

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims

Lesson 18: Can I Go On Sinning?

Hi. I have a question regarding Jesus. If He (peace be upon him) died for our sins, and our evil deeds are already forgiven because of Jesus, does this mean that if you do evil it will make no harm in the hereafter?

Many Muslims object to Christianity because they think we teach that it's fine to commit sins since we're already forgiven. (In fact, many Hindus do too, and even Christians are confused on this issue!) Sadly, this idea seems to be confirmed by the immorality of the "Christian" West. What Muslim internet contacts need to understand is that grace does not mean the freedom to sin all we want. Rather, it empowers us to submit ourselves fully to God. Those who continue to choose sin over living rightly aren't really committed to or submitted to God.

You might quote a few passages of scripture to support this. Romans 6 and 1 John speak particularly to this issue:

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. (James 1:27, NLT)

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. (Romans 6:1-4)

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. (Romans 6:12-14)

Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to right living. Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. (Romans 6:15-18)

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. (1 John 1:5-6)

If someone claims, 'I know God,' but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. (1 John 2:4-6)

Send comments/questions to flmcomments@nayajeevan.org