



BIBLE TALK

by

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Question: If all are sinners, how can we be a saint? Can we be both at the same time?

Answer: How is "sinner" being used? The scriptures teach that, "*all have sinned*" (Rom. 3:23), and, "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us*" (I Jn. 1:8). We are all sinners, in the sense that we have sinned, but Jesus promised, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mk. 16:16). When one is "*born of the water and the Spirit*" (Jn. 3:5), he is "*called out of darkness and into light*" (I Pet. 2:9). When this process of purification has taken place, it makes one "sanctified" or made a "saint" (Jn. 17:17). This means that one has been "set apart" for God's holy purposes, resulting from obedience to His word, being made a "peculiar people" by this process of removal from darkness to light, and obtaining mercy (I Pet. 2:5-10). This occurs as one continues to "walk in the light" (I Jn. 1:5-7), in fellowship with God as sin is being committed, knowing we fall short of the glory of God (vs. 7-10).

There are two kinds of sinners. Those who come to Christ and are forgiven; those who have not and are still in their sins. Jesus said, "*If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins*" (Jn. 8:24). The question focuses upon the "forgiven sinner," the saint. We are made free from sin by the blood of Christ (I Jn. 1:7), as long as we remain "in the light" or living obedient to God's word, and thus "in fellowship" with God because we are "in Christ" (Rom. 6:3-4; 8:1; Eph. 1:3-7). Our sins are forgiven and not "imputed" to us (Rom. 4:23-25). The key to transitioning from sinner to saint is obedience.

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