

God in the Jukebox

“Son of a Sinner” by Jelly Roll

I never get lonely
I get these ghosts to keep me company
I took the rearview off of this old Ford
So I only see in front of me

Now the past is out of sight and out of mind
Swore I changed, now I'm back chasing these white lines

I'm just a long-haired son of a sinner
Searching for new ways I can get gone
I'm a pedal to the highway
If you ever wonder why we write these songs

'Cause I'm only one drink away from the devil
I'm only one call away from home
Yeah, I'm somewhere in the middle
I guess I'm just a little right and wrong

These backroads got me
These pills pretend to be my friend
I'm done for the last time
I'm lying to myself again
I always say that
Now I'm on my way back here somehow
I should know by now

I'm just a long-haired son of a sinner
Searching for new ways I can get gone
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If you ever wonder why we write these songs

'Cause I'm only one drink away from the devil
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Mistakes I made, I paid for them in cash
Walked a million miles on broken glass
I'm feeling like I'm fading
My heart's been slowly breaking

Might pop a pill and smoke and maybe drink
Talk to God and tell Him what I think
At first He's gonna hate me
But eventually He'll save me

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Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Ernest Keith Smith / Jason Deford / David Ray Stevens

Son of a Sinner Lyrics © Big Loud Mountain Music Llc, Songs Of Universal Inc., Ern Dog Music, Songs Of 78

Charts: “Son of a Sinner” peaked on the US Billboard Hot 100 at number 14 and on the Billboard Hot Country at number eight.

Background: “Son of a Sinner” was written by Jason DeFord, David Ray Stevens and Earnest Keith Smith and performed by Jason DeFord, who is known professionally as “Jelly Roll.” DeFord is a multi-genre singer and songwriter as he has performed hip hop, rap, and country. He was raised in Nashville, Tennessee. Jelly Roll earned his G.E.D. while in jail at the age of 23.

DeFord had a troubled past with a number of arrests. At the age of 14, he was arrested and charged with multiple counts of possession of marijuana and attempted robbery.

In 2003, he began his music career in hip hop. He was inspired by Three 6 Mafia, UGK, and 8Ball & MJG. He sold mixtapes out of his car. He made his Grand Ole Opry debut on November 9, 2021.

Jelly Roll won the Male Breakthrough Video of the Year, Male Video of the Year for the song “Son of a Sinner” at the 2023 CMT Music Awards.

“Son of a Sinner” is about Jelly Roll’s personal struggles with “right and wrong” and drug addiction. This was Jelly Roll’s first single release to the country music format.

Theology: *simul iustus et peccator*

Romans 7:14-25

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ **For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.** ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Sanctification: *the work of the Holy Spirit of making people holy. In its wide sense, sanctification includes everything God does for our salvation and preservation, including the work of justification and conversion. In its proper sense, sanctification refers to the inward, spiritual transformation of a believer that is accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit.*

Simul iustus et peccator – “Simultaneously justified and sinful,” or “simultaneously saint and sinner.”

Sanctification is described as an inner, spiritual struggle. St. Paul describes this struggle in his own life after being converted (Romans 7:14-25): “*For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*” What he portrays in this section of Romans is readily understood by Christians who struggle daily with their sins, knowing the good and the right, but not always doing it. Martin Luther was also particularly sensitive to this struggle as he coined this Latin phrase ***simul iustus et peccator*** (“simultaneously justified and a sinner; often rendered, “saint and sinner”). This condition of struggle remains until we are glorified in heaven. All Christians experience fluctuations in faith and struggle with their sinful nature. Fluctuations in faith vary within a person over time as well as between believers depending upon their life situations. Yet, through it all, the Spirit works to strengthen our relationship with Jesus.

Fluctuations in Faith:
varying degrees of strength and fervency of faith that are experienced by all Christians at times.

Our struggle with sin is not a past event; it is a present reality. We know God’s will and desire to serve Him, but we cannot overcome sin. Even if we try, we fail. We cry out with Paul, “Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

There is only one answer: “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Jesus rescues us. Through we sin daily, He continues to forgive and restore us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I love You. You lead me in daily repentance. Forgive my sin and strengthen my faith in You. By Your Spirit, deliver me. Amen.