



## **Real Guilt and False Guilt**

*Most Christians are plagued with false guilt. The devil has been allowed to build up in them a stronghold so that they are constantly under condemnation. Before they can ever be free to trust and love our Lord, they must get free, and so they must learn the difference between real and false guilt.*

### **FALSE GUILT**

If the devil can keep Christians from a relationship and fellowship with the Lord, he has succeeded in a great victory for himself. One way he does this is by creating false guilt in the life of the Christian. Here are some of the ways he does it.

**1. You cannot live without sinning.**

No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is for the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:6-8

**2. Temptation is sin.**

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

**3. Thoughts are sin.**

In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. Ephesians 6:16

(Note: Thoughts are the fiery darts of the devil, if received, they will become sin.)

**4. Keeping us from understanding who and what we are in Christ.**

For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17

(Read Romans 4 and 8)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1



5. Keeping us from the Holy Spirit's control.

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me. John 16:7-10

6. Making us think that immaturity is sin.

*(We feel guilt because we cannot do as Jesus did. We fail to realize that Jesus was mature, and acted as He did because God did it through Him.)*

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.  
I John 2:12-13; I John 2:1

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUE GUILT AND FALSE GUILT

### TRUE GUILT

Created by the Holy Spirit.

For the purpose of redemption and reconciliation.

Based on the Word of God, is always specific and to the point – what you did wrong and what to do about it.

Is over as soon as repentance and confession take place.

Results in peace.

### FALSE GUILT

Created by the devil.

For the purpose of condemnation and fear.

Based on feelings – is always general. You can never quite get what you have done wrong.

Continues on and on and makes you confess over and over and never get peace.

Results in despair and dullness



### FINAL OBSERVATION

*It would be natural to expect the enemy to give his followers false peace and to seek to give to our Lord's followers false guilt. Remember:*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Romans 8:1, 32, 34