

HOLINESS

PODCAST

EPISODE # 6- Grace, Sin and Holiness

SUMMARY:

Many Christians are confused about the role of temptation and sin in their lives. This lesson explores the significant New Testament teaching that our daily, conscious living as followers of Jesus includes both a) resisting sin and b) embracing God's grace. Yes, the guilt of sin is removed when we are saved. However, the power of sin can only be broken as we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us. "For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace."

KEY STATEMENTS:

"If you try to separate **grace** from **sin**, you can't do it! They are bound together by definition and by the reality of life."

"A consciousness of sin is not only necessary to spiritual health, **it is the gateway to holy living**. Satan is thrilled when we are hesitant for cultural or any other reasons to avoid talking about sin. Then we will soon avoid thinking about sin."

"The absence of sin in the working vocabulary of the church comes at a great cost to the gospel and to the kingdom of God."

"**Living grace brings sanctifying power!** It is life in the presence and power of God the Holy Spirit. It brings a consuming awareness of our standing in Christ and our being filled with His Spirit."

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

A) In this lesson **sin** is defined as “whatever breaks man's relationship with God and causes separation between God and mankind.” The Psalmist understood that sin needed to be seen primarily in relation to God, rather than to the law, or morality, or anything else when he said “Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.” (Psalm 51:4)

With that definition in mind, REFLECT upon:

- 1) How you **understand** sin as a threat to your life with God as a Christian
- 2) How you **experience** sin in your life as a Christian

B) DISCUSS the following two statements in light of your own experience:

1) The teacher said that “**sin** is a term not well-received in our pluralistic culture and one that many people would consider outdated if not downright offensive today.”

2) Rev. Stan Key says “few emphasize the ugly, messy reality of what a life in sin is truly like. Our cultural commitment to moral relativism, political correctness and easy beliefs has **softened the church's teaching on sin** to the point where many in the pew have little awareness of what the Bible says about flawed humanity.”

C) **Key Truth: To be holy is to live by God's grace and to resist sin.**

CONSIDER and/or DISCUSS the following questions about the **key truth**:

- 1) The teacher asserted that “To do these two things - **to live by God's grace and to resist sin** - is essentially one act, one choice. It is a single decision which we make over and over again in the daily circumstances of life.....so that it becomes a habit and a way of living. To do one means to do the other!”
- 2) Scriptural examples of this two-pronged reality included Gen. 4:7, Isaiah 1:18-19, Romans 12:2 Eph. 4:22-24 and James 4:7.

Can you identify both the **admonition against sin** and the **call to live in God's grace** in these verses?

II Chronicles 7:14

II Timothy 2:22

D) PRAY that Christians will be aware of the dangers of sin and will seek the discernment of God's Holy Spirit so they can diligently live in grace and power

PRAY that you would hold onto God's Word, claiming and living the promise

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“Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.”
(Psalm 119:11)