

## Elder Bobby Willis



### The Ways We Sin Become Sinful Ways

All children love to hear their parents, teachers, and such, tell them they have done a good job with whatever they were doing. It is a part of our nature to seek approval for our actions. The Apostle Paul desired, as we should, to one day hear our Heavenly Father say, **“Well done, thou good and faithful servant:...”** (Matthew 25:21,23) as his departure from this earth was at hand (II Timothy 4:6-8).

Paul knew that any righteousness he had was due to the imputed righteousness of Christ and was not by his own works. However, as we seek to please God, sin is ever present as long as we remain on this earth. Disapproval then comes when we fail to be obedient to the commandments of God. There are a number of ways we disobey God which include, but are not limited to:

1. **Sins of Commission** - These are sins which are done by going beyond what is pleasing to God, or, by doing that which is distinctively prohibited. **“If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes”** (Psalm 89:30-32).
2. **Sins of Omission** - When we know what pleases God, and we don't make an effort to do so, it is a sin of Omission. **“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin”** (James 4:17).
3. **Sin of Cessation** - We need to not cease from doing or continuing in that which is good. For one to stop or to bring to an end, the true worshipping of our Lord, is a sin. Samuel told the people of Israel to **“turn not aside from following the Lord”** and serving Him with all of their heart (I Samuel 12:20). As the Lord will not forsake His people, we are not to forsake Him, or cease from giving Him praise, honor, and glory. Notice I Samuel 12:23, **“Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you:...”** Let us not cease to pray for each other, nor cease from continuing in doing good, nor cease from our house serving the Lord day in and day out.

4. **Adding to God's Word** - We are not to add anything to the written word of God or to any of the Lord's commandments. **"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you..."** (Deuteronomy 4:2a). This adding is by taking liberties with the word of God where we have no authority to do so. How serious is this? Listen to John in Revelation 22:18, **"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:..."**
5. **Taking From the Word of God** - **"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book"** (Revelation 22:19). Many have thought this **"book of life"** to be one and the same with the **"Lambs book of life"** which would mean that Christ lost one who would have gone to Heaven. However, that would be in direct contradiction with Romans 8:35 which says **"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?..."** The **"Who"** also includes ourselves. Then in Romans 8:38-39 Paul goes into depth - **"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."** The **"book of life"** in Revelation 22:19 is not the same book as the **"Lamb's book of life"** found in Revelation 21:27 which has the names of all of God's children written therein.
6. **Substitution** - We are eternally thankful that Jesus Christ was our Substitution on the Cross of Calvary. However, when we attempt to substitute anything other than what God has thus commanded, we sin. This is perhaps better known as changing! Notice Romans 1:23, **"...and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."** Then in Romans 1:25 they are referred to as those **"...who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."** Then as vile as it is, notice Romans 1:26b, **"for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:..."** (vs 27) **"...likewise also the men..."**

Once we know what sin is, we need to diligently seek to know what the Lord requires of us. Deuteronomy 10:12 says, **"And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul..."** Now, **"Think About It!"**

