

Ezekiel 14:6

Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations."

- How many of you have ever sinned raise your hand?
- Okay, how many of you have sinned this week, raise your hand?
- Ok, one more. How many of you have sinned today?

Crazy questions, because every one of us, including myself, should be raising our hands at each of those questions. But maybe you were reluctant to raise your hand because you have an excuse, and even gave that excuse to God why you sinned.

But you know what? Nowhere in the bible is God asking us to explain why we sinned, because He knows why, and it all started way back in the Garden of Eden. Yet we have all at one time or another tried to explain to God why we committed a particular sin or sins and why we continue to. Well, when you try to explain why you sinned, what you are really doing is trying to justify why you sinned, and with your so called, justification, you will use that same excuse to do it over and over again, because in your mind, it's ok because you have concocted an excuse for why you do it.

But God is not asking you to explain why you sinned, He already knows why, and whatever reason it is, is not a good one. I know some people will use the lamest excuse that a Christian can ever use and that is, "Hey I'm human, God knows I'm not perfect, don't judge me." Or even, "I know God will forgive me, and He knows I am weak, so it's ok" Sure we are all human and we all will fall into sin everyday. Yet, how many times do we quote this next verse, but don't live it.

✠ **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* (underlined for emphasis)

What part of "***all things***" do we not get? If we are a "**new creation**" in Christ Jesus, we can't blame ourselves for falling into the sins that we used to do, because Jesus Christ has made us brand new, and we are not who we used to be, or we shouldn't be in regards to our lifestyle. The truth is we have decided at that particular moment to be disobedient to God. Even King David said after his sin of adultery with Bathsheba:

✠ **Psalm 51:4** *Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.*

How many excuses could King David had come up with to try an justify what he did?

“Well, she was out there for me to see from my roof top, totally naked and taking a shower, plus she was so beautiful I just couldn’t help myself or resist her... and” on and on. But King David did not say that, he poured his heart out to God and said:

“Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight.”

No excuses, just confession.

When you try to justify your sin, you are now saying that Jesus’ death on the cross was not enough, and your own justification has now turned your excuse as payment for your sin and turned it into a work. But God gives us two simple one word things to do when we fall into sin; **“Confess”** and **“Repent”**. But some have made up their own rules and think the two words are **“Explain”** and **“Repeat”**.

† **Psalm 32:5 (NLT2)** *Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Interlude*