

Dear Friend,

In John chapter eight we read the story of the woman who was caught in the very act of adultery. The religious leaders of the day brought her to Jesus to see if he would condemn her according to the Law of Moses. I notice they did not bring the man even though he was just as guilty as she was. This whole thing was a setup they prearranged, trying to find a way of accusing Jesus of being a heretic.

When Jesus heard their accusation against her, He stooped down and wrote on the ground and said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." The accusers were convicted by their own conscience and one by one they left the room until they were all gone.

John 8:10-11 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? (11) She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

"Go and sin no more." This is what God has always said. When He gave Moses the ten commandments God told His people to stop sinning and to keep His commandments. For centuries the Jews proved to the whole world that fallen man, despite his best efforts, had no ability to "go and sin no more." The apostle Paul told us that the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Man was to learn that even though he loved God, admired the Law, set his will to keep the Law ... no man could keep it. All men needed a Savior. Paul is very clear about this when he wrote about all the people throughout history before Christ,

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

The man described in Romans chapter seven is a perfect example of someone who loved God, agreed with God's law, set his mind to keep the law of God, but found out no matter how hard he tried, he could not keep from sinning. Yet God's command is always, "Go and sin no more." You can almost feel the agony of the man in Romans seven as he cries out,

Romans 7:22-24 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (24) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

The answer to that question is ... Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Let us return to the story of the woman caught in adultery because her story is a perfect picture of the coming salvation after the time when Jesus is crucified, buried, and raised from the dead.

Notice the woman is a sinner ... just like all of humanity. She is guilty before God and worthy of death, just like all of humanity. But when she comes to Jesus, she finds forgiveness of all her past sins, just like every person who comes to Jesus for salvation. But then Jesus says to her what God has always said, "Go and sin no more." Is she (and all of us who are Christians) doomed to failure like all of those people who failed prior to Christ? The answer is NO ... and Jesus gives the reason why in the very next verse:

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth

me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

"He that followeth Me ..." meaning ... we who become His disciples after the resurrection and are born again ... shall not walk in darkness ... meaning ... we shall not continue to walk in sin like those before the cross ... because ... we shall have the "light of life." Jesus is the light of the world. God is light and Jesus has brought the light of God's life to planet earth. Jesus walked in that light and was able to live a life without sinning, and He is plainly telling us ... you will have the same light of life in you that I have in Me. You will no longer be doomed to walk in darkness but on the contrary, you will be able to "go and sin no more." THIS IS THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD. The grace of God frees man from the law of sin and death that condemned every human to a life of sin.

Romans 8:1-2 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

You are branded a heretic in the modern day church if you say that Christians are able to live without sinning. It flies in the face of nearly all weak, watered down, milk toast sermons preached today that tell people God's grace simply forgave them, but did not change them. Personally, I have sat in so many services during my lifetime and heard the minister thunder from the pulpit, "You are just an old sinner saved by grace." That is saying I have been forgiven, but not changed. No ... a thousand times NO! The truth is, before Christ I "was" an old sinner, but at the new birth I received the "light of life" within me. Now I am the righteousness of God in Christ and I no longer have to walk in darkness. Now I can obey the command to "go and sin no more." Jesus came to set me from sin, not just to cover it and leave me a sinner by nature.

I recently taught the most important series of my life. It is called the "1st John Teaching Series" with the subtitle of "Removing The Gray From Your Gospel." It is available in MP3 and YouTube video format at <http://www.garycarpenter.org/1st-JohnTeachingSeries.html> I highly recommend it to you.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY