

## Can a Christian be in sin in one area of life and righteous in another?

First we must consider what sin is, what its result is, and how we are made righteous

Rom 6:16 TEV **Surely you know...you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey — either sin, which results in death (not physical but spiritual, I am dead to God) or obedience, which results in righteousness, being put right with (alive to) God.**

**SIN** – from this scripture we see sin is the opposite of obedience to God, so sin clearly is disobedience to God. And the result of my disobeying God is that I, meaning my soul or will, dies to God. God's living words that I have believed, which are God, may still exist in my spirit but I, my soul isn't there, isn't controlled by my spirit, it is controlled by my sinful human nature or flesh, and so for now I'm dead to God. I don't need to get a new spirit and be born again, I, my soul needs to be revived, or made alive to God again and righteous.

John 16:8-9 (Jesus) **When He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin...because they do not believe on Me (or simply: do not believe Me).** KJV

Heb 3:17-4:1 **With whom was God angry forty years...those who sinned...those who did not obey (God's command to enter the promised land)...they could not enter in because of unbelief (in His promise to give them the promised land).**

From these two scriptures it is clear that since God has given us hearts, that is, spirits capable of believing Him, and that He requires our belief in order to save us, then our unbelief is disobedience to God. And it is therefore sin that results in the death of our souls to God. Since, if our spirits are born again, the voice of those spirits is our conscience that echo God's yes and no, so disobedience to our conscience is also sin.

Is any act of our self-will always sin? No, sin is disobedience including unbelief, and both require that the will or word of God were known, either directly from God or indirectly through our conscience or through another person. When we are right with and alive to God, we make many minor decisions without directly consulting God, and unless the Holy Spirit or our own conscience alerts us otherwise, they are not sin but in the will of God.

**RIGHTEOUSNESS** – the four ways we're made right with God, they're all interlinked, are:

Obedience – Rom 6:16 **...Obedience which results in righteousness.**

Faith or trust - Rom 10:10 **With the heart we believe resulting in righteousness...**

Being Corrected – Heb 12:11 **...Correction (by God)...results in the peaceable fruit of righteousness, to those who are willing to be trained by it.**

Being forgiven - 1 Jo 1:9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Since God's kingdom is righteousness, and God wants all of us to live permanently in it, then His objective is to make us and keep us righteous. Which means He must save or free us from the unrighteousness of sin and our sinful human nature. He will therefore

always make His will known to us so we, by Him, can obey it. He will constantly feed us His words for our hearts to believe, but mere mental assent to them won't make us righteous. And as a loving Father whenever we stray He will consistently correct us. And entirely on the basis that Christ bore our sins and met the claims of justice against us, God will always forgive our sins if we confess them to Him, but we must believe it.

John 11:26 (Jesus) **Whoever lives (permanently) in Me and believes Me will never die** (to God, as a result of disobedience, which is unbelief). **Do you believe this?**

Heb 5:9 **...Jesus became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,**

How soon do we die to God when we sin, how soon are we made alive again when we obey

Ezek 18:20 **The soul that sins is the soul that dies** (meaning, the moment it sins)...MSGE

1 John 3:6 **Whoever lives in Christ does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him** (from the moment they disobeyed Him, being dead to Him).

Matt 15:28 (Jesus) **O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire. And her daughter was healed from that very hour.**

Luke 7:48-50 **Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven...Your faith has saved you. Go in peace"** (righteousness resulting from the obedience of faith is immediate).

So, can a Christian be in sin in one area of their life and righteous in another area of life?

Another way to put the question is, can a Christian be both dead to God due to sin, and alive to God because of righteousness? The answer of course is no, at least never at the same time, we are all at any given moment either dead to God because of unbelief or alive to God because we obeyed Him. But there is quite a bit more to it than that.

Can I sin, disobey God, even repeatedly, and my soul be utterly dead to Him, and then in an instant, repent, receive forgiveness, or heart believe a fresh word from Him, or be corrected by Him, or resume obeying His will which He has made known to me? Oh yes. Can the reverse equally happen instantly too, oh yes. This is a season of life, hopefully temporary, that we must all pass through. It is described in Romans Chapter 7 and 1 Corinthians Chapter 3, among other places. It's the season, after we have been born again, in which our soul or will is still largely controlled by our sinful human nature, its before our hearts receive the Holy Spirit and our soul or will comes under God's control.

Even then it can still happen intermittently until we believe, and continue to re-affirm daily, that we have died, been crucified with Christ, to the power of sin in our human nature. The fact that I can be dead in sin one moment and then alive to God and anointed by Him for service, the very next moment, can be troubling to some Christians, even to us. Our legalistic human nature doesn't want restoration to be that seemingly easy and quick; we think there must be a time of penance in order to earn restoration. The cross utterly did away with the need for that. And God will prove it to us. But remember, for anyone to truly start to obey, receive correction from, or be forgiven by God, involves the humility of faith.