**New Testament Christianity**

# Sinners

## **Matthew 1:21 – Romans 5:12 - Ephesians 2:1-3 - Colossians 1:21-22**

## **Sinners by nature and by self-will**

**Introduction:** When the New Testament is read and believed, one does not find the kind of “Christianity” which is propagated in America today revealed on its pages.

Instead, the Scriptures reveal a dramatically different kind of “Christianity”

It therefore becomes very important for all who desire to enter into eternal glory to determine from the Word of God what kind of “Christianity” is set forth within the pages of God’s holy Word. The “Christianity” which resembles that which is revealed in the New Testament is that which is true. All others are mere imitations!

The Christianity of the New Testament begins with the premise that man is a sinner which is totally unable to change his nature or destiny.

Modern day and Historical concepts of the true nature of man are in opposition to the Word of God:

**First**: Some think and teach that man's environment has made him what he is today – what he needs is a better education or a better standard of living.

This, of course, stands in stark contrast with the fact that God created Adam perfect and put him in a perfect environment and still he sinned against God. The best environment will not change human behaviour. God must do that!

**Second**: Some think and teach that what the Word of God call – sin or sinful acts - are actually psychological or physical diseases and what man really needs is a better medicine.

Drug dependency and Alcoholism are now called diseases when in reality they are the results of sinning against God.

**Third**: Some think and teach that sin or sinful acts should be considered as alternate life styles – what is needed is a politically correct attitude toward all mankind no matter what life style they may espouse.

**Fourth**: Some think and teach that the pressures of conforming to society's rules have warped the minds of many so that their problems should be attributed to social morays. What is needed, they say, is a better understanding of all men in general and a general lifting of all social restraints so that all are free to do all they desire without any social restraints.

This thinking can only lead to anarchy and the total destruction of social order.

**But: To properly understand New Testament Christianity we must understand what God's Word says about the spiritual condition of mankind – of sinners:**

**First**: Because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, man is born in a state of natural sin and natural rebellion to God and to God's law.

The sinner is born dead in trespasses and sins, blind to the things of God, and deaf to the call of God. The sinner's heart is desperately wicked and deceitful, and he has no true affection for God or His law.

**Second**: Because of man's natural inclination to sin, he actually sins willingly and, often times, enjoys his sin.

The sinner's will is bound by his sinful nature and is therefore not free in the general sense of the word. He will not, in fact he cannot choose that which is good over that which is evil in the spiritual realm.

There are fifteen things God’s word says about the sinner that is important to know and to understand if we are to properly understand New Testament Christianity:

**First: God's Word says the sinner is in a state of death in the spiritual realm.**

**Genesis 2:16-17** – “(16) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: **for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die**.”

After being warned of God, Adam still disobeyed God and as a result his sin brought death with it – both physical and spiritual death passed upon Adam and to all mankind.

**Genesis 5:1-2 and 5 –** (1) This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; (2) Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created … (5) And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: **and he died**.”

**Romans 5: 12** – “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, **and death by sin**; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

**Ephesians 2:1 and 5** – “(1) And you hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins** … (5) Even **when we were dead in sins**, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”

**Note**: The apostle Paul teaches that those who were physically alive were nonetheless considered dead and needed to be made alive before they could be called Christians.

They were spiritually dead and need spiritual life!

Only God could give them that!

**Second: God's Word says the sinner CANNOT SEE the things of God.**

**They are naturally blind – They cannot see the things relating to the Kingdom of God.**

**John 3:3** - “… Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**They are blinded by the powerful work of Satan:**

**II Corinthians 4:3-6** – “(3) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: (4) In whom the god of this world hath **blinded the minds** of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. (6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

**They are blinded by shutting their own eyes to the things of God:**

**Matthew 13:13-15** – “(13) Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not … (14) And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By … seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15) For this people's heart is waxed gross … **their eyes they have closed**; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”

**Third: God's Word says the sinner CANNOT HEAR the things of God.**

**Matthew 13:13-15** – “(13) Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they … **hearing they hear not**, neither do they understand. (14) And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By **hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand** … (15) For this people's heart is waxed gross, and **their ears are dull of hearing** … lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”

**Fourth: God's Word says the sinner CANNOT UNDERSTAND the things of God.**

**Romans 3:11** – “**There is none that understandeth**, there is none that seeketh after God.”

**Fifth: God's Word says the sinner has a natural affection for darkness (evil deeds, sin).**

**John 3:19** – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.”

**Sixth: God's Word says the sinner has a natural enmity towards God and His holy law.**

**Romans 8:7** – “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”

**Seventh: The Word of God says the sinner CANNOT PLEASE God.**

**Romans 8:8** – “So then they that are in the flesh **cannot please God**.”

**Eighth: The Word of God says the sinner's heart is desperately wicked and deceitful above all else.**

**Jeremiah 17:9** – “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

**Ninth: God's Word says the sinner cannot change his nature.**

**Jeremiah13:23** – “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? **then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil**?”

**Tenth: God's Word says that no sinner - of his own volition - seeks to know God.**

**Romans 3:11** – “There is none that understandeth, **there is none that seeketh** after God”

**Eleventh: God's Word says there are some men that DO NOT have FAITH.**

**II Thessalonians 3:1-2** – “(1) Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: 92) And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.”

God's Word says faith is a gift of God (**Ephesians 2: 8-9**); faith must be obtained (**I Peter 1:1**); faith must “come” to the sinner (**Romans 10:17**); and faith has a beginning (**Hebrews 12:2**).

**Twelfth: God's Word says the sinner must be born again, but cannot be so by his own will.**

**John 1:12-13** – “(12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) **Which were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, **nor of the will of man**, **but of God**.”

**Note**: The sinner is not able to see God's kingdom, nor able to enter God's kingdom by his own will – He must do so at the will of God!

**John 3:3 and 5** - “(3) … Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God … (5) … Except a man be born … of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

**Thirteenth: God's Word says it is God's will and not the sinner's will that makes the difference in the sinner's salvation.**

**Romans 9:16** – “So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.”

Fourteenth: God’s word says that the sinner must be born again in order to see and enter into the kingdom of God.

The new birth is a work of God – the Spirit of God.

**John 3:3 and 5** - “(3)… **Except a man be born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God … (5) … **Except a man be born … of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

**James 1:18** – “**Of his own will begat he us** with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

Fifteenth: God’s word says that a sinner must repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is he will be saved from his sins.

The new birth is God working in the sinner and the sinner will respond to that work.

**Philippians 2:13** – “For **it is God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

**The sinner’s response will be to repent toward God and to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Mark 1:14-15** – “(14) Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, (15) And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel**.”

**Acts 20:21** – “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**”