

Standard Gospel Questions

Lesson 10

.....

Once people understand that their performance—either good or bad—doesn't affect their born-again spirits or their relationship with God, serious questions usually arise. "What are you saying? God will love me, and I won't lose my right standing with Him no matter what? Do you mean I can just go live in sin?" Paul dealt with this same thing!

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?"

(Rom. 6:1).

The answer, of course, is:

"God forbid" (Rom. 6:2).

Unless this question comes up, you aren't preaching the same Gospel as the Apostle Paul. He dealt with it four different times (Rom. 3:8, 6:1-2, 6:15; and Gal. 2:17)! "What am I saying? Do we continue in sin? God forbid!" Even though you have to explain what you mean, it should be a logical question.

Nobody interprets most churches today as saying "You can just go live in sin," because they're busy preaching so hard against it. This question never even comes up! Typical teaching today ties God's love and acceptance to your performance. Therefore, these messages given "in the name of the Lord" produce a works-righteousness (self-righteousness based on your actions) in most believers. The Bible doesn't teach that God accepts or rejects you because of your actions; it teaches that your actions can never be good enough!

God's Word says He accepts you based on whether your spirit is righteous or not. That spirit doesn't become righteous through your good actions and attitudes. Righteousness comes through confessing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. As you are born again, God gives you this brand-new spirit. Righteousness is **NOT** based on your actions!

The next question people ask is, "Are you saying it doesn't matter how I live?" No, that's not what I'm saying. Paul continued in Romans 6 giving two reasons why a Christian should live holy:

1. Your new nature desires it, and...
2. You don't want to give the devil access to your body and soul through sin.

How you live doesn't affect your spirit's righteousness, but it greatly affects your life!

Sin's Strength

If you are truly born again, God has changed your nature.

“How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:2-3).

You are no longer a child of the devil who loves to sin. You do still sin, but it's not your nature anymore. Your spirit has been changed, and you no longer enjoy it. Every born-again believer has a built-in desire to live holy (1 John 3:3). You might not be fulfilling it, but it's there!

Preaching the Law—legalism and religious works—actually strengthens sin (1 Cor. 15:56). The Law makes you sin more by causing you to lust for the very thing that's forbidden. That's why God gave it! Mankind was being destroyed by sin, but we deceived ourselves into thinking, *I'm pretty good!* God answered, saying, “Oh, you think you're okay? Let Me show you what the real standard is.” The Law made sin come alive so you'd recognize your need for a Savior (Rom. 7:9 and Gal. 3:24).

The Lord's purpose in sending the Law was to make you bow your knee and confess, “God have mercy on me! I can't do it. I can't break this sin!” The Law wasn't given to help you overcome sin; it was to show you that sin had already overcome you! The Law actually strengthened sin and gave it so much power that it would effectively remove the deception that you could ever get rid of sin on your own. Religion, however, turns it around and says, “The Law was given to help you overcome sin.” That's just not true.

If you're truly born again, you have a desire to live for God.

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 3:3).

There will be varying degrees of this purity manifest in your actions and thoughts, but every born-again person seeks to purify themselves.

Sin gives Satan access to your body and soul.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16).

Satan wants to bring death into your life any way he can—sickness, disease, poverty, shame, depression, discouragement, and all sorts of other nasty things. Why give your enemy an opportunity to come against you?

As a Christian, you don't have to live holy in order for God to accept and be pleased with you. However, your actions and attitudes do determine how you get along with other people. That's why it's still to your advantage to live a holy life!

Accidental Holiness

Knowing that I can relate to God based on the perfection, holiness, and righteousness in my spirit has set me free *from* sin—not *to* sin. In my flesh, I won't be completely perfect until I receive my glorified body. Yet, in the meantime, I can go ahead and relate to God based on who I am in my spirit. This makes my relationship with Him stable and secure.

I've lived a holier life accidentally than most people have on purpose! Whenever these truths are taught, people criticize, saying, "You're just preaching this so you can live in sin!" You can't accuse me of that, because I've never spoken a word of profanity, drank liquor of any kind, smoked a cigarette, or even tasted coffee in all of my life! I'm not saying that coffee and booze are the same thing. There's scripture for drinking coffee.

Mark 16:18 promises:

"If they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them."

I'm just telling you that people can't look at me and say the reason I preach this is because it allows me to live in sin. No, I live a very holy life.

I don't live holy because I have to but because I want to. I don't do it in order to obtain God's blessing; I do it because He's revealed this truth to me and changed my heart. I desire to live holy because it's good for me. It helps me minister to others better, and it's happier to live holy than unholy!

