

You're NOT a Sinner Saved by Grace

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? Read Aloud

I got the ideas here from a video I saw on Instagram by [@katieabaker](#) and it fits so well with this website. Here's a summary based on what she said.

Stop Calling Yourself a “Sinner Saved by Grace” — Here's What Scripture Actually Says

If you grew up in church, you've said it a thousand times: *“I'm just a sinner saved by grace.”* It sounds humble. It sounds spiritual. It's practically a Christian catchphrase.

But here's the uncomfortable truth: that exact phrase is nowhere in the Bible. Not once.

That doesn't mean it's a lie — grace absolutely saves sinners. But the way we've turned it into a permanent identity label may be doing more damage to our faith than we realize.

What the Text Actually Says

Look closely at Romans 3:23-24:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Notice the grammar. **Sinning is past tense** — something that happened. Justification is what follows. Paul isn't describing an ongoing identity where “sinner” is the noun and “saved” is just a footnote attached to it. He's describing a transaction that already took place: you sinned, and you *were* justified — declared righteous, as a gift.

That's a completely different structure than “sinner saved by grace,” where sin stays the anchor of who you are and grace just softens it.

From Sinner to Saint: What the Bible Actually Calls You

Scripture doesn't leave believers stuck with “sinner” as an identity after the cross. Instead, it uses language like:

- **New creation** — 2 Corinthians 5:17: “if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.”

- **Righteous** — 2 Corinthians 5:21, which says believers become “the righteousness of God” in Christ.
- **Saints** — Paul regularly addresses entire churches this way, including in Ephesians 1:1 and Philippians 1:1.
- **Chosen and adopted** — Ephesians 1:4-5 describes believers as chosen and adopted as God’s children.
- **A royal priesthood, a holy nation** — 1 Peter 2:9 describes a people who were once not God’s people, now called out of darkness.

None of these labels are conditional add-ons to a sinner identity. They’re presented as *replacements* for it.

Why This Isn’t Just Semantics

Here’s the deeper issue: **identity drives behavior**. If you fundamentally believe you’re a sinner who happened to catch a break, you’ll keep acting like sin is simply who you are — a permanent nature you’re managing rather than an old self that’s been put to death.

Romans 6:6 puts it directly: “our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with.” Paul isn’t describing damage control. He’s describing death and replacement.

This matters because a lot of church culture, even unintentionally, keeps people in a **guilt-and-shame loop**. Confess this week’s failures, get reminded you’re covered, come back next Sunday and repeat.

It can quietly reinforce sin-consciousness instead of what Scripture calls believers toward: gospel-consciousness, which is living from righteousness already given, not earned week to week.

Past Tense, Not Present Identity

To be clear, this isn’t about denying that you sin or pretending imperfection doesn’t exist. It’s about where you plant your identity flag.

You *were* a sinner — past tense, Romans 3:23. Now, according to Romans 3:24, you *are* justified. Not “justified but still fundamentally a sinner.” Justified. Made right. Called a saint.

So next time you’re tempted to introduce yourself as “just a sinner saved by grace,” pause. Ask whether that phrase reflects what the gospel actually accomplished — or whether it’s holding onto an identity Jesus already put to death.

You're not a sinner clinging to grace. You're a new creation who used to be a sinner. Start speaking — and living — like it.

Scripture quotations from the NIV unless otherwise noted.

Original article: <https://simplygetsaved.com/2026/09/12/youre-not-a-sinner-saved-by-grace/>