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## Habitual unrepentant sinning? Exclusion from the Kingdom

The first thing to get clear is that there is no excuse for sinning – ever. Sinning is not Christian, good, righteous, holy, productive, honorable, proper, worthy, or any such adjective denoting a life that is in agreement with God's will. But we know we have all sinned (I John 1:8-10) and that Christ came to die for us and to save us from sin. (I Timothy 1:15) Are we thus in the eternal Kingdom of God or excluded from it? The Scriptures say that it depends on whether or not a person is a “servant of sin” or a “servant of obedience” to God trusting in the blood of Jesus for His salvation. Let's examine this.

The Word of God defines sin as “transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). Most of God's laws for the family and nation are in the Old Testament with some of those expounded upon in the New Testament, and also with some newer commandments about assemblies, morals, and Christian duty being also in the New Testament. Therefore, if we break one of God's laws we are sinning. However, as far as having eternal salvation secured for any one of us, there is a difference between willingly living in a state of constant rebellion against God by having a sinful lifestyle, as opposed to a sinner who has repented from sins but happened to fall by weakness into a position of a sin occurrence. This latter is described as a “back sliding” situation. In God's mercy there is room for a backslider to repent and come back into the fold to continue on the “straight and narrow way”. (Jer.3:22; James 4:8; 5:19,20) Again – this is not an excuse to sin. How often should a Christian be found in back sliding? Never. Because sinning after realizing the price that Jesus paid at the cross is a serious mishap. The Scriptures say that “*God is not mocked*” (Galatians 6:7) and the cross of Jesus can not be used as a ticket to sin with impunity. But backsliding does happen, in all reality, in some instances, and we are to pray for and guide the backslider onto the Christian path again.

But here is what is said of those living a lifestyle of practicing sin, even if a person claims to be a Christian while all the time doing so: “*Manifest however are the works of the flesh, which indeed are, fornication, impurity, wantonness (unchastity, unrestrained), idolatry, enchantment, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, factions, divisions, parties, envyings, drunkenness, revellings; and such as these: as to which I forewarn you, even as I have forewarned you, that they who such things as these do practice, shall not inherit Yahvah's Kingdom.*” (Galatians 5:19-21 Rotherham Version)

The question arises: Didn't Jesus choose those who are ordained to salvation, and aren't we saved by God's grace and not by works? The answer to both issues is “Yes”. Jesus chooses us. We don't choose Him.(John 15:16; Eph. 1:3-5) *and* we are saved by God's free gift of grace toward us (Rom. 6:23; Titus 3:5) But herein lies an even greater alarm to the practitioners of sin who won't repent as per Galatians 5 above, namely: *If a person is indeed chosen for eternal life in God's Kingdom they won't be found doing the habitual sinning lifestyle as listed by Paul in Galatians 5:19-21. The divine nature of Christ in a true believer won't permit it.* That ungodly lifestyle thus is a sign that the person was never chosen by Christ in the first place. Think not? Let's consider what Christ Himself said about this, as we read a well known verse that has been mistranslated in our English Bibles. The KJV quotes Jesus in John 14:15 as “*If you love me keep my commandments*”. This verse reads nicely as it is, but it is not quite what our Master said. In the literal Greek this verse reads “*If you love me you will be keeping my commandments.*” It is a statement of truthful fact, not an advisory request. Those who love Jesus and are chosen by Him keep God's commandments and follow the path of holiness in their lives where sin does not dominate their lifestyle. It is plain and simple. Claiming to be a Christian is not enough because nobody is fooling God by their words alone. The lifestyle is the flag we fly – either for God's Kingdom or the world satanic kingdom. Backsliders need to repent from sin now as proof of their faith or else they're excluded from the Kingdom proving they were never chosen by Christ in the first place.