

Can A Child of God Sin and Be Lost?

Introduction

1. With an open Bible before us, let's discuss those things which pertain to life and godliness, ready to discover Bible answers to the question **"can a child of God fall from God's grace and be lost?"**
2. We will examine whether the Bible tells us that if the doctrine of once one is in God's grace, then they are always in God's grace.
 - A. If this teaching is in the Bible, then any one of us should be able to find it there. The Bible either teaches it or it does not teach it.
3. It shall be my purpose this morning to prove to you that the Bible teaches that a child of God may so sin or apostatize as to be eternally lost.
4. I want to encourage all in attendance this morning to let the Bible be the source of information and you be the judge as to whether the text is fairly applied.

The Church and Child Relationship

1. **A number of passages could be introduced here but it seems good to begin with Paul's letter to the churches of Galatia. Chapter 1, verses 1 and 2 says:**

Galatians 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, **To the churches of Galatia.**"

- A. **Please note that the letter is addressed to the churches. The Apostle Paul makes no reference here to the plurality of religious denominations as we know them for at the time of this writing no such division existed.**
- B. **He was addressing himself to the several congregations of the one church established by our Lord.**
 - 1) **There is one New Testament church but when reference is made to local congregations of saints, such units of the one church were called churches.**
 - a) **This fact should be clear. The letter is addressed to the churches. In Acts 2:47 the text says:**

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord **added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

2. **What we know is this: All of the saved are in the church.**
 - A. **If, in the course of your life you have conducted yourself in proper obedience to the commands of Christ, thereby having become eligible for salvation, the Lord added you to the church.**
 - B. **Don't let anybody mislead you to believe that you are saved without the church. The process is simple and above objection! The Gospel is God's power to save. when it is obeyed one is made free from sin (Rom 6:17); and added to the church (Acts 2:47).**
3. **I made that point to say this: If the saved are added to the church, a letter addressed to the church would be addressed to a group of saved people, those who had come under the grace of Christ.**
 - A. **In the New Testament they are otherwise identified as **Christians, saints, children of God, or brethren**. So whatever is stated in the book of Galatians is, unless otherwise marked, a message to the saved in Christ.**

4. Now, since our Bible is opened to Galatians, chapter 1, let's read beginning from verse 3:

Galatians 1:3-6 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. I marvel that you are **turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ**, to a different gospel,

A. Let's stop here to apply a little common sense reasoning. The gospel is God's power to save but these who were saved were removed from it, having chosen something else.

- 1) How can they be saved eternally since they have departed from the only means of salvation? If there were nothing more to be said, this would prove to the open minded person that one can be lost after he is once saved.**

Galatians 1:7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, **preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed**. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

B. Paul here implies that it was, and is, entirely possible for one like himself to turn from the true gospel and preach something else. Would he be saved if he did?

- 1) It sounds very much like it would be an easy matter to fall away and be lost and it would NOT be too difficult to find preachers who are in that exact condition.**

5. Now, let's turn over to Galatians 3:26.

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

A. Here we learn that he was talking to children of God and, incidentally, telling how they became such.

1) Children of God by faith, having been baptized into Christ. That's the only way known to us through an examination of the scriptures.

6. In the above text they were called children of God. Now turn to the next chapter, Galatians 4:6-7, here they are called "sons":
Galatians 4:6-7

Children Falling from Grace

1. **Turning to the next chapter we read in Galatians 5:4, still talking to these children of God, these sons who had so soon been removed unto another gospel:**

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

- A. **Who is it who have fallen from grace? The children of God, these sons, who have turned back to the law of Moses. What did Paul say has happened? “You have fallen from grace.”**
2. **It may be that you have heard as far back as you can remember that one cannot fall from grace once one is saved.**

- A. **The Bible clearly states that one CAN fall from grace, and some of the Galatian brethren had done so.**

- 1) **They were children of God, (Gal. 3:26); they were sons of God, (Gal. 4:6); they had fallen from grace (Gal 5:4).**

- B. **Beware – lest you and I fall too. 1 Cor 10:12 says:**

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- 1) **Why the warning, if there is no danger of falling from the grace of God?**

3. Our next passage that we want to discuss this morning is Galatians 5:21.

Galatians 5:21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- A. Again I ask, why warn against these things if there is no danger that a child of God may yield to them?**
- B. God told Adam concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**

Genesis 2:17for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

- 1) The devil came along and added one little word. God had said you shall surely die. The devil said God knows that you shall **"not"** — not surely die.**
- 2) Paul said if you do these things you shall **not** inherit the kingdom of God, but men come along and say that you can't do anything to hinder you from entering the kingdom of God.**
 - a. The devil added the "not" in Genesis 3:4, and those who claim to be saved to the extent that they cannot fall have taken it away from Galatians 5:21.**

4. Let's read another important passage of scripture concerning this subject from 2 Peter 2:4-6:

2 Peter 2:4-6

- A. Even in the face of this passage some will say "God will spare us, because we cannot fall from grace."**
- B. If we cannot fall from grace, what is there for Jesus to judge?**

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

5. Now let us continue with our study and turn now to another passage, this time in 2 Peter 1:5-10 and read what is said here in keeping with the question "can one fall from God's grace."

2 Peter 1:5-10

- A. Here Peter has enumerated on what are commonly called the Christian graces or characteristics. He said "if you do these things you will never stumble."**
 - 1) The King James Version of the Bible uses the word "fall" instead of stumble in this particular verse.**
 - 2) The idea or meaning is just the same in either case. In other words, if one does not do these things (practice the Christian graces) in their life then they will stumble or fall.**

6. **Another valuable passage that I like to use to show others that a “child of God can in fact fall from God’s grace and be eternally lost” is Romans 11:22.**

Romans 11:22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. **Otherwise you also will be cut off.**

- A. **This text is so plain concerning our subject this morning. If we continue in God’s goodness, then we will be blessed, however, if we do not continue in God’s goodness, we will be cut off.**
- B. **Does that sound like we have salvation locked up so that we can basically do whatever we want to once we have accepted Jesus, accepted God’s grace, have been saved?**
- C. **These passages are clear and if we would read it with an unprejudiced heart I truly believe that everyone of us can clearly see that we must remain steadfast, loyal, faithful to God all the days of our life in order to be saved.**
Revelation 2:10

Conclusion

1. In closing this morning, there is this passage of scripture that I want us to consider.

A. It is the case of a church that had fallen. In Revelation 2, John sends the message of Christ to the seven churches of Asia. To the church at Ephesus, After he complimented them in every deserving trait, he said,

Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

1) Now listen closely to what is further said:

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore **from where you have fallen**; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

B. The Ephesian Christians, children of God, were not only in danger of falling but they had already done so. So may we, unless we exercise the greatest of care.

2. May we all strive to do what is right in the sight of God, knowing that we can fall from His grace if we are not careful. Let us purpose within ourselves to take this passage to heart:

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

A. This takes a willing desire on our part to stay focused, making sure that we do not fall from God's grace.

