

James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

I remember years ago when I was in my early 20's, that I got two tickets for speeding on the same street, in the same spot, within the same week. You would have thought I would have learned the first time, but apparently I didn't.

I also remember one time, many, many years later, that it was around 5 o'clock in the morning and I was going to work. I was driving through a neighborhood, and it was still dark out and there were no other cars on the road that early in the morning. So when I got to a stop sign, I rolled through it, which means I did not make a complete stop, because it was early in the morning and I didn't think it was a big deal, even though it was against the law. Sure, I did look both ways as I was heading towards the intersection, and there no cars and I did slow down, so I figured it was ok. Right after I did, this car came out of nowhere and pulled up right behind me. Then all of a sudden there were those pretty blinking red and blue lights in my rearview mirror, and no it wasn't Santa Claus with a Christmas tree in his sleigh following me, but a police officer who pulled me over, and despite the fact that there was no one else on the road, and I was going all of 10 MPH, he still gave me a ticket.

But here is something to think about. If you make a complete stop at every single stop sign, you have obeyed the law. Now if you drove 70 MPH in a 35 MPH zone to reach each stop sign, even though you stopped at every one, you have still broken the law by speeding, and you will get a ticket having to pay the price, not for running a stop sign, because you didn't, but for speeding. That's why there are so many driving laws instead of just one, and if you think about it, they are there for our safety.

Some people will look at others lifestyle and think, *"I'm not as bad as they are, so I must be okay in God's eyes."* Like if someone is in prison for murder, or robbing a bank, or stealing and all you have done was tell a little white lie (Note, in the bible a lie has no color or size) so you feel that you are not as bad as someone in prison. Which sounds good according to our standards, but they are not God's standards. ***For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.***

With that in mind you may think, well I might as well commit those other sins like cheating on my spouse, or drinking and doing drugs, or stealing from my employer, or watching porn, if God sees those other sins the same as telling a little lie. After all, God is going to forgive me anyway.

WRONG, that's not what the bible teaches us.

‡ **Romans 6:1-3** *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you*

not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Sometimes people think that way though. But as a Christian, there is that one word that even some Christians, and a lot of non Christians cringe at, and that word sounds to them like someone is running their fingernails across a chalkboard, and that word is “**Repent**”.

In order to repent, it’s not about thinking what sins can I do, or what sins are not as bad as other sins I have done, so I’ll go ahead and commit those lesser (in our eyes) sins. No, to be a Christian is to have the mind of Christ

† **1 Corinthians 2:16 (NLT2)** *For, “Who can know the LORD’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?” But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.*

And with that mindset, think of the most horrendous sin you personally can think of. Now think of our verse *For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.* Now before you willfully commit that sin that you may have been thinking of doing, remember that according to that verse, which is the Word of God, you will be guilty of that horrendous sin when you do. Which is what the next verse in James addresses.

† **James 2:11** *For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.*

Now, read it again and try changing the word **adultery** to the sin you may be thinking of doing, and the word **murder** to that horrendous sin you thought of. After you do, do you still want to do that sin? As a Christian I would hope the answer would be no, and you would think of this every time you are tempted to sin, and that you would use this as a means to help you not fall into sin.

For He who said, "Do not commit _____," also said, "Do not _____." Now if you do not commit _____, but you do _____, you have become a transgressor of the law.

† **Romans 6:16 (NLT2)** *Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.*