God would still love me if I lived in sin (because my spirit is changed), but I wouldn't love me and other people wouldn't either. Sin offends God, but it also offends people. If you're truly born again, He'll deal with you as His child, based on your born-again spirit. But people won't love you if you steal from them. If they catch you, they'll throw you in jail where you'll suffer, be confined, and hurt. You won't have as nice of a life, but God will still love you. You'll still be righteous, but you'll also be stupid! (I'm not trying to be harsh; I'm only being blunt.)

Living holy doesn't make God love you more, but it does increase your love for Him. Likewise, a lack of holiness won't cause God to love you less, but it will definitely decrease your love for Him. Although God's love for you doesn't change, your performance directly affects your love for Him. Can you see now God's purpose for holiness?

Come Boldly!

Sin is never a wise choice, but it's also never an issue between you and God. He dealt with your sin—past, present, and future—when you were born again. You can come boldly before the Lord at any time—even when you've fallen short, even when you're displeased with yourself, even when you've given Satan an inroad into your life. You can still come boldly into the very presence of God your Father and receive from Him because your spirit didn't lose any of its right standing with Him!

The Word encourages you to come before the Lord when you need mercy and help!

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16).

Don't just wait to come before Him until you've done everything "right." You can boldly approach the Lord and receive grace to help when you've totally messed things up. Your heavenly Father has invited you to draw near to His throne at any time by faith in His Son and who you are in Him. It's your birthright as a child of the King!

Standard Gospel Questions

Lesson 10 – Teacher's Guide

1. Once people understand that their performance—either good or bad—doesn't affect their born-again spirits or their relationship with God, serious questions usually arise.

“Since God will love me and I won't lose my right standing with Him no matter what, can I just go live in sin?” (Rom. 6:1-2). Unless this question comes up, we aren't preaching the same Gospel as the Apostle Paul. Typical preaching today produces a works-righteousness (self-righteousness based on our actions) in most believers because it ties God's love and acceptance to our performance. Righteousness is not based on our actions.

2. “Are you saying it doesn't matter how I live?” If we're truly born again, God has changed our nature and we desire to live for Him (Rom. 6:2-3 and 1 John 3:3). Sin gives Satan access to our bodies and souls (Rom. 6:16). Therefore, it's to our advantage to live holy, because our actions and attitudes determine how we get along with other people.

3. Knowing that we can relate to God based on the perfection, holiness, and righteousness in our spirits will set us free *from* sin—not *to* sin. This makes our relationship with Him stable and secure. We'll live a holier life accidentally than we ever have on purpose. We'll live holy because we want to, not because we have to.

1. A. According to Romans 6:1, what serious question will normally arise once people understand that their performance doesn't affect their born-again spirits? (Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?)
B. How does Paul respond to this question in Romans 6:2? (God forbid! How can we—whose nature has changed from sinful to righteous—live any longer therein?)
C. If we never encounter this question, are we truly preaching the same Gospel as the Apostle Paul? (No)
2. A. Read Romans 6:2-3 and 1 John 3:3. What happens when we're truly born again?
(God changes our nature and we desire to live for Him)
B. According to Romans 6:16, what happens when we sin? (We yield ourselves to Satan, giving him access to bring death into our souls and bodies)
3. A. Understanding that we can relate to God based on the perfection, holiness, and righteousness in our spirits makes our relationship with Him _____. (Stable and secure)
B. Will we live holy because we have to or want to? (Want to)

4. God would still love us if we lived in sin (because our spirits have changed), but we wouldn't love ourselves and other people wouldn't either. Living holy doesn't make God love us more, but it does increase our love for Him. A lack of holiness won't cause God to love us less, but it will definitely decrease our love for Him. Although God's love for us doesn't change, our performance directly affects our love for Him.

5. Sin is never a wise choice, but it's also never an issue between God and us. He dealt with our sin—past, present, and future—when we were born again. Even when we fail, we can still come boldly into the very presence of our Father and receive from Him because our spirits don't lose any of their right standing with Him (Heb. 4:16). Our heavenly Father has invited us to draw near to His throne at any time by faith in His Son and who we are in Him.

4. A. Does living holy—or not—affect God's love for us? (No)
B. Does living holy—or not—affect our love for God? (Yes)
C. How? (Living holy increases our love for Him, and living in sin decreases our love for Him)
5. A. Which of our sins did Jesus deal with the instant we were born again? (Past, present, and future sins)
B. Read Hebrews 4:16. When we fail, can we still come boldly to the throne of grace and expect to receive from God? (Yes!)
C. As long as we draw near to God by faith in His Son and who we are in Him, when can we approach our heavenly Father? (Anytime!)

Standard Gospel Questions

Lesson 10 – Outline

1. Once people understand that their performance—either good or bad—doesn't affect their born-again spirits or their relationship with God, serious questions usually arise.
2. "Since God will love me and I won't lose my right standing with Him no matter what, can I just go live in sin?"

