

**EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN**  
**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BELIEVER SINS?**  
**PART 1**  
**1 JOHN 1:6–2:2**

**Introduction**

It is a definite and undeniable fact that **ALL Believers do sin!** Thank God that **we have been perfected in Christ** and our **standing before God is that we are justified in Christ Jesus!** (i.e. **DECLARED RIGHTEOUS!**)

However, there is a difference between our **STANDING** before God and the **STATE** we find ourselves in!

**Romans 3:23 is clear that: 1) we all have sinned and 2) we continue to fall short of God's glory—even after we are saved.**

Our text here in *verse 8* is also clear that **if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves!** Also, *verse 10* says that **if we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar!**

So, just exactly **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BELIEVER SINS?**

That's the title of the message! And, as Believers, **WHAT ARE WE TO DO ABOUT IT WHEN WE HAVE SINNED?**

There are many Believers who have become **dominated, discouraged, and defeated by sin in their lives.**

Sometimes they are **so ashamed because of their sin, they no longer profess to be saved** (i.e. **They can't bear being the hypocrites they know they have become!**)

**Some Believers are so confused by the sin in their lives that they no longer even KNOW if they are saved!** **They have lost the ASSURANCE of their salvation!** (*Cf. 2 Peter 1:3-12*)

Tonight, I want us to consider what happens when a Believer sins. I believe it will help us immensely as we learn to battle sin's presence in our lives!

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**I. LET'S SEE AND UNDERSTAND WHAT CANNOT HAPPEN!**

**A. We Can Never Be Disowned By God!**

*John 6:37 – “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

**Oh what a blessed truth this is!**

*2 Timothy 2:13–“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”*

**1. When a person is saved, he or she becomes a child of God by a supernatural Spiritual birth on the inside!** *John 1:12-13 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*1 Peter 1:23–“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*

**2. Just as nothing can change the fact that a child was born into his or her PHYSICAL family, nothing can change the fact that we are God's child if we have been spiritually born again!**  
**(i.e. We can't be unborn!)**

**We have eternal life and we are secured for heaven!**  
**That is settled!**

*Ephesians 2:5-6 – Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

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*Revelation 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”*

According to God’s word He said in *Hebrews 13:5*–“*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*”

*We Can Never Be Disowned By God!*

**B. We Can Never Be Damned By God!**

*John 5:24*–“*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*”

God has written “**PAID IN FULL**” all over every act and thought that a child of God has ever committed, or ever will commit!

Nevertheless, even though 1) our sins have been paid for and 2) we who are Believers will never be disowned or condemned for our sins, we still need to understand that the sins we commit in our daily lives after we are saved DO have consequences!

That is why we need to fear God, and change our attitude towards sin in our lives!

Far too many people take sin in their lives all too lightly!

*What Cannot Happen...We Cannot Be Disowned Or Damned!*

**II. LET’S SEE AND UNDERSTAND WHAT DOES HAPPEN!**

**A. Our Closeness To God Suffers! (1 John 1:6)**

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Oh how we need to learn this as children of God!

- 1. Although our children are still our children, we don't get along very well with them when they have been disobedient or when they have done something to displease us!** The same is true with our fellowship with God! It is hindered when we sin!
- 2. Sweet fellowship can almost become nonexistent, which can make the person feel that he is not even part of God's family!**
- 3. Not only do we feel it, but God is grieved, as well!** *Ephesians 4:30*–“*And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God...*”
- 4. Our closeness to God is connected with how much sin we hold on to!**  
No longer does sin hold on to us! Sin’s power has died! But we can hold on to sin!
- 5. That’s why God’s Word loses its attraction – the small voice can’t be heard from a distance – you have to be close to the heart of God!**

*Our Closeness To God Suffers...*

**B. Our Calmness Of Spirit Suffers!**

*Isaiah 26:3*–“*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*”

*Isaiah 57:21*–“*There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.*”

Restlessness in our souls is often a result of spiritual rebellion.

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A Believer who doesn't live for God will not have the same peace of mind as an obedient Believer!

1. Maybe people don't understand just what a Child of God is! He's a new person! He's different than ever before! (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)
2. A follower of Jesus Christ has a new desire and yearns to be obedient to God's Word!
3. A Child of God loves the calmness of God's presence and grace in his or her life. When we only have anger, and restlessness, that's a pretty good indication that we have sin we haven't dealt with!

*Our Closeness To God Suffers. . . Our Calmness Of Spirit Suffers. . .*

**C. Our Cheerfulness In Jesus Suffers!**

*Psalm 51:12—"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."*

When a Believer sins, he will begin losing the joy of going to Church, Bible reading, witnessing, praying, and other Christian activities.

Some may finally even lose the joy of living. Sad!  
Have you ever heard it said of some Christian:

1. He used to witness!
2. He used to be faithful to all the services!
3. He used to love Church!
4. What changed? The problem is SIN! Sin has crept between that person and God! And it shows on their faces and in their lives when it happens!

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**Conclusion**

That's the cutting off place for tonight. We'll pick back up here Lord willing next week.

Look at your life. Are you keeping short accounts with God? Are you even born again? If not, that's where you need to begin tonight!