

The Perfect Sermon!

I. Imperfect Views Of Perfection

Perfectionism

1. Some Gnostics denied they sinned

Redefined sin...to excuse sin

2. Tertullian: Hb.6:6 proves post-baptismal sins are unforgiveable

3. Some Pentecostals: second blessing

Act of sanctifying grace
removes our 'will' to sin

Perfectionism

Imperfectionism

“Carnal Christian” Theory

Christians may live in sin
and still be saved

Some Christians lower Bible's
standards and thus claim perfection

Romans 12:2, NOT conformed

2 Co.5:17, NEW creature

I. Imperfect Views Of Perfection

II. Perfect Views Of
'Perfection Passages'

Noah, Gn.6:9

'Perfect': complete, whole, entire.
Blameless; having integrity.

But Noah did not live above sin.
Gn.9; Ro.3:23.

God, Mt.5:48

- Of God: absolute perfection + complete love.
- Of man: complete, *fully developed*. 1 Jn. 2:5; 4:18 (directional).
 - Who is absolutely perfect in the way God is?

Noah, Gn.6:9

God, Mt.5:48

Rich ruler, Mt.19:21

- Lacking one thing: incomplete.
- Unwilling to do better: fatal.

Noah, Gn.6:9

God, Mt.5:48

Rich ruler, Mt.19:21

Christian, Ja.1:4

But let patience have its perfect work,
that you may be perfect and complete,
lacking nothing.

‘Wanting nothing necessary to complete-
ness’ – Th.

I. Imperfect Views Of Perfection

II. Perfect Views Of Perfection Passages

III. Penetrating
'Perfection Passages'

1. NT never says Christians never sin

‘Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me’ – Ph.3:12.

¹Not already
perfected (12)

²As many as are
mature (15)

¹Moral and spiritual perfection.
His struggle against sin continues.

²Mature, *full-grown, adult.* V.16

1. NT never says Christians never sin

- 1 John 3:6-9
- Does not contradict 1 John 1:8-10

Does not 'make a practice of...' (SEB)

Does not 'keep on sinning' (ESV)

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? – Romans 6.

1. NT never says Christians never sin

2. Bible records sins of best people...

NOAH

ABRAHAM

JOB

DAVID

PETER

1. NT never says Christians never sin
2. Bible records sins of best men...
3. 'Perfect' means different things

Heb.2:10; 5:9; 7:28, qualify, consecrate

Jesus: only one who never sinned...
"made perfect"? (4:15)

Temptation, suffering, death,
exaltation ...qualified' Savior

His 'consecration' came after His
death – Jn.1:29; Lv.21:10

1 Co.14:20, opposite of children; grown
up, mature. (Hb.5:14)

1. NT never says Christians never sin
2. Bible records sins of best men...
3. 'Perfect' means different things

Heb.12:23, reach goal: 'complete in heaven' (11:40).

– In the meantime (6:1)

James 2:22, faith completed by what it does.

1. NT never says Christians never sin

2. Bible records sins of best men...

3. 'Perfect' means different things

4. Bible denies perfection doctrine

1 Kings 8:46

Mt.6:12

James 3:2

1 Jn.1:8-10...

Christians never excuse sin...
Always seek forgiveness

I. Imperfect Views Of Perfection

II. Perfect Views Of Perfection Passages

III. Penetrating Perfection Passages

**IV. Imperfect Views
Of Perfection**

1. 'I must wait until I'm perfect to become a Christian'

Consistency is a rare virtue.

Go to doctor...

Go to mechanic...

Phil.3:12-14, Paul

1 Jn.1, John

2. 'Since all Christians sin, why fight it?'

1 Jn.2:1, indifference to sin is fatal

'I'm imperfect husband, so I quit trying.'

Nu.15: one who quits trying passes from weakness to presumption.

'Always strive for perfection: never believe you have reached it.'

Romans to Revelation: consistent message: **1**grow; **2**repent.

3. 'Since I'm not perfect, I can't
share gospel with others.'

"Are you perfect? Then quit telling me
what to do."

Ps.51? Mt.28?

"I'm as good as hypocrites in church."

Of course: Ac.5

4. 'Since we are not perfect, we can't discipline other sinners.'

- 1 Co.5, Corinth
- Ga.6:1, the spiritual . . .

- 1) ...confess their sins
- 2) ...*become* without sin (1 Jn.1:9)
- 3) ...are not in same category as one who will not confess (1 Jn.5:16-17)

5. 'Since we are not perfect,
God accepts anything we offer.'

- Mal.1:8.
- Jn.4:24. (Illustrated in Jn.12)
- Rv.4-5
 - How to prepare for perfect worship?
 - Constantly improve worship now.
 - Ja.3:1-2

- I must wait until I'm perfect to become a Christian
- Since all Christians sin, I should quit fighting it
- Since I'm not perfect, I can't share the gospel
- Since we are not perfect, we cannot discipline others
- Since we are not perfect, God accepts anything we offer Him

James 2:10-11

- Readers' response: 'What if I am partial? I keep so many other commands . . . '

Reference – Ex.20:13-14.
May we do one if we avoid the other??

Moses: Nu.20 –

¹ONE SIN

²LATE IN LIFE

³PROVOKED

⁴'SMALL SIN'

⁵MOST SYMPATHIZE

James 2:10-11

- Readers' response: "I keep so many other commands . . ."

NEVER justify sin.
NEVER quit growing.

Reference: Ex.20:13-14.

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Rich ruler: model except for one flaw...