

Intro: Have you ever heard the statement 'I was born this way'? Most often it comes up in conversation when someone feels threatened by another person's morality. The statement is meant to be an empowering one which says 'you can't judge my choices because I didn't have a choice'. After all, if the smoker was born with a genetic propensity for smoking - you can't blame him can you? Or the alcoholic? Or the homosexual? In the end, this argument allows the person to be 'liberated' from that which would seek to limit their behavior because they are 'only being true to themselves'.

It places the discussion at the same level as racism, sexism, and many other things - because it presumes to claim that their topic is an unchangeable. "I was born this way" is the battlecry of a generation of self proclaimed misfits that glory in their shame. They boldly approach Christians, trying to cast off the "stigma of judeo-christian ethics".

How are we to respond to this question? To this reasoning?

Point 1: They WERE born that way... so were you.

-Eph 2:1-3, Children of wrath

-Gen 8:21, Evil from our youth

-I could go on, but for now I will just list some scripture references if you all want to look them up later: Prov 22:15, Prov 14:12, Ps 14:2-3, Jer 17:9, Ecc 9:3, Rom 5:12

Point 2: They are still on their first birth, you are on your second.

-1 Cor 15:22, Adam vs Christ

-1 Cor 15:45, Christ is the Second Adam

-John 3:17-21, Why Christ came

-John 17:18, Why we go into the world

Point 3: The upshot? Come to the light - stay in the light.

-John 3:1-21, Born again!

-All of Romans 7. Stop thinking of your flesh as you. It is not you. It can make you do things, and no that isn't a weak excuse. You are a new creature. Sin dwells in us till this body dies, salvation does not make you perfect. But it is no longer you who does what you now hate. You hate it, because you are no longer living YOUR life, you are living CHRIST's life ever since you gave your life to Christ. (think about it). If you don't hate the sin, then we might have a problem. If it does not grieve you, then there could be an issue.

-We put on the armor, and we fight the good fight against our enemies. Who is your enemy? Can you list your enemies for me?

- World, 1 John 5:19 - The domain of Satan, the physical agents of evil. 1 John 4:6, 1 John 2:15-17 (which segways nicely)
- Flesh, 1 John 2:16 - The old man, the undead husk in which we still live until we go to heaven to have a new body made for us. Rom 7:25, Gal 5:13-26, Col 2:11-13, Phil 3:3, Rom 6:6, Gal 6:8
- Devil, 1 John 5:19 - The ruler of this world. Isa 14:12-17, Eze 28:12-19, Eph 6:12 (The world is just a puppet, the flesh is the devil's toy),

Now I asked y'all a question a few minutes ago about who your enemies are - remember? If the world is your enemy - are you a part of the world? No! If the Devil is your enemy, do you partake with him as well? 1 Cor 10:21. Then how does it make sense to still consider the Flesh to be you? You are locked in a life and death struggle with a rabid abomination that is slowly dying because of it's malady (sin). Stop looking in the mirror and thinking, 'I keep doing this stuff' - nono, your FLESH keeps doing that stuff and you aren't stopping it.

'Sin that dwells inside of you' keeps up a tireless parade of its rebellious acts, and tries to make you doubt your salvation, tries to make you claim responsibility for its atrocities. Stop letting it win folks! That's what the helmet of Salvation is all about, keeping the fact of your new creation renewing your mind. Old thoughts cry for attention, and you drown them out with His perfect will - because you are now living Christ's life. Rom 12:2

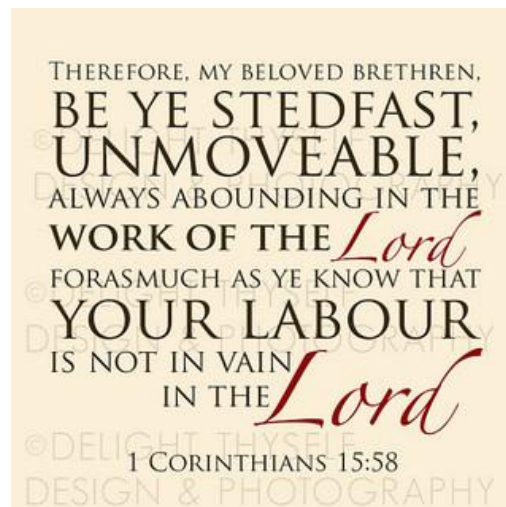
Fight the good fight! Reach for this goal: Col 3:4

Clincher: The excuse you used to use to explain away your sin now should empower you to boldness in Christ! Why can't you compromise? Because you were BORN this way. Your life is not your own, you are Christ's. 1 Cor 6:19-20, Rom 8:9, Gal 2:20. If someone attacks you, or tries to make you back down - if they use words like 'tolerance' and 'acceptance' to try to shame you out of doing your christian duty - turn the argument on its head. Gently explain to them that you were born this way. Instead of an excuse to cover behavior, the statement truly does become an empowering one which says 'I have no alternative'. After all, if the life that is in us is Christ (who died for you) - you can't blame him for trying to share that love can you? If the spirit in us is the Spirit of Truth, can you blame us for sharing the truth?

In the end, this argument allows the Christian to be 'liberated' from the society which would seek to limit our behavior to their comfort zones. In a way, we are 'only being true to ourselves'. Why? Because we are no longer defined by the law of sin and death (Rom 8:2) - we are being true to our new creation. (2 Cor 5:17)

(Close by reading 1 Cor 15:50-58)

Closing song: I need thee every hour.



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-All of Romans 7

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ii. 1 John 2:15-17

b. Flesh, 1 John 2:16 - The old man, the undead husk in which we live

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ii. Gal 5:13-26,

iii. Col 2:11-13,

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1 Cor 15:50-58

Hymn: I Need Thee Every Hour