

As we have been working through this journey of Holy Transformation, we have come to realize how abundant and wonderful the grace of God is toward us.

When it comes to transformation into our holiness, there is this little three letter word that gives us problems; SIN. Sin causes all kinds of problems in our lives. That’s why God had to establish laws that would expose sin. As God’s word graciously exposes or uncovers the sin in our lives, we also understand that the grace of God is not a license to continue in the sin that we have been set free from.

*Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*

*Romans 6:15 “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!”*

**Every human being on earth has a sin problem, and every one of us needs a Savior.**

We believe that in doctrine and theory, but we don’t communicate that message with passion.

Why? Because, for many of us, sin doesn’t have that bad of a reputation.

We say the religiously correct things like: “God hates sin.” “Sin is bad for you.” “Sin needs to be confessed.”

Sin is mankind’s problem.

- Sin destroys. Sin hinders. Sin blocks the flow of God’s blessings.
- Sin destroys lives because sin is contrary to God’s plan for our lives.
- Sin is turning away from God’s ways, which we were created for, and choosing our own.

**“Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”**

Our casualness concerning sin and God’s standards encourages sin. Sin leads to tragedy and, ultimately, death of one kind or another.

If the rules don’t matter, we can do whatever we want to do. We can live unrestrained lives, but unrestrained living leads to doom.

### New Testament Sin Lists

*Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the flesh (our sinful nature) are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

*Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*

These lists name observable sinning, but then there are sins that might be called “couch potato” sins: thoughts and heart motivations that displease God, in addition failing to obey when we know there is something that God wants us to do.

**Our sin list would look more like this:**

sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery,  
idolatry and witchcraft,  
drunkenness, orgies,  
adulterers,  
men having sex with men,  
thieves,  
drunkards,  
the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers,  
those who practice magic arts,

**If listed at all...**

hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish  
ambition, envy, dissensions, factions,  
the cowardly,  
slanderers, swindlers,  
greedy,  
liars

These lists make it easy to determine that we are all sinners and far guiltier than we realize or choose to admit. Sin is an enemy that will destroy us. This is all about a spiritual battle.

**NEXT LIFE TRANSFORMATION STEP: I commit to live by grace, according to God’s standards.**

## **Freedom From Sin and Transformation**

Christians are not only saved, but they should also be free from sin and bondage! True freedom comes through Christ.

*John 8:32-36 Then you will know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."...*

*<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin..."*

*<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

*2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NIV)*

NOT PERFECTION, BUT NOT LIVING IN BONDAGE EITHER!

STRIVE FOR PERFECTION. OUR GOAL: WE are FREE from the BONDAGE of SIN

When it comes to sin, we need to decide. **"Should I Stay, or Should I Go"**

Should I stay in sin or go and enjoy my freedom in Christ Jesus?

### **What Is Freedom?**

Is it the ability to do whatever you want to do, whenever you want to do it?

***"Freedom is being able to do what you please without considering anyone except your spouse, your children, your parents, the police, your boss, your life-insurance company, your doctor, federal and state authorities, and your neighbors."***

This freedom is not necessarily "freedom to go wherever one likes, or do whatever one wants to do" but rather it is used as "freedom from restraint and obligation" in general, in this case freedom from the control or bondage of sin.

The bottom line is that, as we saw in week two, you will have to serve somebody.

It may be the devil or the Lord, sin or righteousness.

*Romans 6:20 and 22*

*<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.*

*<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.*

You will serve somebody or something! I choose to serve Master and Teacher, Christ Jesus.

By way of illustration, Leith Anderson tells this story about [Abraham Lincoln](#) in his book "A Church for the 21st Century."

"Abraham Lincoln went to visit a slave auction one day and was appalled at the sights and sounds of buying and selling human beings. His heart was especially drawn to a young woman on the block whose story seemed to be told in her eyes. She looked with hatred and contempt on everyone around her. She had been used and abused all her life, and this time was but one more cruel humiliation.

The bidding began, and Lincoln offered a bid. As other amounts were bid, he countered with larger amounts until he won. When he paid the auctioneer the money and took title to the young woman, she stared at him with vicious contempt. She asked him what he was going to do next with her, and he said,

"I'm going to set you free."

"Free?" she asked. "Free for what?"

"Just free." Lincoln answered. "Completely free."

"Free to do whatever I want to do?"

"Yes," he said. "Free to do whatever you want to do."

"Free to say whatever I want to say?"

"Yes, free to say whatever you want say."

"Free to go wherever I want to go?" she asked with skepticism.

Lincoln answered, "You are free to go anywhere you want to go."

"Then I'm going with you!" she said with a smile.

That's the kind of Master I want to serve. One who sets me free, who loves me, who wants the best for me, and graces me with favor and enabling power! I choose to serve Him!

**NEXT LIFE TRANSFORMATION STEP: I willfully commit to serve my loving Master, Christ Jesus.**

## Freedom With Commitment and Responsibility!

*John 8:11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." (NKJ)*

*1 Peter 2:16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. (NIV)*

### How Do You Maintain Your Freedom?

#### 1. Walk In the Spirit

*Galatians 5:16-17 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*

#### 2. Stay In the Word

*John 8:31 ..."If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. (NKJ)*

#### 3. Remember That the Alternative To Freedom Is Bondage and Spiritual Death

*Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

Choose the Life Cycle rather than the Death Cycle.

**DEATH CYCLE** Free from Sin but no longer living free from sin. You choose the yoke of bondage. The Holy Spirit is grieved and hindered by the presence of unconfessed sin in your life. Where the Spirit is not, there is not liberty.

**LIFE CYCLE** Free from sin and living free from sin. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom! Due to a lack of sin, you experience more of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, hence more freedom!

CHRIST JESUS CAN BREAK THE DEATH CYCLE IF YOU CONFESS YOUR SINS 1 JOHN 1:9

**NEXT LIFE TRANSFORMATION STEP: I will choose to live in the life cycle rather than the death cycle.**

#### 4. Serve One Another In Love

*Galatians 5:13-14 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Think about how that would help us with our New Testament Sin List?

#### Do we appreciate our freedom in Christ Jesus?

- THE COST of FREEDOM is HIGH. Christ Jesus paid the price.
- Or do we not have passion for setting them free from sin because we ourselves tend to love sin.
- We want to see just how close we can get to the sin line without getting burned.

*Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*

Or are you too busy living for yourself; caught up in self-absorption?

Christ will set you free today! With the power of the Holy Spirit, we must stand firm and walk in our freedom. Sin – Love it or Leave it! Don't stay in sin, go to your freedom in Christ Jesus!

### Life App Group and Family Devotional Application

1. If Christ Jesus has set us free from the bondage of sin, why do we sometimes have such a hard time walking in that freedom?
2. Do we tend to rank or rate some sins as being worse than others? Look at God's sin list. What do we tend to leave off that list, and just look the other way?
3. How would you define freedom?
4. What suggestion would you give to others that will help them walk in the Spirit and stay in the Word?
5. Do you tend to live in the "Death Cycle" or the "Life Cycle". Explain each.
6. How would serving one another in love help or make a difference with our sin problem?