

## Dead To Sin?

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by Wayne Goff

I have a copy of a cartoon with the caption of a man saying, “Well, I haven’t exactly **died** to sin, but I did feel *faint* once!” Unfortunately there is more truth to that than we would like to admit. Some Christians are participating today in sins that have become *acceptable* to our society. Just to name a few, social drinking, immodest dress, and dancing. I suspect there are some Christians who practice things *secretly* with the hope of never being found out — *fornication* coming to mind, of course.

Brethren need to realize that the aforementioned sins are not “preacher problems” as they are often viewed, but “God problems.” Preachers who preach against social sins do not make up the list of sins, God does! But I know preachers who have been fired, or who have left a congregation because the church would not stand with God on these issues. They have not “*died to sin.*”

Undoubtedly some do not know what the Bible teaches on these social sins, so if you fall into that category, feel free to ask me about them and I will give you a biblical answer to your question.

The apostle Paul was aware of the fact that some Christians in the first century argued that they could “*continue in sin that grace*” might abound (Romans 6:1). He squelched that idea vehemently (v. 2)! He explained that Christians have **died** to sin. What does that mean? It means that the Christian has *crucified sin, put it to death, stopped all participation* in it. Yes, we all may slip up from time to time, and when we do the blood of Christ will forgive us when we repent (1 John 1:7). But *living in sin* (*practicing sin* without any intention of repenting) is totally unacceptable.

Dear brethren, please do not deceive yourself into thinking that these socially acceptable sins are just problems of old preachers. Satan and the world would have you believe such to be true. Even Peter warned that the world will “*think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you*” (1 Pet. 4:4). Judgment Day is coming, and you and I will both answer to God for the deeds done in the body, whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10). Be sure you stand acceptable before Him — *not me!*

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