

Timothy ... will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul - 1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

# In Christ

Or don't you know that all of those who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death...burial...and resurrection.

Paul - Romans 6:3-5 (NIV)

David Kuykendall Ministries

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Obeys the five commands listed below and experience your life "in Christ." Experience the abundant life through living by grace. Notice that each command is either to believe something or to choose to do something.

## THE FIVE COMMANDS

### Believe

Romans 6:11

Reckon (believe) yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord

### Choose

Romans 6:12

Do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts

### Choose

Romans 6:13a

Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin

### Choose/Believe

Romans 6:13b

Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead.

### Choose

Romans 6:13c

[Present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

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We can and should obey each of these commands because Romans 6:3-5 teaches that all believers have been baptized into Jesus and as a result all believers have been baptized into his death, burial, and resurrection.

## CONVINCING CONTRASTS

David Kuykendall

*Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh..*

Romans 8:12

All believers are under obligation to pay a debt. Our obligation is not to walk (live) according to the flesh.

The word flesh is a reference to our sin nature. Throughout Romans chapter 7, Paul explains that we walk in the flesh when we try to keep the laws of God in our own wisdom and strength.

So, we are not obligated to attempt to keep the commands of God in our own wisdom and strength. We are not obligated to keep our own plans of such things as Bible reading, praying and witnessing in our own wisdom and strength. What then is our obligation?

In Romans 8:5-11 Paul contrasts walking according to the flesh and walking according to the Spirit—meaning the Holy Spirit. Since we are not obligated to walk according to the flesh, we are obligated to walk according to the Holy Spirit—which is the same as being filled with the Spirit.

With five statements in Romans 6:11-13, Paul tells us how we can walk in the Spirit. Following those statements is Romans 6:14 Paul states:

*For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

The first word of Romans 6:14, "For" can be translated "Then." When we make that change, we get a clearer understanding of the verse.

When a believer does not follow the directives for being under grace, he is under law and is walking according to the flesh.

Consider now the contrasts between walking according to the flesh and walking according to the Spirit which put us under obligation to walk according to the Spirit and not the flesh. The first contrast is stated in Romans 8:5. The verse reads:

*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:19-21a lists some of the works of the flesh.

Thinking on those things is thinking on the things of sin.

Galatians 5:22 lists those things that fill the life of one who is walking in the Spirit. Any God-loving person would want to think on those things and experience them.

The second contrast is in verse 6. It reads:

*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

The literal translation of "to be carnally minded is death" is "the mind of the flesh is death." Paul is not speaking of physical death, even though walking in the flesh can sometimes result in an early death. He is saying that a Christian who walks in the flesh experiences a life of failure that can best be described with the word "death."

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A literal translation of "to be spiritually minded is life and peace" is "the mind of the Spirit is life and peace." The word life is used here to express the abundant life that Jesus promised.

The remainder of the contrasts are presented in a different manner. In verses 7-8, Paul lists other results of walking according in the flesh and in verses 9-11 he lists results of walking according to the Spirit. Verses 7 and 8 read:

*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

The word "enmity" has in it the idea of one being the enemy of God. In the flesh, one has hostility toward God.

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The person walking in the mind of the flesh will never be able to keep the laws of God or his own laws of how he will serve God.

In a concluding reference to walking in the flesh, Paul writes in verse 8:

*So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

It does not matter how committed to God a person might be, in the flesh he cannot please God.

In Romans 8:9-11, Paul lists other good things that result from walking according to the Spirit. He introduces this list of blessings by changing his terminology for walking according to the Spirit. He writes:

*But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

In addition to changing "walking in the Spirit," to the Spirit "dwelling in the believer," in this verse, Paul adds two important thoughts about the Holy Spirit. If we are walking according to the Spirit, we are not in the flesh and if the Holy Spirit is not in us, we are not children of God.

We get our best understanding of what Paul means by the word "dwell" from Ephesians 3:16b-17. As part of a prayer beginning in verse 14, Paul writes that he prays that God, through the Holy Spirit, might strengthen his readers in the inner man that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. Paul means that their hearts might be filled with Christ. That is the way "dwell" is used in Romans 8:9.

*And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

Notice that Paul does not use the word "dwell" in verse 10. However, he does use "dwell" in verses 9 and 11. It seems, then, that we can believe Paul has in mind the Spirit dwelling in us in verse 10. The message of verse 10 is that when the Holy Spirit dwells in us, He will not keep us from dying, but He will fill us with righteousness.

In Romans 8:11 Paul writes:

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your*

*mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

Note again, the use of the word "dwell." Therefore, in verse 11, Paul writes that when one is filled with the Spirit, the Father will give life to his mortal body through His Spirit that dwells in him.

This concerns the condition of our bodies. It concerns the energy we have throughout the day. There are several ways that being filled with the Holy Spirit gives life to these mortal bodies. We will mention only three.

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We are filled with the Holy Spirit when we experience the crucifixion of our flesh. Therefore, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are free from the negative emotions such as anger and fear that drain away much of the energy stored up through a night's rest.

When we are filled with the Spirit, we permit God to make the decisions about what we are to do next. This frees up energy that would be drained from us by our living with the burden of deciding what we are to do next.

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When we walk in the Spirit, we do not practice things that tear down our bodies.

These contrasts between the results of walking according to the flesh and walking according to the Spirit are encouraging and convincing enough for us to choose to walk according to the Spirit.

When a person who has a deep passion to be all God wants him to be realizes that he has been serving God in the flesh, a change to life in the Spirit is possible.

There are times when a book that tells how one can walk according to the Spirit helps. If one desires to seek the life according to the Spirit by just studying the Bible, it would be good for him to concentrate at first on Romans 6:3-14 and Galatians chapter 5.

His study should be accompanied with prayer for the Lord to teach him the way to a life according to the Spirit.

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## ACTIVITIES IN THE GRACE MINISTRY

### CHINA

Just days ago, Mr. M.C. Leung purchased his ticket to fly to China for his ministry there. While there, he will make arrangements to have "Our Oneness With Christ" printed.

He has made contacts with two different printers and will find the Lord's will when he talks with them after he arrives in China. We plan to have 9,000 copies printed.

### BURMA

We now have an abbreviated copy of "Our Oneness With Christ" which is being translated and printed in Burma. Earlier, we had several thousand copies of the larger book translated and printed in three languages in Burma. The abbreviated version is being translated and printed in four languages there.

### INDIA

We are in the process of having the abbreviated version of "Our Oneness With Christ" translated and printed in India.

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*We deeply appreciate your prayers for and your gifts to this ministry. Because we believe that living by grace is God's plan for all believers, our vision is for this message to spread to many places..*

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