



There have been countless volumes of space and dialogue devoted to Jesus' blood contract with us that many suggest freed us from the bondage of original sin. "...and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first born from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood..." Revelation 1:5. My question to you then is how do you master sin? How do you control your sin as opposed to having your sin control you? Is this even possible? Is sin for you not sin for me? Some would have you believe sin is a behavior that politicians and governments laid down as moral laws to keep humanity in check, preserve order and maintain control over the masses. They point to different cultures and customs that are acceptable to one nation and gut wrenchingly wrong to another. My point is there are sins of all kinds and as Christians they take on one of two dimensions, i.e. sins of the flesh and sins of the spirit. But isn't there a universal acceptance of what is moral and what is immoral? But for the Christian, isn't morality a barometer for sin? Aren't there rules about sin that are etched in stone and never change?

It really shouldn't be complicated at all. It seems that living morally, righteously, living in between the lines rather than outside of them, is a struggle matched only by trying to understand the true meaning of life. Now I know this is not easy. But the question is, is it worth it to try and master your sins or, more poignantly, your sinful nature? I don't know about you but trying to live without sin is a recognized and acknowledged impossibility. The beauty here is we know God is a God of another chance. It appears that the key is attitude, yours not God's. That attitude will eventually dictate the outcome. If your attitude is God centered, if it is founded in humility and vulnerability in relation to God, if remorse is real, then mercy will be forthcoming. With the right attitude then, sin can be mastered, if not controlled. Confess. That's right! Confess them to God. You see confession to God is not like any other confession I can think of. That's because you can't lie to God because the truth in this instance can't hide. "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all righteousness." 1 John 1:8-9.

Spiritually Speaking... with James Washington

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If we can really get this, the reward then is eternal life and peace. It requires faith, which requires belief, which requires a daily resolve to choose against sin in favor of the Lord. Now if you believe this life is all there is, then I might understand deliberate sinful pursuits. If you believe in more, then sinful mistakes are just that; mistakes made not ever with God in mind. "But if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the father in our defense-Jesus Christ." 1 John 2:1. Given this fact, it's not so hard to imagine the eternal outcome. Just remember, some rules are indeed etched in stone.

May God bless and keep you forever.