

Principles to Help Us Understand Sinfreeness

By Nyron Medina



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1. Three major Adventist scholars have destroyed the true Biblical teaching of Sinfreeness or sinfreeness within Adventism. They are:

- a. George R. Knight: In his book he tells us the following error.

*“It is now time to turn to the Bible words used to express the English word perfection. None of them mean ‘sinlessness’...” **George R Knight, I Used To Be Perfect**, p. 71.*

*“Those in the second group are defined by John as being sinless, even though they still commit acts of sin for which they need to be forgiven.” **Ibid**, p. 75*

*“Thus we can be perfect or sinless in attitude without being perfect or sinless in action...” **Ibid**, p. 78.*

- b. Marvin Moore: He has written some books that all technically deny that a person can be sinfreeness now before Jesus comes again. This claim is backed by much sophisticated errors.

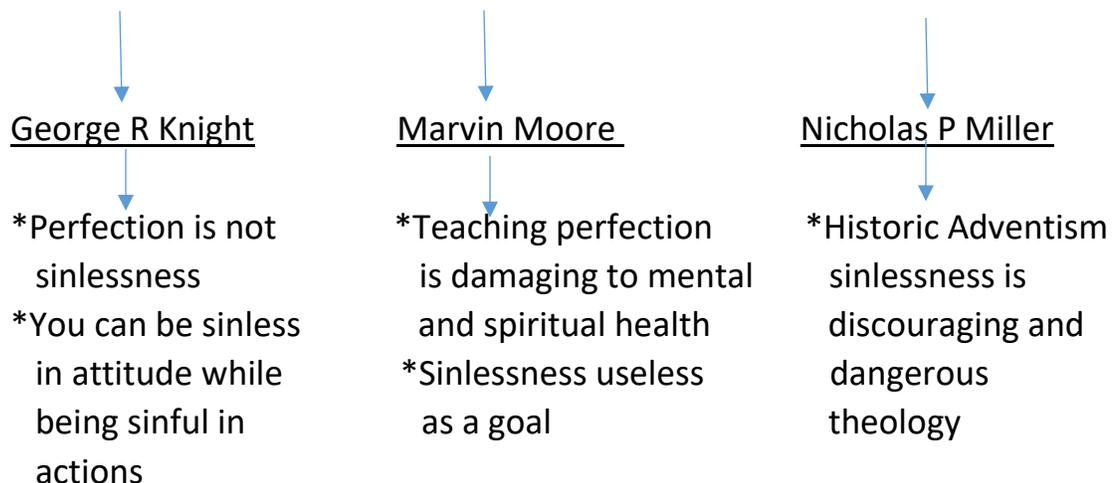
*“What I do know is that an insistence on absolute perfection is damaging to our mental and spiritual health and decreases rather than increases how prepared we are for the end time.” **Marvin Moore, The Delay**, p. 157.*

*“However, I must also say that (i) sinlessness is useless as a goal for us to aim at; (ii) pursuing sinlessness can be spiritually harmful and (iii) focusing on sinlessness can lead people into serious theological aberrations.” **Marvin Moore, The Close of Probation**, p. 221.*

- c. **Niholas P. Miller**: This is a carefully crafted statement that uses “love” to mitigate against the real idea of Sinfreeness (perfection).

*“Unfortunately, in some “historic Adventist” circles, perfection and salvation are tied very tightly together They believe that those living at the time of the end must be perfect, and they believe that we are living at the time of the end, so the logical conclusion is that we cannot really have the assurance of salvation unless we are perfect. Thus, the standard of salvation faced by those living at the end of time is much higher than what all those who have gone before had to meet. This is a harmful discouraging and dangerous theology that has led many people to despair and robbed them of the joy and peace of the Christian life and faith.” **Nicholas P. Miller, The Reformation And the Remnant, p. 128-129.***

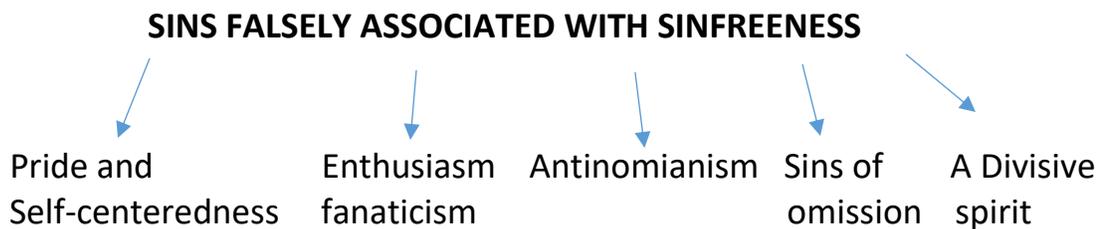
UNDERMINING OF SINFREENESS IN SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM



