

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.

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.

LIVING THE NEW COVENANT

DAVID KUYKENDALL

In the four biblical accounts of the first observance of the Lord's Supper led by Jesus, He said that the cup was His blood of the New Covenant. This statement alone adds to the importance of the Lord's Supper and the New Covenant.

Our newsletters and devotionals are all on the theme of the believer's oneness with Christ in spiritual crucifixion, burial and resurrection. This article will show that when we experience our spiritual crucifixion, burial and resurrection, we live out the New Covenant. First, we will permit the New Testament to describe the New Covenant.

Paul and the author of the Book of Hebrews provide the description. Paul explains the New Covenant in 2 Corinthians 3 and Galatians 4. The entire Book of Hebrews is about the New Covenant. Both authors contrast the aspects of the New Covenant with the First Covenant that God gave the Israelites at Mount Sinai.

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The First covenant had two types of laws—"the moral law" and "the ceremonial law." Paul shows the contrasts of the New Covenant with the moral law. The author of Hebrews deals with the contrasts of the New Covenant with the ceremonial law. In this article, we will deal only with the contrasts of the moral laws according to Paul.

When God told the Israelites that He would make a covenant with them, three times the Israelites said, "Whatever God says we will do." They committed themselves to keep the moral laws in their own strength and wisdom. There was no provision for any other resource for keeping the laws.

In Romans 8:3, Paul wrote, "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh" Many times, as in this case, the New Testament uses the word "flesh" to describe our sin nature. Our flesh—our sin nature—is that we think we are wise. The Israelites thought that they were capable of doing anything God commanded. This reveals that our sin nature results in self confidence. Perhaps we could say that the First Covenant was an arrangement between God's commands and the Israelites' self confidence.

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Through attempting to keep the commands of God in the flesh and through understanding passages in the Bible, we have all discovered that self confidence results in failure. Also, serving God in our own strength and wisdom continually keeps us at the point of moral danger. This is true in spite of how much we love God.

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We receive our best examples of the moral dangers of serving God in the flesh when we read the Old Testament. For years, I would read the Old Testament and wonder what was wrong with the Israelites. They had such vicious warnings about failing to keep the commandments and such wonderful promises if they would keep the laws of the First Covenant. I had no idea of Paul's explanation in Romans 8:3 of what was taking place. Serving God out of our faith in ourselves did not work for the Israelites. It does not work for us. Living the New Covenant will work for us.

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In 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 Paul writes "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." By "letter" Paul means trying to keep the law out of our own resources.

The New Covenant centers in the Holy Spirit. Obviously, in a brief article, we cannot deal fully with what the Holy Spirit does for us, but consider two things Paul mentions. Ephesians 5:18 speaks of being filled with the Spirit. Romans 8:5 speaks of walking in the Spirit. He then mentions a number of things that would change for us if we did walk in the Spirit.

Consider two things that result from believers being filled with the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit filled the 120 in the upper room as recorded in the second chapter of Acts, they all began to witness to the unsaved and about 3000 people were saved. Other experiences recorded in the Book of Acts underline this fact. Living the New Covenant breeds a spirit of evangelism.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit results in Christian character. Galatians 5:22-23a says, "The fruit of the Spirit is, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." We would call anyone who lived such a virtuous and victorious life a person of character.

Among other things, Romans 8 teaches that the result of walking in the Spirit is peace, life and righteousness.

In 2 Corinthians 3:18, Paul explains that God puts a glory on one who lives the New Covenant. He contrasts the glory of the New Covenant by contrasting it with the glory that came upon the faces of Moses when he was with God but faded away when we was not with God.

In Galatians 4:21-31 Paul shows that when we live the New Covenant, we are set free from the law. We are free from the arrangement of the First Covenant. We do not have to serve God out of our own resources—our faith in ourselves. We will be free from that roller coaster life of the Israelites living under the First Covenant.

You have likely read many times that when one lives out the commands of Romans 6:11-13, he experiences his spiritual crucifixion, burial and resurrection. When that happens, we are living the New Covenant. Of course, this statement needs explanation.

First, see how experiencing our crucifixion results in our being filled with the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:17 says, "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." When we experience the crucifixion of our flesh, the opposition to our being filled with the Holy Spirit is taken away. We are filled with the Spirit and walk in the Spirit. We live the New Covenant.

A glory comes upon one who lives out the New Covenant by experiencing his spiritual crucifixion, burial and resurrection. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." Ephesians 2:6 says that when we were saved, we were "raised up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...." When we experience life in the heavenlies with God

we will gaze into the glorified face of Jesus and be changed from glory to glory.

Living out the New Covenant by living out our spiritual crucifixion burial and resurrection frees us from the responsibility of keeping God's command in the flesh—attempting to keep them by our own effort. When we experience our spiritual crucifixion, burial and resurrection, we put our flesh out of power and are filled with the Holy Spirit. He enables us to keep the commands of God. This may sound impossible by some, but some testify that they have experienced it.

Romans 6:14 says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." The first word "For" can be translated, "Then." Since this is the first statement following the directions on how to live out the New Covenant, we conclude that living the New Covenant is living by grace.

A Truck-Drivers ministry has become aware of our ministry of spreading the message of grace and has joined us in that effort. Their two main vehicles for spreading the message are an Internet ministry and a CD distribution ministry. They record their Internet messages and then put them on CDs. The CDs are distributed mainly at truck stops. We have all seen the vast numbers of those as we have travelled. Their ministry will greatly increase the distribution of the message. We thank God for them and the privilege of ministering with them.

Soon we will have a book ready to distribute on the theme "Living the New Covenant." Even though it will be very brief, it will expand on the things mentioned in this article. While writing the book it was discovered that few people had any knowledge of the New Covenant. That is sad in light of what Jesus said about His blood. The study also revealed that when we live out our oneness with Christ in crucifixion, burial and resurrection we live out the New Covenant.

Book orders, newsletter contributions, or tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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