

All sins have a deteriorating effect upon those who commit them. But none seems to effect such a rapid corruption of character and personality as that of harboring grudges. Unfortunately, the guilty party is usually the last one to realize that any change has taken place.

So, brother or sister, turn loose of that grudge you have carried all these years. Repent of your lack of love. Forgive and be free from that horrible weight of both the grudge and the guilt of sin.

FOUND "WITHOUT SPOT AND BLAMELESS"

The Bible admonishes Christians to "be diligent to be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2 Peter 3:14, NKJV). "Pure and undefiled religion before God" not only involves doing good, but keeping "oneself unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27).

What we all need to realize is that we are going to be "FOUND" of Christ when He comes again, one way or another. We can be "found" of Him spiritually "spotted and stained," or we can be "found" of Him "without spot and blameless." The choice is ours to make. But we must remember that however we're "found" of Him will determine where we spend eternity. Thus, "what manner of persons ought you to be" (2 Peter 3:11)?

Prior to his conversion, the apostle Paul was well-positioned for advancement among his fellows, for the obtaining of fame and prestige. (Read Philippians 3:5-6; Acts 22:3a; Galatians 1:14). But concerning all the things for which he could have boasted, and the ambitions he probably had, Paul said unequivocally, "whatsoever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him..." (Philippians 3:7-9a, NASV).

How should we want to be "found" of Christ? Contaminated and polluted with the spots and stains of sin? Or holy and blameless, faithful children of God, "in Him," in whom we are partakers of all spiritual blessings (see Ephesians 1:3)?

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