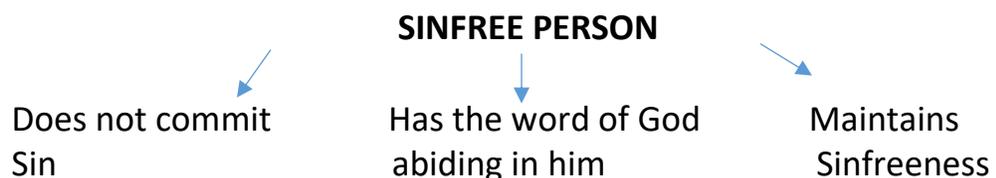
2. Unfortunately, Mr. Miller is another of the many ministers that is destroying the SDA Church with false **anti-Sinfreeness (perfection)** doctrines. He agrees with these **false charges** that misrepresent what attaining sinfree perfection at all times, actually means. He says this:

“When Wesley spoke or wrote about perfection, he warned about several dangers that commonly accompany the attainment of this state. His comments on this list of dangers continue to be relevant to the topic within the Adventist Church.” Ibid, p. 127.

3. Here are the list of incredible sins that are wrongly associated with ‘attaining’ Sinfreeness according to Mr. Miller. They are:
 - a. Pride and self-centeredness
 - b. Enthusiasm and fanaticism
 - c. Antinomianism
 - d. Sins of omission
 - e. A divisive spirit



4. Scriptures tell us that the sinfree person do no iniquity. He does not commit sin because the word of God stays in him. We are not told that those who are sinfree or claim to be so, must have certain horrible sins associated with their Sinfreeness (Ps 119:1-3; 1Jn 3:6, 9).
5. Committing sin means that the person is sinful NOT sinfree. These sins occur because the person is not converted, hence he is not sinfree (Rom 7:14-18).



6. In our study on **Sinfreeness**, we shall use the word **perfection** associated with it, because the Bible does teach **sinfreeness perfection**. (Eze 28:15; Ps 37:37, 38).



7. There are **three types of perfection**. They are:

- a. Divinity Perfection
- b. Bodily Perfection
- c. Sinfreeness (Moral) Perfection



8. **Divinity perfection** is **God's perfection** which no man can be or have. God is perfect in all things. He has **no limits** to creating all things. He can know the future. No situation is too hard for Him to solve, for He is perfect in all His ways (Ps 18:30; Deut 32:4).

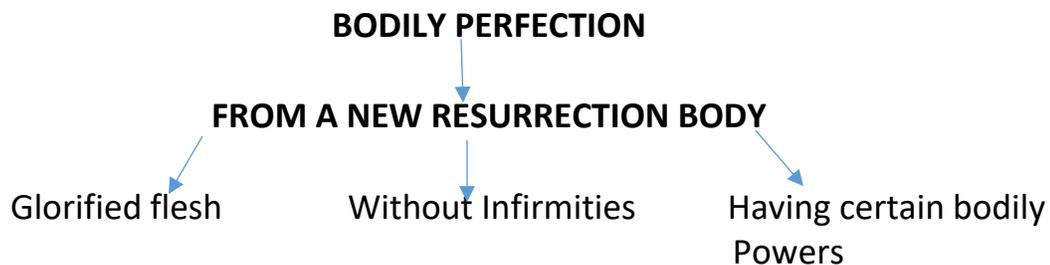


INCAPABLE OF IMPROVEMENT

- a. When people claim that we cannot be perfect or else we would be God, this is **NOT** the **perfection** we are speaking about. This is perfection as **being God**, and creation cannot be God.

9. **Bodily perfection** is the **new sinfree body** that is to be given to the **righteous** in the first resurrection. This is not our possession now, but will be given by God freely to all His people (1Cor 15:40, 42-44).

a. When we are told that we **cannot** be perfect until we have a **new glorified body**. The claim is that we still make mistakes. We forget and cannot comprehend all that we are taught; these are **neural infirmities** in the flesh that we still do. However they do not make us cease to be sinfree. It is a mistake to think that these infirmities have to go before we have Sinfreeness. However, these and other infirmities will go when we gain a new glorified body; thus have **bodily** perfection (1Cor 15:50-55).



b. Here is Mrs. White speaking about **bodily perfection**.

“We cannot say, “I am sinless, till this vile body is changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body.” Ellen G. White, **Selected Message Book Three**, p. 35

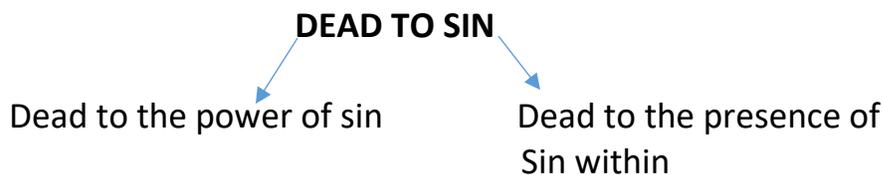
10. The **perfection** we are to have now is **sinfree perfection**. This simply means the **absence of sin in the person** because the person has been made **free from sin by God** (Eze 28:15).

a. A sinfree person **keeps all God’s commandments** (Ps 119:1-3).

