

New *of a kind now existing or appearing for the first time*

Describe what would happen if you believed things were true about yourself that were in fact not true. Share a personal example.

When you let God forgive you, He gave you a new identity. The following verses highlight some of the things that are now true about you. Read each of the verses, summarize and discuss which verses you have the hardest time believing.

Isaiah 43:10

John 15:15-16

Romans 5:9-11

Romans 8:1, 28, 31-39

2 Corinthians 3:5, 5:17-20

1 Peter 2:9-10

1 John 3:1-2

Why do these things not always seem or feel true about us?

Read the following verses regarding sin and put them in your own words.

Mark 7:20-23

Romans 3:19-20, 14:23

James 4:17

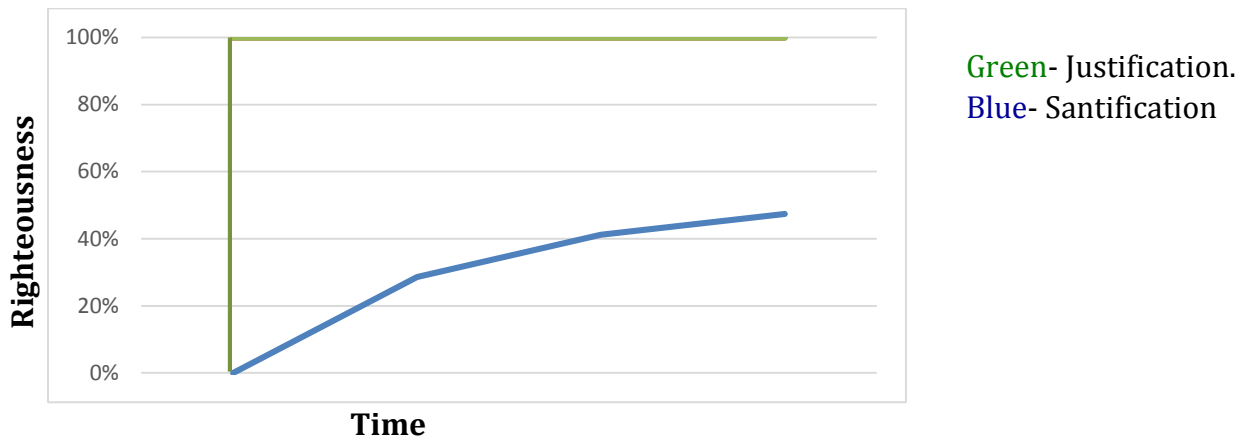
Exodus 20:3-17

Galatians 5:19-21

What does **Romans 7:19-8:4** say about why we still sin after Christ is in our lives? What is the climax of this section of Scripture? Why?

When we are standing in the place of failure of where God's holiness and perfection far outweigh our sufficiency, we need to look to Jesus, remembering His sufficiency is what bridges the gap making us right with God. Practically this means admitting we are not sufficient confessing Jesus is, and surrendering our life to Him and His work in our lives.

Justification vs. Sanctification Chart



Justification means just-as-if-I'd lived a perfectly righteous life. We stand perfect before the Father because Jesus' perfection is reflected onto us. Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus in thought and behavior. The moment you yielded your life to God, He saw you as perfect, righteous and holy. He sees you now just as if you'd never sinned. But your actions are not always going to match that reality. Philippians 1:6 tells us that your lifetime will be a process of becoming more like Christ and becoming the man and woman of God that the Father declares you to be.

The difference between relationship and fellowship

Your relationship with God is your connection to Him. You're His child and all the identity truths you read earlier are true about you not because of anything you did, but because of what Jesus did. His perfection is reflected onto you. God is your Father and your relationship with Him is secure based on what He did at the cross. When you sin, you don't cease to be his child. Your relationship with God is dependent on Christ alone and therefore is constant regardless of your attitudes or actions.

Your fellowship with God is different than your relationship with God. Fellowship is your interaction, your communication and intimacy with God. This is dependent on what you do. When you sin, your interaction, your communication and intimacy with God are hindered. If you sin willfully or if God makes you aware of sin and you refuse to confess and change your attitude about it, then your fellowship or friendship with God is temporarily broken until you confess it.

In a friendship with a close friend, when you do something to hurt your friend, you want to say sorry and ask forgiveness to make your friendship right. When you confess your sin to God to restore your friendship, or fellowship, you're not asking to receive more forgiveness because all your sin, past, present and future was forgiven at the point you yielded you're life to Christ. Rather you thank Him for the cross to make your fellowship with God right again.

If you do not confess your sin, then you do not in your conscious feel clean before God, and there is no longer the power and sometimes even the desire to live the Christian life. When I do confess my sin to God, regardless of how I feel, I am completely forgiven and clean.

1 John 1:9 is a promise from God regarding this.

Read **Psalm 103:12**

If you started walking east, at what point would you start going west?



What is this verse saying about your sin?

Even though you have sinned since accepting Christ and will no doubt sin again in the future, your relationship with God is secure and your fellowship with Him is restored as soon as you confess that sin to Him; He removes it infinitely far from you and fellowship with Him is restored completely. Over time you will begin to notice that God changes you from the inside out and little by little He is making you more and more like Jesus.

To see another video illustrating this principle go to www.MasterPlanMinistries.net/diagram-video-tutorials and watch the Garbage Dump Diagram.

What stands out most to you this week? Who in your life can you share it with?