



**The  
Believers  
Worship  
Center**

# **Sin Binds You to be Bound to Accountability**

**Ministered March 2009**

**By**

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## **Sin Binds You to be Bound to Accountability**

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### **Abstract**

For years Christians have attached “binding and loosening” to the devil and demons. To my surprise, I have found many Christians are unlearned about the true meaning of these terms and the scriptures referenced for justification of their use. The Lord has provided greater revelation concerning this terminology within the Christian community for our understanding and liberty through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:19 and Matthew 18:18 are frequently quoted to stop principalities. For clarity and understanding one must read Matthew 18: 15-20. From the text of the scripture, Jesus is actually talking about a sinning brother and how to reconcile offenses. The scriptures do not deal with binding the devil or demons. If there is no forgiveness then it is binding, meaning the sin has stopped relationship on earth and it is now recorded in heaven. When sin is forgiven, it is released on earth and in heaven before God. Our conduct and character is accountable before God. Therefore, we must be honest about how we are going to build relationships with other people as Christians.

A relationship with a person means we have connections, associations, and involvement. This also means that emotions are there. This is where human nature begins. Human nature can cause us to sin and every Christian must be mindful of that.

Romans 8:5 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.* This means the Christian has a choice how they want to use their mind. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 proves that Christians are not to handle problems (spiritual warfare) according to the flesh. Arguments, thoughts, and knowledge against God have to be brought into the obedience of Christ. Your emotions, thoughts, and fleshly knowledge can be held captive to obey the Spirit of God.

According to Romans 7:23, Christians must remember that the law of sin is to keep members of the body (your five senses) in captivity. To use your mind to perform in its old nature will keep your body in the nature of sin. Therefore, a Christian must understand the realm of the Spirit and what prevents Him from moving in their life.

Ephesians 4:30-31 tells us what grieves the Holy Spirit. You can not let bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice be a part of you. All of this is a part of iniquity that can

work through someone's character. Grief means distress, sorrow, being at a loss, and this is what happens to the Holy Spirit when people keep Him grieved on behalf of heaven to move in their life on earth.

When a Christian does not forgive a person, they are bound by bitterness. If you are bound, you are not walking in the love of God. Bitterness means iniquity. How can a Christian do the will of God with bitterness in their heart? The scriptures tell us to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as Christ forgave us. If a Christian does not obey the word of God, they must give an account for disobedience.

*Learn to understand the scripture*

Whatever you bind on earth will be bound on heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven can be answered in John 20:23. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained. Both scriptures are dealing with the sins of a person, not the devil or demons. To retain means to continue to hold, to keep in mind or remembrance. God remembers sins that have gone without repentance, and so does the brethren you offended or sinned against. The authority of the church remembers unrepented sins. Matthew 18:17 says, *And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.* These types of Christians are identified as bound and the authority of God says their unrepented sins are retained for accountability. A good example of this is in Acts 8:18-24. There was a man named Simon who practiced sorcery. He thought he could purchase the Holy Spirit with money. Peter rebuked him. In verse 23 it was revealed that Simon was bound by bitterness and iniquity. Peter told him to repent of his wickedness and Simon pleaded for prayer not to be bound by iniquity. To be released in the earth he had to repent from the heart, which triggered a response for release

in heaven from the wickedness of sorcery. Verse 24 says *Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."* Simon sought prayer for repentance. Matthew 18:16 becomes a reality, a manifestation of God's word. After Philip finished ministering the word of God and performing miracles in Samaria, the Apostles sent Peter and John. The two Apostles were the two witnesses of God for authority. They were not only sent to confirm Philip's revival, but to establish the plan of salvation to receive the Holy Spirit. Simon the sorcerer lived in Samaria, and God wanted to make sure that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word would be established. The salvation of God brought joy to the city, and Simon and his wickedness was shut down. The moment Simon asked for forgiveness, Matthew 18:19-20 was fulfilled. The scriptures tell us that Simon also believed and was baptized, meaning he was converted and came into agreement not to have his sins bound to him. The scripture says, "again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am in the midst of them." The Apostles Peter and John did come together with Simon to put things in order. Simon might not have liked what Peter said, but this correction was right to deal with his heart.

For a person to repent means the Lord is in the midst. Did Simon really repent from his heart? It could be open for argument because he asked Peter to pray for him instead of praying to the Lord himself. Peter did tell Simon to repent and pray to God himself. However, when people come to the altar, ministers do lead them to Christ with their help in prayer. People do ask ministers to pray for them pertaining to their sins. Does this mean their hearts aren't right? Simon asking Peter to pray for him that the judgment of God would not come upon him has been

an argument of many theologians. Much has been written that his heart was not right, but I will not be the judge of that.

Romans 15:30 says, *Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me.* Prayer can be requested, but how involved Peter was with praying with Simon in the prayer of repentance no one knows. Simon was so wicked in his practice of sorcery to gain money that the word “simony” was named after him. Simony is the buying or selling of sacred Christian objects or trying to buy or sell ecclesiastical preferments to benefit from financially. Some ministers do it all the time with prayer clothes, oil, and holy waters as a spiritual manifestation for people. Simons’ asking for prayer means he did not want his sins held against him.

When people are bound by sin, they must give an account for the wrong they have done. To give an account is to give an explanatory statement about your conduct to a superior and for Christians, our superior is God. It also means to keep a record or provide a report on someone to answer for their conduct. There are scriptures to prove that sins are retained on people for not repenting, which means they are bound to their sin. Why do we repent, because we want forgiveness from God and each other. If a person goes to the brother they offended, repent and ask for forgiveness, that sin of offense is released in heaven because it was released on earth.

God does keep a record on the life of human beings. Revelation 20:11-15 proves God has and is keeping a record of what people have done in life, and we will be judged accordingly.

The following scriptures provide support to the truth that what goes on down here on earth, is recorded in heaven. This is with regard to retaining sins, being bound by iniquity, and not repenting of wicked deeds.

1. Matthew 12:36-37 <sup>36</sup> But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

2. Romans 2:5-6 <sup>5</sup> But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who “will render to each one according to his deeds”:

3. Romans 14:11-12 <sup>11</sup> For it is written:“ As I live, says the LORD,Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” <sup>12</sup> So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

4. 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

5. Philippians 4:17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Here it states that God has kept a record of the good someone has done and it abounds to their account in Heaven.

6. Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

7. Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. It is clear to see that church leadership must report to God and give an account for the souls of men.

8. 1 Peter 4:3-6 <sup>3</sup> For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and

abominable idolatries. <sup>4</sup> In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. <sup>5</sup> They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

### *Conclusion*

The scriptures prove that when people sin and fail to repent and ask for forgiveness they are bound to that sin, and it is retained in heaven. Romans 16:17-20 tells us to note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.. To “note” is to have a brief written record of something to assist the memory for future reference. To avoid is to keep away from, clear of, or shun a person. When we take note and avoid, it is because we have a record of an offense and behavior which we have retained and of which the offender is bound. Whatever we bind down here on earth, is bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth is loosed in heaven. Be convinced that this scripture deals with the offenses of the sin of men.

References

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