

When the Bible Says “All Have Sinned,” Does That Mean There Are No Saints on Earth?

The Bible states, “All have sinned,” but does this mean there are no saints anywhere? Let’s explore this carefully.

Romans 3:22-23 (ESV) says:

“This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Notice the text says “all have sinned” (past tense), not “all are sinning.” This means there was a point in the past when sin entered humanity, affecting everyone, not that every person continuously sins without exception.

The root cause of this universal sinfulness is the original sin committed by Adam and Eve. Scripture teaches that through one man’s disobedience, sin and its consequences entered the world, affecting all his descendants:

Romans 5:19 (NIV):

“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many

were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

In other words, because we are all “in Adam” by birth, we inherit a sinful nature. This is what theologians call original sin—a state of moral corruption and separation from God that we are born into, without having chosen it ourselves.

This is why even children can display sinful traits such as anger, selfishness, or pride. It is not just behavior learned, but a condition of the human heart inherited from Adam’s fall.

However, the good news is that this condition can be reversed through Jesus Christ. Jesus is often called the “Second Adam” or “Last Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:45), who restores what was lost by Adam’s sin:

Romans 5:18-19 (NIV):

“Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

When we repent of our sins and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, we are spiritually born again—made new creations through the Holy Spirit. This new birth cleanses us from original sin and empowers us to live holy lives.

1 John 1:8-9 (ESV):

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 3:9 (NIV) further affirms this new reality:

“No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning because they have been born of God.”

This doesn’t mean believers never struggle with sin, but that sin no longer masters them. They have been set free from the dominion of sin and live empowered by God’s grace.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV):

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

So yes, there are truly saints on earth—people who have been made holy through faith in Christ, living lives that please God.

Psalm 16:3 (NIV) says:

“As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.”

Final Reflection:

Are you a saint? Have you repented, accepted Jesus, and been baptized? Jesus stands at the door of your heart, ready to come in and transform your life. Those who receive Him are born again and will one day be taken to heaven to live eternally with God. Those who reject Him remain separated and face eternal judgment.

Maranatha! — The Lord is coming!

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