

Overcoming Sin Consciousness

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Many born-again believers **feel** spiritually defeated in this life because of sin-consciousness. Virtually every Christian experiences sin-consciousness at one time or another. They've been saved, but Satan tempts their minds and tells them they are not good enough for salvation because of the years they lived in sin. This spiritual antagonism and defeat comes when a person does not realize what has been given to him by Jesus Christ. When a person becomes a Christian, he is legally made righteous in Christ.

I Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

These wonderful benefits are your rights as a born-again, son or daughter of God. We've covered these in detail from our last Sunday in Orangevale, so we won't cover them all today. However, we want to look at righteousness and what it means in detail. Righteousness is the God-given ability to stand in the presence of God without any sense of sin, guilt or condemnation. It is justness, or righteousness, according to an established standard by God Himself. The justice or righteousness of God is according to God's standard, which is declared in the Scriptures regarding the gospel of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ. Sin is separation from God. Righteousness is the opposite. Righteousness yields peace with God. We are now in right-standing with God according to His own established standard.

Even though believers receive righteousness when they are born again, many people, for lack of teaching or understanding still think that they are unworthy to receive answers to prayer, or receive any of the goodness of God. This devilish attitude keeps driving deeper and deeper into their subconscious minds. If my being worthy of God depended upon my own strength, I would be a lousy failure. I know that I am weak in myself and I know that I am unworthy in myself, but Christ has made me worthy. So, no matter how I feel or what my feeble mind tells me, I am strong and in Him I am worthy. He made me worthy and now by His grace, His mercy has made me His own.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith [*pistis* = believing]; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:* 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

These two verses are "yeah, but" verses. Meaning that a believer will read this and see the truth of God right in front of them, but they just can't quite believe that God would be so loving to us, or could save us by His own grace. "Saved by grace, yeah but, there must be more that I must do to be righteous, or feel righteous." There are no "buts" about it. It is either the truth of God's Word or it's not. Either God meant what he said, or He was just bluffing. We don't boast about how our "good works" saved us or made us righteous because we were saved by *His* grace. Without boasting, we can certainly say what the Word says about us! Jesus Christ has made us righteous!

The Greek word ***dikaiōsunē***, means: "justice, justness, or righteousness, according to an established standard." The various forms of this Greek word as a verb, noun and adjective are from the Greek root word: ***dikaiōs***. It is translated as, "justified," righteous," righteousness," and "justification." As we study what it means to be made righteous or to be justified, both are from this same Greek root word, ***dikaiōs***. This is our Greek lesson for today, I promise. Let's look carefully at these words in action.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness [*dikaiosunē*], which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness [*dikaiosunē*], which is of God by faith.

Getting on your knees, or making some gesture of self-sacrifice or good works will not accomplish anything (except sore knees). **Righteousness is not by the cross that you bear, but by the cross that Jesus Christ bore on your behalf.** Think about that! The righteousness of God is given to every believer, not by works, but by God's grace alone, which is His unmerited divine favor. It is God's established standard.

Our right-standing, our righteousness is a result of what Christ did to save us and redeem us. Jesus Christ, our savior, our redeemer did what was necessary to buy us back from the dominion power of the adversary. What Adam lost when he sinned, Jesus Christ bought back... with interest!

I Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

II Corinthians 5:21 For he [God] hath made him [Jesus] *to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness* [*dikaiosunē*], of God in him.

Let me repeat, everything that Adam lost for mankind when he sinned, Jesus Christ bought and paid for in full by his own death on the cross. Jesus was not acquainted with sin. He was born with sinless blood. The dominant characteristics that Christ had in his DNA was from his Heavenly Father. Sinless blood. Additionally, he walked perfectly before God, yet in order to save mankind from the sin that had been passed on to all humanity from Adam, Jesus Christ had to give his life as the complete sacrifice, and as the full payment for Adam's sin. As a result, those who believe on Jesus Christ and believe that God raised him from the dead are saved, and free from that sin and its penalties. They are made righteous before God.

