

Living In Sin

The world sins because they are LOST:

They are Ignorant / Can't See

1 Corinthians 2:14 But people who aren't spiritual/are carnal can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

They are Influenced / Deceived

2 Corinthians 4:4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. (So) they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News.

They are Indifferent

Matthew 22:4 "So he sent other servants to tell them, 'The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!' 5 But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business.

They are Defiant

Romans 8:7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.

Why are Believers Living In Sin???

1) IGNORANT

Romans 1:20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. **So they have no excuse for not knowing God.**

Acts 17:30 "God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. 31 For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.

2) INFLUENCED - Baal of Peor

Numbers 25:1–3: "While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Midianite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them." As a judgment against the Israelites' sin, God sent a plague among the people.

1 Corinthians 10:8: "We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died."

- Evaluate.....are you SEEKING and ABSORBING godly influence?
- Get honest - everything you expose your mind to INFLUENCES YOU
- Courageously exit the influence that causes you to walk away from God instead of toward him.
- Decide for God at every point that you have a choice between sin and God
- Intentionally fill your life and fill your mind with GODLY influences (Bible Reading, Christian Radio/music, Fellowship/Associating with other believers from whom you draw strength

3) INDIFFERENT

Revelation 3:15 "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other!

Indifference either **allows us to commit sins, or worse, not to view such sins as sins at all.**

Isaiah 46:9 **Remember** the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me.

Ephesians 4:17 With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because **they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts** against him.

4) DEFIANT

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Psalms 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart, *(so) that I might not sin against you.* 12 I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. 13 I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us. 14 I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. 15 I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. 16 I will delight in your decrees and not forget/fail to remember your word.

REMEDY

1) Cling to the Truth/Strive to keep it:

Matthew 7:13 "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

Luke 13:24 "Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail.

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to **sin** still **live in it**?

Romans 12:9..... Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

2) Change the way you think.

3) Don't take grace for granted

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4) Shake yourself out of indifference and DO God's Work as Christ did:

Luke 2:49 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I *must/had to be* in my Father's house?"

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Don't you realize/don't you know/are you ignorant about the fact that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God/that committing these sins will result in death?? Don't fool yourselves/you are living in self-deception.

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

GOOD NEWS:

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Galatians 5:16-18 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.