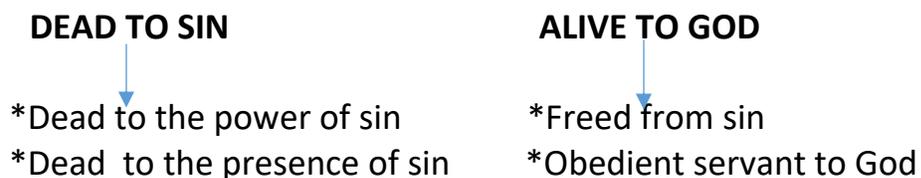
b. In the Bible we are told that **we must be sinfree** (1Jn 3:9; 1Jn 5:18).



- c. We are told that we are to be **dead to sin** and **alive unto God**. We are to **esteem ourselves** to be indeed dead to sin. (This is not **boasting** that we are sinfree but acknowledging it, so that we can follow the next step to **maintain** the dead to sin/alive to God experience, by sanctification (Rom 6:1,2,6,7,10-13).
- d. **Dead to sin** is dead to the **power of sin** and it also means dead to the **presence of sin** in the person (Rom 6:11-14, 18, 22).



- e. To be **dead to sin** and to be **alive to God** means to be **free from sin within the person** and to be **free from the power of sin**. It also means to be living **sinfree** as a servant of God (Rom 6:6, 7, 11-14, 17-22, 1, 2).



CEASED FROM SINING (LIVING SINFREE)

11. We need to ask ourselves, **when** are we made **sinfree**? Is it the result of years of **struggle with** sin or **against** sin? Or are we **given Sinfreeness** as a **gift** of God? Sinfreeness is **given** to us at **Justification** (Rom 6:6, 7, 18, 22).

a. We call this **given Sinfreeness** (1Jn 1:9; 1Jn 3:9).



b. Thus **given Sinfreeness** or **given sinfree perfection** is received from **God** in **Justification**. This means that we are **transformed** from **sinning to Sinfreeness** (Rom 3:30; Rom 12:2; Tit 3:5-7).



12. There are **two** types of **Sinfreeness** (perfection).

a. **Immediate Sinfreeness** given by **justification**. God does not part deliver us from sinning, so that we have **part sinning** and **part Sinfreeness**. We do not have part (or half) of loving God and our fellowmen and half hating them. (1Cor 15:34; 2Cor 5:17).

b. We also have **achieved Sinfreeness** (perfection) which is a **perfection** that comes through a process of **victory over sin and sinning** that is called **sanctification**. This is also called **all-times Sinfreeness** (perfection) (Ps 119:1-3, 9, 11; 1Jn 5:18).

TWO TYPES OF SINFREENESS (PERFECTION)

Immediate Sinfreeness
(Perfection)

JUSTIFICATION

Achieved Sinfreeness
(Perfection)

SANCTIFICATION

13. When we are made sinfree by Justification, we may fall into sin sometimes and then be recovered by Justification again. Looking at our history then, we find that we are sometimes sinfree (when justified) and sometimes sinning (when we give up Sinfreeness to sin). This checkered history we call punctuated Sinfreeness (perfection) because of the times of Sinfreeness interrupted by times of sinning. It is this that leads some Christians to say that a person cannot be sinfree or perfect. But they completely overlook the time when the person is sinfree and is abiding in Sinfreeness. This attitude is erroneous (1Jn 2:1).

PUNCTUATED SINFREENESS (PERFECTION)

Sometimes sinfree (perfect)

Sometimes sinning

- a. Eventually we grow to lessen the time of sinning until we grow to cease sinning completely and have all-times Sinfreeness (perfection). This is the perfection we are to work to achieve in the gradual growth of sanctification (Ps 119:11, 44; Ps 106:3; Phil 3:12-15).

ALL TIMES SINFREENES (PERFECTION)

CEASE SINNING COMPLETELY

- b. Thus this chart shows us the two differences in identifying Sinfreeness (perfection).

TWO DIFFERENCES OF SINFREENESS

Punctuated Sinfreeness

All-times Sinfreeness

14. Imparted grace also adequately explains Sinfreeness (perfection).

- a. Lingering victory coming from given Sinfreeness (in justification) is the same as abiding Sinfreeness since the person, by lingering or staying in the truth, stays or abides in Sinfreeness (1Jn 3:6).
- b. Conquering Victory is maintaining the given Sinfreeness by sanctified overcoming (Ps 119:9, 11; 1Jn 5:18).
- c. Achieved victory is the same as achieving all times Sinfreeness (perfection). This is so because the victor achieved is ceasing to sin forever (Rev 14:1-5; Rev 15:2).
- d. Sealed perfection is being sealed in the state of all times Sinfreeness (perfection). (Rev 7:3, 4; Rev 14:1).

IMPARTED GRACE

Lingering Victory

Abiding
Sinfreeness

Conquering Victory

Maintaining given
Sinfreeness

Achieved Victory

all time
Sinfreeness

Sealed Perfection

Sealed all times
Sinfreeness

15. In closing, we need to understand that at the present, while we are yet overcoming, we do have current salvation (as we abide in the given Sinfreeness). And as we overcome our sins in sanctification gradually, we will finally reach achieved salvation.

THE SALVATION WE HAVE

Current Salvation

Achieved Salvation

Amen