

# THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

## Int.

1. Aim: To show the difference between sinners in and out of the church !
2. Rom. 12:2 **"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**
  - a. Conversion
  - b. Transformed = metamorphosis - change of form Meta=change morphosis=shape
3. III. Two caterpillars were watching a butterfly sail overhead. One said to the other "I don't care what they say, you'll never get me up in one of those things." There would have to be a change before this could happen!!!!
4. The conversion from a sinner to a Christian involves even a greater change.
  - a. That word transformed comes from a word "Metamorphosis" - a change or form
  - b. Transformation = be changed in our inner life
  - c. It means to remodel - to become different - change into something different
  - d. Paul says we become **"A new creature"** [2 cor. 5:17] - a fresh start - new to stay new
5. Sometimes people say "He doesn't need to change anything. He just needs to be baptized."
  - a. That is not so!!!
  - b. Conversion involves more than baptism and it does make a difference

## Discussion

### I. CONVERSION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A. A different mind = BELIEF - atheist - agnostic = believer

1. ROM. 12:2 **"By the renewing of your mind..."**
2. Our mind is changed by the evidence from God's word - Rom. 10:17

B. A different heart = REPENTANCE

1. Jews changed
  - a. Old heart = His blood be on us - Mt. 27:24-25 **"When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but [that] rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed [his] hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye [to it]. 25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood [be] on us, and on our children."**
  - b. Pricked heart = changed - Acts 2:22-34 37-39
2. Godly sorrow brought about a new mind which results in a change of life - 2 Cor. 7:10 **For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.**

C. A different allegiance = CONFESSION

1. Some would not confess - Jn. 12:42,43 **"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."**
2. Peter confessed with his mouth - Mt. 16:13-16
3. Paul tells us that we must confess - Rom.10:9-10
4. In Acts 8:35-38 we have an example of confession - and it was before baptism

D. **A different state = BAPTISM**

1. Our sins are forgiven by the blood of Christ
2. Sin are washed away when we are baptized
  - a. Acts 22:16
  - b. Rom. 6:4 - Walk in newness of life
3. We are made free from our sins - Rom. 6:17-18

E. **A different life = CHRISTIAN LIFE**

1. There is a difference for he is a new man
2. Eph. 4:21 - 5:1

**Put Off** v.31

**Put On** v. 32

- |                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| a. Old Man               | New Man  |
| b. Lying                 | Truth    |
| c. Anger                 | Control  |
| d. Stealing              | Working  |
| e. Corrupt communication | Edifying |

**II. BUT CHRISTIANS SIN**

A. Christians make mistakes and sin

1. The **"Once saved always saved is a false doctrine"** = 1 Cor. 10:12 Jas.5:19-20
2. 1 Jn. 1:8-10 teaches us that we do sin
3. We all realize that we are not perfect and sinless

B. Since this is true then the following question is often asked:

1. If people in the church sin and people out of the church sin then what is the difference in a sinner in the church and a sinner out of the church?
2. Some sinners will say "I'm just as good as most members of the church".

C. Definitions

1. **Christian** = one who has obeyed the gospel
2. **Sinner** = one who has not obeyed the gospel
3. **Sin** =
  - a. Transgression - 1 Jn. 3:4
  - b. Or omission - Jas. 4:17

### **III. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SINNER IN THE WORLD AND THE SINNER IN THE CHURCH ?**

A. **One sins wilfully - the other does not**

1. A Christian does not live a life of sin - Rom. 6:18
  - a. 1 Jn. 3:9 **"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."**
  - b. Cannot sin = he can, but he must not
  - c. Does not keep on doing sin as a life habit
  - d. He does not wilfully sin !
2. The sinner wilfully abides in sin. He plans to sin ! Schemes, premeditates

B. **One hates sin - the other loves sin**

1. God hates sin

- a. Prov. 8:13 **"The fear of the LORD [is] to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."**
- b. Christians are to hate evil - Romans 12:9 **"[Let] love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."** - Abhor = dislike, have a horror of
- c. We are not to love the world - 1 Jn. 2:15-16
- d. We cannot be a friend of the world - Jas. 4:4

2. The alien sinner loves sin

- a. Many will not become a Christian because they do not want to part with their sin. They love it.
- b. II Tim. 4:10 **"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."**

C. **One tries to live above sin - the other is content to live in sin**

1. A Christian is trying to conquer evil in his life

- a. His goal is to live above sin
  - (1) Phil. 3:13 -14 **"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. "**

(2) 1 John 2:1 **"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: "**

b. The Christian is resisting the devil - James 4:7-8 **"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded."**

2. One who rejects Christ does nothing to overcome evil or to be free of sin. He is content to keep on living in sin!!!! Looks for opportunities to sin and enjoys it.

**D. One has the promise of forgiveness - the other does not**

1. God's second law of forgiveness applies only to those who have obeyed the gospel.

a. Acts 8:22 - repent

b. Jas. 5:16 - confess

c. 1 Jn. 1:9

d. 1 Jn. 2:1 - pray

2. The sinner has no hope in this condition

a. Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

b. 1 Pet. 3:12 **"For the eyes of the Lord [are] over the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord [is] against them that do evil."**

c. Without hope - not promise of forgiveness

E. **One is depending upon Christ - the other is depending upon his own moral life to save him**

1. The Christians hope is in the grace of God and the blood of Christ
  - a. Eph. 2:8-9 **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."**
  - b. Tit. 3:5 **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost: "**
  - c. Acts 15:11 **"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."**
2. The one who says "I'm as good as a member of the church" misses the point.
  - a. Our goodness does not save us! - Matt. 7:21
  - b. Our obedience to Christ gives us the benefit of His goodness!
  - c. Cornelius was a good moral man, but he was lost. Acts 10

F. **One is headed for heaven - the other for Hell**

1. Christians are traveling the road to heaven
  - a. They will live forever - 1 Jn. 2:17 **"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."**
  - b. They have their names in the lambs book of life Rev. 21:27 **"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."**

- c. The narrow way that leads to life - Matt. 7:13-14 **"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: {strait: or, narrow} 14 Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."** {Because: or, How}
2. There are only two roads
- Broad way leads to destruction
  - Their name is not in the book of life
  - They shall be cast into the lake of fire - Rev. 20:15 **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."**

## **CONCLUSION**

- There is a difference between a Christian and a sinner
  - Sins willfully - the other does not
  - Hates sin - Loves Sin
  - Lives above sin - lives in sin
  - Promise of forgiveness - others does not
  - Depends on Christ - Moral life
  - Headed for Heaven - Hell
- The Christian is sincerely trying to live according to God's commandments
- John 14:15 **"If ye love me, keep my commandments."**
- The alien sinner is rejecting Christ - forgetting his commandments !

5. In what condition are you ?

- a. Alien
- b. Christian
- c. Erring Christian

6. If you are in sin you need to change !!!

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