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness [*dikaiosunē*] of God *which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.*

“faith of Jesus Christ”: The Greek word rendered “faith” here is *pistis*, which is used to refer to the believing of Jesus Christ by which he did what was necessary for the redemption and salvation of mankind. **Hebrews 12:2** speaks of Jesus Christ as the author and finisher of the believing, referring to the right way of believing for salvation. Jesus covered all the bases on our behalf. So it is up to us now to renew our minds to this truth. Put off the old and put on the new man. Cleanse our minds.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience [or, “*cleanse your consciousness*”] from dead works to serve the living God?

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **24** Being justified [*dikaioō*] freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: **25** Whom God hath set forth *to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness* [*dikaiosunē*] for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

We cannot “earn” righteousness. God in Jesus Christ made righteousness available over 1900 years ago. So why say that we may still feel unrighteous?

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth [favorably introduced] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified [*dikaioō*] by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement [reconciliation].

Have you noticed that God is trying to get a point across? God knew that we would struggle with this issue, so He has made an effort to describe what He has done through Christ. All the work and struggle was done away with by Jesus Christ. He did all the work. It would be a good idea to go through these Greek words for righteousness and justification in a concordance, so you can gain a greater understanding of what God wrought for us in the name, or through the accomplished works of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ paid for your sin and mine. He made us righteous now! There are no more works to do in order to be righteous. No need to feel guilty. No need to feel unworthy. The penalty was paid for, you are now free to live your life without looking back over your shoulder. "Oh, maybe there's a sin I forgot to confess!" Sorry, there is no confession of sin to be made righteous before God.

You and I confessed the Savior, Jesus Christ for our sin. That work is all over as far as God is concerned. But we can break fellowship with God and fail to look to Him in all things. At those times of broken fellowship, it is our mental separation from God, not our legal separation from God. That fence has been mended. There's a big difference between the two.

I John 3:20 For if our heart condemn [*finds fault*] with us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn [*finds fault*] us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

This discussion of our heart condemning us is distinctly different from God condemning us. Our heart is the inner-most part of our minds. It is the seat of our personal life. It is where believing emanates from. If our believing is not in accordance with God's Word, then we are not in fellowship with God in that area of our life. But God is greater than our heart.

This section of I John is the truth of settling the score with sin-consciousness, guilt and self-condemnation. If our heart finds fault with itself, God is greater and He settles the issue. He has already told us time and time again that He has made us righteous. He has given us right-standing before Him. Therefore, we can have confidence toward God. Anything that He tells us in His Word is true, and we can stake our lives on this reality.

1John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

To believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ in this context is not salvation, but fellowship. Since 1 John is written to "little children," (referring to believers who are young in the Word), it is addressing those who are already born again of God's spirit. However, they have not risen up in their believing of

what God, through Jesus Christ, has accomplished. To believe on the name of His Son is to believe in all that is a finished reality for all believers. What would that include? It includes our righteousness. It includes our salvation. It includes our sanctification. It includes our standing as a son or daughter of God. It includes the gift of holy spirit and the manifestations of holy spirit, and the list goes on. But there is a list! And we have them all!!!

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

This is on the list! We are completely absolutely complete in him! Maybe I feel that there is something lacking. That sort of thinking is not believing on all that God accomplished through Jesus Christ. So we change our thinking to believe what is stated in this verse. We are complete in him! Let's look at some other things on the list.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

We have redemption... that's on the list! We have the forgiveness of sins. That's on the list!

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.

We have an inheritance. That's on the list too. We may feel that life's not worth it at times, but when we realize that God has something wonderful in store for us, it gives us great hope and anticipation.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our passport has been changed since we believed on Jesus Christ. Our citizenship is now in heaven! That's another thing to add to the list. We are living in this world, but we are not **OF** this world. Oh, what a wonderful God we have! Oh, what a Savior we have in Jesus Christ. We are now in right-standing with God according to His own established standard. Not by our own works and not by own righteousness, but by God's grace and mercy we can stand in His presence without guilt, without fault finding of ourselves. We are righteous now, and we have peace with God through the name of His only begotten Son. By this, we can overcome sin consciousness.

God bless you.