

the Lord has given us a formula for living a Christian life - "Be ye therefore perfect in ratio as your father in heaven is perfect"

1. People try to justify their sins on ground that you can not keep from sinning anyway -

THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING

THE SINLESS LIFE

This is Methodist doctrine but made unpopular by "irrus".

mat 5:48

Calculus

I do not come to day to tell you all the peoples' names who are living the sinless life. For in that event it might be like Hambone said, "All de sins and debilment what youse committed has been set down in a book. At de judgement he will (the angel) bring all dis up and den a whole lots from memory." But, as announced, I am to talk to you on "The possibility of living the sinless life."

To start with it is necessary for us to see what is involved in living a sinful life. In other words what do you have to do to be a sinful liver - a sinful person? Well you have to sin. What do you have to do to sin? Well you have to do something willfully which you know to be wroeng. Or else leave some thing undone willfully which you know that you ought to do.

Some one says, "But your thoughts are sin." All right if that be true then Jesus sinned. Bear this in mind please that not all thoughts of evil are sinful. The devil comes to you with a temptation and says do this or that. Now if you get your consent to do what he impresses you to do then you have sinned but if you do not yield then you have not sinned. Take Jesus for example. The devil brought the thought to Jesus, "Turn this stone into bread." The thought was in the mind of Christ. You say that He sinned because the devil got him to think about doing what the devil said to do. Jesus did not sin. He never got the consent of His mind to do what the devil said do. But even Jesus could not prevent the devil from bringing the thought to Him. Let us take an illustration in your own life. You go by my yard over there and see some nice ripe peaches and the devil makes you think of the possibility of carrying away some of them. But you begin to argue that the Bible says not steal and your mother said not steal and the law of the land says not steal. You turn away and go home without the peaches or up town and buy the peaches. Now if there is any one here who believes that that man sinned in his thoughts hold up your hand. If that man did sin in his thoughts then Jesus did. And we know that Jesus never sinned. Here is where your thoughts are evil: you see my peaches and devil puts it in your mind to take them and you know that it would be wrong and yet you say ah fiddle sticks what is the use of being so pious when ripe peaches are involved! I will just step over this fence and take a few. But just as you are ready to reach up to take them you hear the preacher coming out at the back door. You stole the peaches altho you never pulled a single one.

① Now there are those who say that you can not live a sinless life. They give as their reasons that the seventh chapter of Romans says that the things I would I do not but the things I would not that I do. Paul is talking of the unregeneratee state and then comes to the end of the chapter and says, "But who shall deliver me from the body of this death? And the Remedy is before him and he exclaims, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord-----there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit! There Paul clears up your scare crow and tells you in plain words that you can live the sinless life by walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh."

② Another objection is that the Bible says that if we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Jehn used the present tense for the perfect and perfect for present ever and over again No doubt he did it here meaning just what he said in verse ten "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."

#2. Sinless life.

This verse too is sandwiched between two other verses of the same writer which read as follows: But if we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with the other and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from ALL sin." If all is cleansed then I know of none left. Then just after the verse this one: "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness." Now if any of that chapter has to be thrown out because it does not rightly portray the mind of the writer I am going to throw out the one little verse which does not agree with any thing else the writer said in his whole book.

The re are many things in favor of leading a sinless life. We have a Holy God. No body disputes that. Hear Him as He speaks in Lev. 19:2. Speak unto ~~the~~* ALL the congregation of the children of Israel and say into them, "Ye shall be holy for I Jehovah your God am holy." The world says that you can not live a holy life and God says "Ye SHALL" whose advice had you better take?

The word holy is used in the Bible some six hundred times. Any thing with that much prominence in the Bible is due to be considered. + How is missed in this verse?

Yes we have a perfect and holy God and then a perfect and holy Savior. What does the Savior of men say? He was here and saw what men had to face. He learned all about it. Well you say that He perhaps changed the Father's view of the situation. Hear Him in the sermon on the mount Mat. 5:48. "Be ye perfect even as your Father is perfect." And the word is used some hundred and fifty times in the Bible. 150

Then let us come to the Holy Spirit who is one with God and Christ He too is perfect and holy. He has given us THE BOOK. And the first word that you see on the Bible is Holy. GOD, CHRIST, HOLY SPIRIT, AND THE BIBLE ARE HOLY. These are our guides and examples. Do you suppose that if it were impossible to live right some of these would not have intimated the same? No other life is becoming a person who professes to be a follower of Jesus.

I. Cor. 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able but will with the temptation make also the way of escape that ye may be able to endure it."

Sanctify means to separate and appoint any thing to an holy and religious use. Used nearly 250 times.

Pure and purify are used some 200 times with such as this verse in I Jno. 3:3, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure."

The reason why that people are not living sinless lives is ^{not} because God does not want them to. It is not because Jesus does not teach them to. It is not because the Holy Spirit does not direct and guide them thus. It is not because it is impossible. IT IS ONLY BECAUSE PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO LIVE IT BAD ENOUGH. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT EVEN WANT TO TRY IT. IT WOULD UPSET TOO MANY PLANS.

WHAT IS OUR CALLING'S GLORIOUS HOPE
BUT INWARD HOLINESS?
FOR THIS TO JESUS I LOOK UP
I CALMLY WAIT FOR THIS.

I WAIT TILL HE SHALL TOUCH ME CLEAN
SHALL LIFE AND POWER IMPART
GIVE THE FAITH THAT CASTS OUT SIN
AND PURIFIES THE ART