

ONWARD

from the desk of Chris Greer



Good morning, . Chris here.

If someone asked you, “Who do you think you are?”, how would you answer?

It’s an important question, and your answer makes a difference.

For instance, a writing coach once said, “You won’t become a writer until you *believe* you are one.” And he was right. My writing reached new heights once I finally identified as a real writer (not just a guy who occasionally writes).

That’s a positive example. Here’s a negative one...

I often become stuck in my sin because I believe I’m a “sinner.” And I’m not alone. Lots of Christians are stuck believing sin is inevitable. After all, we’re just “sinners saved by grace.” *Right?*

Wrong.

The truth is, we’re far better than that. We can sin less. And it’s high time we believed it.

Let’s get unstuck and keep moving onward...

quote of the week

“Anyone who turns over their life – fully trusting that Jesus’ life and death set the world right and reunites them with God – is a Saint, not a sinner.”

There’s one BIG problem with believing we’re “sinners saved by grace”: It’s *not* Biblical.

Yes, the Bible is clear about sin (see Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:8). Sin is diabolical, dangerous, and destructive. The world’s sick with it. And we all do it. BUT...

God never confuses our infidelity with our identity.

And we shouldn’t either.

Scripture refers to all believers in holy terms. Paul addressed almost all his letters to Saints, or God’s “holy people.” (see 2 Cor 1:1, Eph 1:1, Phil 1:1, etc.). Other New Testament writers refer to us as “God’s children” (1 John 3:2), his “chosen people” (1 Peter 1:1), a “holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9), and God’s “heirs” (Romans 8:17).

And they weren't just being nice. Nor did they ignore sin. Paul openly referenced his own sinfulness (Romans 7, 1 Timothy 1:15), but he also knew first-hand that "anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person." (2 Cor 5:17)

The New Testament's writers knew what we too often forget: **Sin is what we sometimes do, but it's not who we are.**

And we find great joy, hope, peace, and freedom when we believe what God says about us.

It's not always easy to convince your heart and soul that it's true, but here are three ways to turn that corner.

Read the Truth: Look up the verses about your identity in Christ, and read them. A lot. ([Click here for a free list!](#))

Repeat the Truth: Adopt a gospel mantra and say it to yourself anytime you're tempted to sin or think of yourself as "just a sinner." Repeat "I'm a Saint" or "I'm God's beloved son/daughter" until you're convinced.

Tell the Truth: Let other believers in on the often-forgotten truth that they're Saints too! The more you share it, the deeper *you'll* trust it.

When you settle into your identity as a holy one, sin becomes less tempting. Why? Because if you no longer identify as a sinner, sin will feel contrary to who you are, rather than a natural byproduct of who you are.

We can grow in holiness and defeat sin. Because we're Saints.

Replacing the old "sinner" narrative and growing into your identity as a Saint takes time. And there's an enemy who wants your efforts to stall. But when you read, repeat, and tell the truth, you'll start to trust it. And the truth will change you.

Onward, Saint !

Chris

dad joke of the week

What do you call a cow after it's given birth?

De-calfinnated.

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