins aren't necessary!

Repentance

Repentance is for the unsaved sinner, not for born again believers. We covered this in detail in a previous Artios.

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(Acts 11:17-18 KJV) Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? {18} When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

At this time, the new birth was made available to non-Jews. Repentance is for the unsaved sinner. The Gentiles, of which we were a part, were allowed to repent. Repentance was only available to the Jews prior to this. Once you repent, you are saved. Even though many churches teach that you need to, you never need to repent again. There is no such thing as repentance renewal. Once you are born again, it can't be undone. Remember the Nicodemus account? Jesus told him that he couldn't enter again into his mother's womb. Likewise, you can't be re-reborn.

(2 Cor 7:10 KJV) For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation

not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Godly sorrow has an end result: a genuine change of heart! How tremendous. Once you have repented to salvation, you never do it again. People teach that if you sin, then you lose your spirit, just like a button on a string in a glass of water—up and down. This is absolutely untrue.

Walk in fellowship?

Now, our fellowship is with God and His Son Jesus Christ.

(1 John 1:3-8 KJV) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. {4} And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. {5} This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. {6} If we say that we have fellowship

with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: {7} 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 cleanseth us from all sin. {8} If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

The bible declares that our joy should be full. Well, how many people do you know with full joy? There is no darkness in God. If God went around making people sick, there would be darkness in God. The devil rules this world's darkness. The devil kills. The devil makes people sick. Blame him, not God.

Confession of sins

(1 John 1:9 KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This is the only verse in the New Testament that talks of confessing your sins. Foremost, understand confession

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of sins in light of people who are about to become Christians.

(Rom 10:9 KJV) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Secondly, understand confession of sins in terms of your Christian walk. God will always forgive us no matter the sin. This isn't a license to sin. Take Romans to heart.

You confess the savior from sin to become born again. After that, you confess your sins to God. He wants you to tell Him, not to punish, but to help you in your walk. Notice that confession of sins is conditional. The word "if" tells us that. There is no requirement given whereby man MUST become born again or whereby man must confess his sins. But this we know: if we become born again, we will be forgiven.

Confession of sins isn't mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament. Did you know that? In the entire book of Acts, not one time is any-

thing mentioned about confessing sins. Peter mentioned repentance though.

(Acts 3:19 KJV) 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 is the transition between Law and Grace. You would think that God would have instructed the Church here if He wanted people to confess their sins. Well, He didn't. In fact, He didn't instruct the Church to confess sins at any place. Why? Because He does not want us going around trying to remember all of them. Jesus Christ took care of our sin problem once and for all. It's now up to us to accept this.

(1 John 1:10 KJV) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Man can say that he has fellowship with God's Word, but he could be lying. Spiritual fellowship with God is established with the new birth. We are then to walk in the light of God's Word.

(1 John 1:7 KJV) 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 cleanseth us from all sin.

As we walk in light, we have fellowship one with another. True fellowship only takes place under the light of Jesus Christ. When we were born again, we were cleansed from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 3:9 KJV) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Notice the context. He cannot sin IN HIS SEED. This means that the created seed of God in Christ in You cannot be contaminated in any way by any known power. All the more reason to walk in newness of life!

Newness of life

We are born again and our sonship affords us perfect fellowship with God forever!

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(Rom 6:1-5 KJV) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? {2} God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? {3} Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? {4} Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound or shall we walk in newness of life? You certainly have the choice. It would be so easy to continue the carnal lifestyle, but God asks us to start living the Word's Way.

If you stray ...

To make things right, come back to God's Word!

(1 John 2:1-5 KJV) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: {2} And he is the propitiation [payment] for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world. {3} And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. {4} He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. {5} But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God [the agape act of salvation] perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father. Jesus Christ is the advocate. Bless God, that's wonderful. We've already been forgiven. Now we are to walk out from under satan's darkness and into the light of God's Word. By walking according to God's Word, we perfect the act of salvation. This is how we become "in Him." Our newness of

life comes from walking as sons of God. We are to keep His commandments which means, live according to the Word! Walking the Word is in the category of the renewed mind. Our sonship is a gift of God.

Much love in Christ.

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