

TLC HOME GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE – WEEK OF 2/25/24

SIN PART 7

THE BELIEVER'S CONTINUED STRUGGLE WITH SIN

There will be an on-going struggle with sin throughout your entire life. You will never stop being a sinner this side of heaven.

Martin Luther said, “We are at the same time saint (meaning justified), and sinner.”

NOTE: In the Bible, the Apostle Paul refers to *Christians* as saints. Saint, meaning “holy one,” refers to the distinct status of God’s people. Therefore, **all** who are believers are saints, and being sanctified (set apart unto holiness).

IN LIGHT OF OUR SAINT/SINNER STATUS, WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE TWO KEY TRUTHS

1. Our relationship to our sin is **decisively** different after conversion than it was before conversion.
2. A very real, deep-seated and **ongoing struggle** with our sinful nature remains, which can’t be minimized or ignored.

These truths are seen clearly in Romans 6:6 where Paul states:

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”

Our old self was “crucified” (put to death) with Christ. This act has been fully accomplished; our old way of living, old existence, and sin were taken on by Christ.

The type of new life that God promises must be accomplished in us, by God, through his power.

FOR DISCUSSION:

We are considering the “tension” between being saints and sinners. The definition of tension is “a relationship between ideas with conflicting implications.”

1. What do you think about yourself as being both saint AND sinner? Do these truths cause tension in your heart? Why or why not?
2. What is the impact of your ongoing struggle with your sinful nature on your life, faith, and relationships?