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid" (Rom. 6:1-2).

- A. Unless this question comes up, you aren't preaching the same Gospel as the Apostle Paul.
 - B. Typical preaching today produces a works-righteousness (self-righteousness based on your actions) in most believers because it ties God's love and acceptance to your performance.
 - C. Righteousness is not based on your actions.
3. "Are you saying it doesn't matter how I live?"

- A. If you are truly born again, God has changed your nature.

"How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" (Rom. 6:2-3).

- B. If you're truly born again, you have a desire to live for God.

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:3).

- C. Sin gives Satan access to your body and soul.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16).

- D. It's to your advantage to live holy, because your actions and attitudes determine how you get along with other people.
4. Knowing that I can relate to God based on the perfection, holiness, and righteousness in my spirit has set me free *from* sin—not *to* sin.
- A. This makes my relationship with Him stable and secure.

- B. I've lived a holier life accidentally than most people ever have on purpose.
 - C. I live holy because I want to, not because I have to.
5. God would still love me if I lived in sin (because my spirit is changed), but I wouldn't love me and other people wouldn't either.
- A. Living holy doesn't make God love you more, but it does increase your love for Him.
 - B. A lack of holiness won't cause God to love you less, but it will definitely decrease your love for Him.
 - C. Although God's love for you doesn't change, your performance directly affects your love for Him.
6. Sin is never a wise choice, but it's also never an issue between you and God.
- A. He dealt with your sin—past, present, and future—when you were born again.
 - B. You can still come boldly into the very presence of your Father and receive from Him because your spirit didn't lose any of its right standing with Him.
- “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16).**
- C. Your heavenly Father has invited you to draw near to His throne at any time by faith in His Son and who you are in Him.

Standard Gospel Questions

Lesson 10 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Romans 6:1, what question did the Apostle Paul normally have to address while preaching the Gospel?
2. How does Romans 6:15 phrase this same question?
3. The answer, of course, is _____.
4. According to Romans 3:8, what did Paul's slanderers report that he said?
5. Read Galatians 2:17. What question is Paul addressing?
6. The answer, of course, is _____.
7. Can you see how both the question in Galatians 2:17 and the slanderous statement in Romans 3:8 are really just different expressions of the same basic questions Paul addressed in Romans 6:1-2 and 6:15?
8. According to Romans 6:2-3, why should a Christian live holy?
 - A. We are dead to sin.
 - B. We were baptized (placed) into Christ.
 - C. We have a new nature.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. None of the above.
9. First John 3:3 says that every believer desires to do what?
10. According to Romans 6:16, why else should a Christian live holy?
 - A. Sin gives Satan access to our bodies and souls.
 - B. Sin negatively affects our relationships with other people.
 - C. Living holy prevents our enemy from having opportunities to come against us.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. None of the above.
11. According to Hebrews 4:16, God has what kind of throne?
12. How, then, should we come before this throne?

13. What can we expect to receive from Him?
14. Take a moment and imagine yourself boldly approaching this throne of grace. Picture God—your heavenly Father—warmly and affectionately receiving you. See yourself receiving His mercy and His grace to help in your time of need. Is this easy or hard for you to see?
15. What does this tell you about how you currently view your relationship with God?

Standard Gospel Questions

Lesson 10 – Answer Key

1. “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?”
2. “What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?”
3. “God forbid!”
4. “Let us do evil, that good may come.”
5. “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin?”
6. “God forbid!”
7. Can you see how both the question in Galatians 2:17 and the slanderous statement in Romans 3:8 are really just different expressions of the same basic questions Paul addressed in Romans 6:1-2 and 6:15?
8.
 - A. We are dead to sin.
 - B. We were baptized (placed) into Christ.
 - C. We have a new nature.
 - D. All of the above.
9. Purify themselves, even as Jesus is pure.
10.
 - A. Sin gives Satan access to our bodies and souls.
 - B. Sin negatively affects our relationships with other people.
 - C. Living holy prevents our enemy from having opportunities to come against us.
 - D. All of the above.
11. A throne of grace.
12. Boldly.
13. Mercy and grace to help in time of need.

14. Take a moment and imagine yourself boldly approaching this throne of grace. Picture God—your heavenly Father—warmly and affectionately receiving you. See yourself receiving His mercy and His grace to help in your time of need. Is this easy or hard for you to see?

15. What does this tell you about how you currently view your relationship with God?

Standard Gospel Questions

Lesson 10 – Scriptures

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:1-3).

“And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just” (Rom. 3:8).

“What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid” (Rom. 6:15).

“But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid” (Gal. 2:17).

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 3:3).

“The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law” (1 Cor. 15:56).

“For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died” (Rom. 7:9).

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Gal. 3:24).

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16).

“They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:18).

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16).