

# Popular Misinterpreted Scriptures

## (Scriptures Most Often Quoted by Sinners)

The subtitle of this teaching may cause some people to fume. "*Sinners?!* And who do you think *you* are? We are all *sinners!*" they may say to themselves (or even aloud).

No, we are not all "sinners." The New Testament is quite clear that when we become born-again Christians (who have repented of sins and made Jesus Lord and Savior of our lives, accepting his blood atonement which takes away our sins), we are no longer sinners, but "saints." Yes, that's right! Saints! We don't have to be Matthew, Mark, John, Peter, etc., to be called a *saint*. We don't have to be dead and in heaven already to be classified as a *saint*. The Bible addresses blood-bought Christians (followers of Jesus Christ) as *saints*. We have to get that in our mindset, because Jesus died so we could be made holy.

"Be holy, for I am holy," God said:

**Lev 11:45** For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: **ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.** (KJV)

**Lev 20:7** Sanctify yourselves therefore, **and be ye holy:** for I am the LORD your God. (KJV)

I think He wants us to be holy. I don't think He's just pulling our leg, joking around.

"But all sin and come short of the glory of God," some say.

Correction. All *have sinned* (past tense) and come short of the glory of God.

**Rom 3:23** For all **have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God. (KJV)

That is why Jesus is the atoning victim (sacrifice) for *sins that are past*:

**Rom 3:25** Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of **sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God. (KJV)

"Well, Jesus said, "Let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone,"" is the next rebuttal.

Yes, Jesus said that, but who was he speaking to when he said it? If you go back and read the incident which took place, you will see that he was talking to the self-righteous, religious hypocrites—the pharisees and scribes. First of all, they brought to Jesus the woman caught in the act of adultery, but failed to bring the man, who was just as guilty as she was! Second of all, they were hypocrites who didn't practice what they preached. They loaded men with grievous burdens to carry (their religious legalities and vain traditions of man), yet they themselves would not move them with one finger (Mat 23:3,4). They strained at gnats (down to the jot and tittle of the Law), but swallowed camels (by failing to recognize the true Spirit behind the letter of the Law... Mat 23:24-28). They rebuked Jesus for healing people on the Sabbath Day, yet they loosed their oxen or donkeys to drink water on the Sabbath. Certainly people are more important than animals! (Lu 13:14-16). Jesus knew their hearts. He knew they were constantly trying to trap him in some sin (but they could find none). They were jealous of his power, and so they accused him of casting out devils by Satan's power (hmmm...that sounds like some churches today, who speak against believers who perform signs and wonders because they themselves experience none in their own churches or lives!). Also, these scribes and pharisees had sin in them, which could not be removed, but only temporarily *covered* by the blood of bulls and goats (animal sacrifices for their sins). They had to remember their sins constantly year by year, because it was not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could ever take away their sins (Heb 10:1-4/Heb 10:22). Only Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, could take away their sins by removing it out of their conscience (Heb 9:12-14). So, Jesus told them, "Let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone." They went out one by one, because scripture says that their own conscience convicted them! (John 8:3-11).

You see, when reading the Bible, people must read it ALL in CONTEXT, rather than taking verses out of context and isolating them, for Peter the apostle called this "twisting scripture to their own destruction." They must read entire chapters, understanding the time period, customs, particular problems and situations being addressed (such as the problems each new church faced in the Epistles). For instance, I can't write a corrective letter to the church in Harrisville, addressing problems some uneducated, rowdy female members are inciting there, and then expect the counsel to apply to the *entire* Christian assembly of *all* females *everywhere* in *every* city until the end of time, even though the women in other churches are educated, self-controlled, and not at all responsible for the problems that the women in Harrisville were creating. My corrective measures would only apply to women who are causing the same problem! That is why the Bible tells us we must "rightly divide the Word of God." We must base our doctrines on the *multitude* of counsel in God's Word. We must read ALL that God has on a matter before we make a doctrine out of it. We

can't randomly pick certain scriptures that support erroneous assumptions, simply because we like them and they justify something we are doing...or *not* doing. The Bible is full of wonderful counsel from God, but the Holy Spirit lets us know when and what applies to us, as each situation may be different. For example, during persecution, when do Christians turn and let someone hit them on the other cheek (or bash them repeatedly), and when do they flee for their lives to another city? God has to let them know. Each situation requires its own counsel. That's why it's important to *rightly divide* the Word. Another example: if women can't speak at all in church, then why did Paul the apostle say they could prophesy in church? Hmmm....perhaps someone better dig into a study on this subject rather than assuming the problem in Harrisville with the disorderly women there is the rest of the female world's problem! But, that's a whole 'nother ball game. So let's move on...

"Judge not lest ye be judged!"

Now there's a classic. That is the most often quoted bible verse among people who I don't think even believe in the validity of the Bible to begin with. Yet, when they wish to justify their sin, suddenly the Bible becomes the final authority. Quite humorous.

Again, let's look at who Jesus was addressing when he spoke this command.

**Mat 7:1** Judge not, that ye be not judged.

**Mat 7:2** For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

**Mat 7:3** And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

**Mat 7:4** Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

**Mat 7:5** Thou **hypocrite**, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. (KJV)

It's interesting to note that again, Jesus was directing this at the hypocrites who don't practice what they preach. They preach against sin, yet they are in sin themselves.

And notice, he tells them to **FIRST** cast the sin (beam) out of their own eye, and **THEN** they will be able to cast it out of their brother's eye.

So he doesn't tell them they can *never* judge. Rather, he tells them not to judge when they themselves are not right with God. When they get right with God, (repent of sin), *then* they can judge their brother for the purpose of helping *him* get right with God.

There *are* certain things the Bible tells us *not* to judge. For instance,

scripture is clear that we do not judge our brothers' salvation in matters of food (whether they are vegetarians or meat eaters, for example... Rom 14:1-23). And we are not to speak *evil* of them (slander them... James 4:11).

But when it comes to moral principles, we are allowed to judge, for the Bible says that *we who are spiritual judge all things* (1Cor 2:15). If we couldn't judge, we'd have no way of knowing right from wrong. If we could never discern the motives of others, we'd have no way of making good decisions for our own personal well being. So if someone molested us, let's say, we couldn't "judge" them as a molester. We couldn't make a decision based on their actions. How absurd!

Jesus also was clear in his teachings that we can judge a person by his fruit, because every tree is known by its fruit (Mat 7:15-23). If someone is *constantly* producing corrupt fruit (behaving badly in a way that is contrary to the Word of God), we know they are not godly! Or, if they commit adultery on their wife, we know they are an adulterer. No need for the wisdom of a rocket scientist or brain surgeon in this situation! If they like to go out and get smashed, we know they are a drunkard, and *drunkards* (by definition, those who get *tipsy*) will not inherit the kingdom of God! (1Cor 6:10). And when God tells His people to "come out from among them {the unbelievers/sinners/those of Satan} and be separate" (2Cor 6:14-17), how can they if they aren't allowed to judge who is a sinner?

I hope this teaching has enlightened your eyes. Remember, God gives grace through Jesus Christ. He wants people to turn to Him, repent of sin, and practice righteousness through the power of the Holy Spirit helping them to "put to death the deeds of the flesh." He's not out to destroy the whole world without cause. He loves you so much, that He sent His only Son to die for you. He came down from Heaven, took on the form of man, and paid the price for man's sin.

**1Co 6:20** For ye are **bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Won't you accept Him as your Savior today? He is waiting to help you overcome your sins. Come to Him as you are, in repentance with true humility of heart, and He will help you do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

**Pro 28:13** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.