

Righteousness Consciousness

Romans 3:21-31, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Just because you make a cabinet doesn't make you a carpenter. Running a stop sign once doesn't make you a criminal.

If you make cabinets daily, you may be a carpenter. If you habitually ignore traffic signs, you may be a criminal.



If you are saved, you are no longer a sinner! Religious thinking calls the disciple of Christ "a sinner saved by grace. But sin and salvation are exclusive; you CANNOT be a sinner if you're saved!

When you think of God's characteristics, what comes to mind?

- Holy
- Just
- Righteous
- Pure

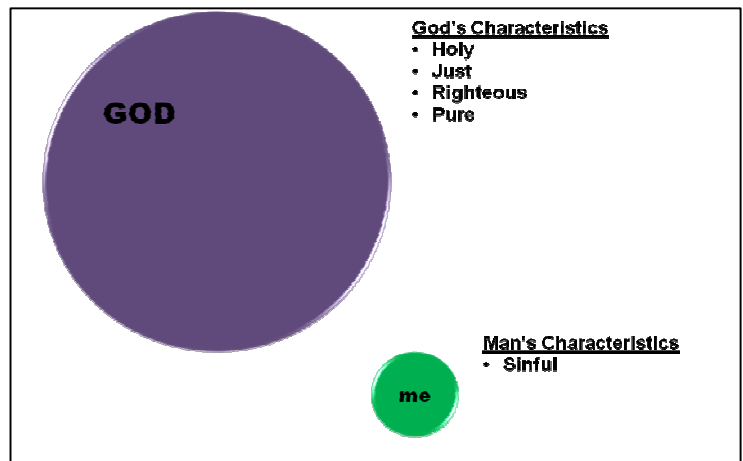
Outside of God, we are a sin-stained mess! Isaiah 64:6 says, "...our righteousness is as filthy rags before Him."

Now God is holy, therefore, sin cannot stand in His presence.

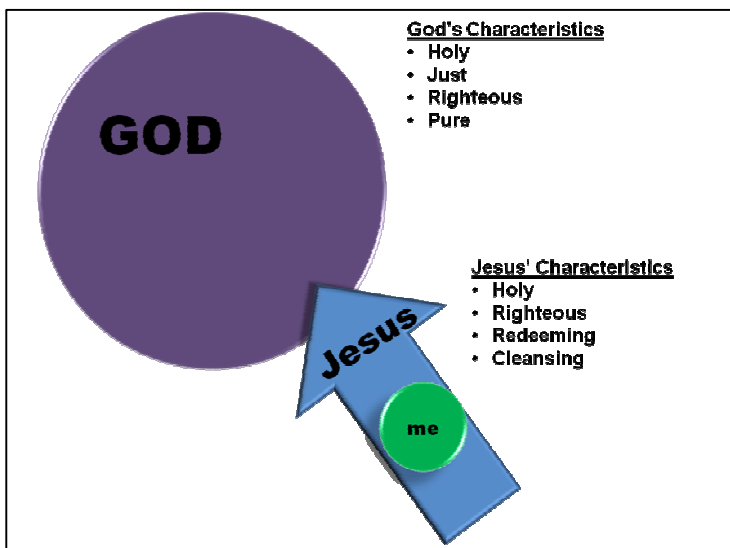
Outside God, you can only be sin-conscious. Sin-consciousness simply means you commit sin because it is your nature by birth.

When you are sin-conscious, you are condemning of yourself and others.

God gave the law but the law could only convict men of sin, it could not make anyone righteous!



But then, along comes Jesus! The Word made flesh. The fulfillment of the law.



Jesus comes and washes away our sin in His Blood!

Note Jesus' characteristics:

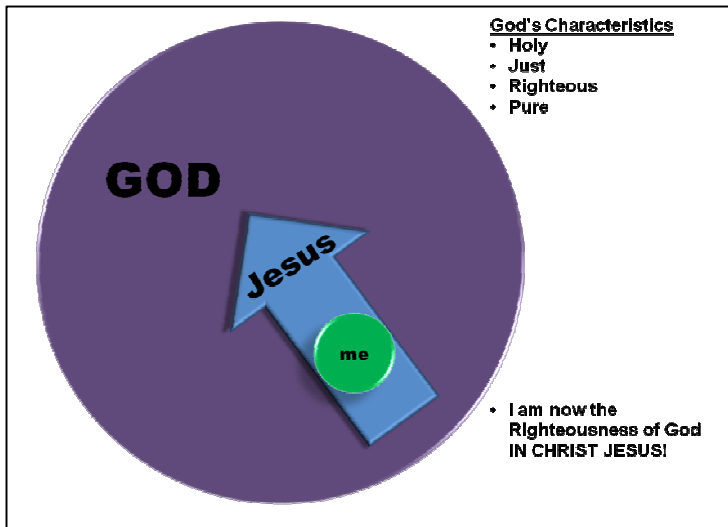
- Holy
- Righteous
- Redeeming
- Cleansing

(there's much more, but space and time is limited!)

As shown by the diagram at the left, there is one way to God and that is Jesus!

Now, thanks be to God, Jesus reconciles us to Himself! In financial terms, ***we are put back on God's ledger and we are counted as assets!***

Jesus restores us unto Himself and The Father! And as we abide in Him as His word abides in us (John 15:4-7), we abide in God.



If you are saved, you are **IN CHRIST!**

Once you are in Christ, you become a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17), the old man is dead!

Notice here that God's Characteristics do not change but, through the New Birth, yours do. By the Blood of Jesus, your character changes! His characteristics are imputed to you! Praise God!

Born again, you receive a new consciousness, **a righteousness consciousness!**

What does it mean to be righteousness-conscious? That when you sin, you're immediately convicted of it and you turn and repent!

In conclusion, you are not a worm! You are not a wretch! You are not a sinner! **You are the Righteousness of God IN CHRIST JESUS!**