

Freedom from Sin Consciousness

From: Overcoming the Overwhelming:
A 40-Day Journey toward Rediscovering Faith in God

Taken from Day 4: Sin Consciousness
by C. D. Hildebrand

Note: One morning, I woke up with the term “sin consciousness” on my mind and at the same time, I saw a picture of an item in my life that I used daily. At first, I was unsure why God seemed to be connecting the term sin consciousness and this item. He told me to lay aside the item to become truly free. The complete story is recorded in Day 4. This is from later in the chapter:

Freedom from sin consciousness should be taught as one of the foundations of Christianity, but I don’t remember ever being instructed in this area; on the contrary, we were taught exactly the opposite (that we should constantly be aware of our sins), and as we’ve taught on the subject, we’ve observed that most Christians don’t know much about it.

Do you know that Jesus wants us to be free from the consciousness of sin? **I am not saying He wants us to be free from having a conscience or that it’s acceptable at any time to sin.** No, of course not! Nevertheless, Jesus became our sacrifice for sin so that we would be free from sin consciousness. If what I just wrote is something you have never heard, read this passage carefully.

Hebrews 10:1-13

*For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? **For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.** ³But in those sacrifices there is a **reminder of sins** every year. ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could*

take away sins. ⁵Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. ⁶In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"

⁸Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), ⁹then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰**By that will we have been sanctified (made holy) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** ¹¹And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never **take away sins.** ¹²But this Man, after He had offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴**For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

Jesus took away our sins and made us holy once for all time through the offering of His own body. The Old Covenant sacrifices could not "take away" sins, but Jesus offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**. By that one offering, He perfected us forever regarding sin. He is the Lamb of God who took away our sins (Jn. 1:29).

However, we, the church, add on other requirements for forgiveness to this glorious revelation and in doing so nearly negate it entirely. We say, "Well, He forgave our sins *initially* when we got saved, but after we are forgiven for our past sins, we need to *maintain* our forgiveness through repentance and confession." If this is true, wouldn't that mean that we can only be free from sin consciousness the day we are saved or immediately after confessing our sins? **We would need to be aware of our sins constantly so that we'd remember to confess them.** It would also mean that we don't really have a one-time forgiveness for all sin, but that we still need to follow the pattern of the Old Covenant and

“get” our sins forgiven, or as some have erroneously taught, “put our sins under the blood”.

Good news! Our sins, all of them, are already forgiven by the one-time offering of the body of Jesus Christ, and to top that off, “our sins and lawless deeds, He remembers no more” (Heb. 8:12). Why won’t we allow ourselves to accept this glorious truth? Are we afraid that if we really understood it, we would begin to sin more horrifically than we did before our salvation? **What part of “no more” don’t we understand?**

Bible translators chose “no more” for **oume eti** in the Greek, but does “no more” impress our English-speaking brains the way that it should? I don’t think so. **Eti** means “any longer”. If only the word **eti** was present in this sentence, we’d have, “Our sins and lawless deeds he remembers no longer,” which sounds the same as “no more” to English readers. Interestingly enough, the Greek text doesn’t just say **eti**. It reads **oume eti**. **Oume** is defined by Strong’s as “a double negative strengthening the denial”¹; not at all, any more, at all, by no means, neither, never, in no case, not at all”. In other words, we have the denial, **eti**, and then a double negative strengthening the denial, **oume**. How could we translate this emphasis into English? Perhaps we can draw from the Amplified Version’s translation of Hebrews 13:5 where **oume** is used to say that He will never leave us or forsake us. The Amplified reads, “[I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]” Using this translation, Hebrews 8:12 would read, “Their sins and lawless deeds I will not, I will not, I will not any longer remember; assuredly not!”

Does this make someone want to run out and begin sinning wildly? Of course not. It makes our hearts want to dance for joy! It causes us to love Him more than ever. God is NOT AT ALL by any means EVER holding our sins against us. Why not? It is because His Son *took away* our sins *forever*.

After we rediscovered the gospel of the grace of God, this truth of sin consciousness was already evident in most areas of our lives. We were experiencing this freedom long before we started pointing it out in our teachings. Yet, without knowing it, this item in our house that God pointed out to me that winter morning

¹ Underlining, boldface, and italics in definitions are that of the author.

was a constant reminder of my shortcomings and provoking sin consciousness in my heart—preventing me from being truly free.²

When I saw what He was revealing, I let go of it, but not without quite a bit of trepidation. (Picture a little girl handing her treasured security blanket to her Daddy.) It had been my helper and guide for most of my life, and now it was gone.

What happened next was shocking to me. In only a couple of days, a new freedom began to grow in my heart. I felt God's grace and mercy extended to me where I had previously felt daily guilt and shame. In fact, new faith began to grow in my heart. If God could show me this one little thing that I never knew was hurting and binding me and set me free from it, what else would He do to help me to overcome this overwhelming area of my life? My heart began to joyfully anticipate what He would do next.

This is not to say that God will wake each of you one morning and reveal to you exactly what He revealed to me, but I'm pretty sure that for those who are facing a hopeless situation, sin consciousness is at play somewhere. Are you, or is someone or something reminding you of what a "failure" you are? Those thoughts are not from God. By faith, may you begin to hear the heart of God saying to you, "My dearly loved child, I will not, I will not, I will not ever again at all remember your sins. Assuredly not!"



² By the way, sometimes there is a person in our lives who takes it upon himself to point out our faults. This is more difficult to correct especially if it is a family member. However, you can draw boundaries with such a person making it perfectly clear that it is not acceptable for him to serve in this role.