

Have you ever tried to fix your behavior, but found that the fix only lasted for a little while? One time I decided to stop cussing, and for most of the day I didn't say a single cuss word; but before the day was over I'd cussed. The mistake I made that day was one that many Christians make. I was focused on my behavior rather than my identity. If I'd believed the right things about who I was and who God made me, that would have allowed my behavior to change. If we focus on believing the right things, we won't have to worry about our behavior. Our behavior lines up with what we believe about ourselves. When we believe that we are who God says we are, our whole lives will change!

Salvation is the absolute first step. The most important thing anyone in the world can do is to get saved. However, after salvation, the most important thing believers can do is to renew our minds. When our minds are renewed, our beliefs line up with the Word of God and our lives are transformed; but if you believe wrong you will live wrong.

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and

truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

Grace is the truth that Jesus came to give us. It has the power to set us free from guilt, shame, condemnation, addiction, and hell. Grace is the antidote to counteract every poison in our minds. So what's the problem? You might say, "I believe in grace!" The issue is likely not whether you believe in grace, but whether you believe what grace has made you. Let me put it another way by asking you a very simple question: Do you believe your identity in Christ?

We have to start at the beginning. Man is a tripart being. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Man is a spirit. He possesses a soul. He lives in body. We are not our bodies. We are not our souls. We are spirit beings. Now I know soul and spirit have been used interchangeably, as if they are the same. They are not. You are a spirit, you have a soul, you live in a body. Your soul is your mind, will, and emotions; it is your thinker, your chooser, and your feeler. Before you got born again you possessed the old man, the

old spirit, with the root of sin. That's why you could commit sin actions in the first place, because you possessed the sin nature.

The day you got born again *only one part of you* experienced transformation: your spirit, the real you. The old, sin nature died. It no longer lives anywhere in you. It was replaced by the new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17). This new-creation-you is perfect, flawless, **and identical to God**. It cannot sin. The new-creation-you and the old-sin-nature-you *do not* and *cannot* coexist. You do not have two natures living in you at one time. You don't have two spirits. However, you do have two minds: the mind of the spirit and the mind of the flesh. That's why you can still see sin actions in your life.

Therefore, even though you're born again you'll get the same output. You're saved, but still committing the actions of sin because you haven't changed the program. If you want to live a life that lines up with the new-creation-you, you have to change the program that produces those outcomes in your soul and body. You do this by renewing your mind (Romans 12:1, 2). "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:2, NLT). Renewing your mind is a lifetime process, not a onetime event. It means to exchange your thoughts, ideas, and opinions for God's thoughts, ideas, and opinions. Whatever He says is so, and anything that contradicts what He says is wrong. When this becomes your mindset, all of the old-sin-nature actions will be replaced with new creation actions that line up with the Word of God.

Taffi and I love you and pray for you daily. May God richly bless your life! Remember, Jesus is Lord, and "...in all of your getting, get understanding."

Love,

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Creflo Lollar

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# A RENEWED MIND

I AM A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)

GOD'S WILL FOR ME IS GOOD, PLEASING, AND PERFECT
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