

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.

TEACHING THE LIFE OF GRACE

Scott Coleman

For many years, Scott Coleman has understood and lived out the life of grace. He has successfully taught the message of living by grace. Scott is the Director of Church Planting for the Dallas Baptist Association. He and his co-workers have consistently taught the leaders of their new churches the message of living by grace.

Those of us who live the life of grace are convinced that we have found the abundant life that Jesus made possible. We desire that all believers would understand and experience this quality of life. Seemingly, most Christians have never heard the words "living by grace."

The way to experience the life of grace is made very clear in Romans 6:3-14. However, this passage teaches things that are unfamiliar for most believers. This makes it difficult for some to accept the grace-life truths even though they are in the Bible. Some believers treat these passages as though they are not in the Bible.

Because of these barriers, you likely have taught others the way to experience the abundant life but have not always had success.

It could be that our introductory words are not those that would capture a person's attention. We want to be effective so we need to permit God to give us an effective introduction of the message.

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God has given me a method of introducing others to the message that is proving to be very effective. I have found that starting at the beginning to be very helpful. And I mean the VERY beginning. If we have a clear and easy under-

standing of just what our problem is, we'll have a clearer understanding of the great solution for living the grace-life that Jesus provides.

Around the world, the good news of living by grace is spreading in such a way that in some places the growth is being described as a "movement." In those places, a key way the message of grace is being communicated is simply through the telling of stories.

This method of teaching Scripture has been found to be greatly effective when teaching illiterate people groups or groups where there is no Bible in the native language. Teaching Scripture through the telling of stories has also proven to be preferred in the United States.

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The presentation of the story of God from Genesis to Revelation is sometimes called "chronological Bible storytelling." These stories do not start with the creation of the world in Genesis. They start before that! They start with the creation of the *spirit* world as found in a compilation of scriptures that piece together an entire narrative. A key portion of that story is found in Isaiah 14:12-15. Most agree that this passage is a view of Satan's fall from heaven.

In the New American Standard Bible, these verses read:

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will

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raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

It is clear that Lucifer had a lot going for him. In fact, he's called "star of the morning O son of the dawn"

The things that got Lucifer expelled from heaven were attitudes and actions revealed in his words: "I will ascend to heaven. I will raise my throne above the stars of God. I will sit [or rule] on the mount of assembly [of the gods]... I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will make myself like the Most High."

Lucifer wanted to be in charge. Even to the point of displacing God!

Move forward, now, to another story that you are more familiar with. It is the story of the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In that fall they became sinners—that is, a sin nature came into them. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any of the trees in the garden except one—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You know the story. Satan tempted Eve and Adam to believe they could become wise just like God was. Satan's temptation was for Adam and Eve to have the same sinful desire that was the core of His rebellion against God in Heaven. They yielded to the temptation.

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It is by the telling of these 2 stories about Satan and Adam and Eve that the formerly uninformed believer can see what his basic problem in walking with God is.

Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because they thought it would make them wise. It didn't.

However, they *thought* they had become wise. That way of thinking was so deeply implanted in them that it became as much a part of them as their hands and feet. Romans 1:22 explains our basic problem with the words, "Professing to be wise, they became fools."

However, they thought they had become wise. That way of thinking was so deeply implanted in them that it became as much a part of them as their hands and feet. Romans 1:22 explains our basic problem with the words, "Professing to be wise, they became fools."

Romans 5:12 reads, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned." Because we are the descendants of Adam, we all have this deadly sin nature of thinking we are wise.

The words "good" and "evil" are not limited to morals. Hebrew scholars have seen that they mean "what is to advantage" and "what is to disadvantage."

At the root of every wrong deed or thought, is a base assumption that we are "wise." That leads to self-confidence which detracts from any thought of putting our faith in God.

Because we think that we know what is to advantage and what is to disadvantage, we want to call the shots in our own lives. We seek our own best. David Kuykendall calls all this our "know-it-all attitude."

From Adam's first bite of the fruit **right up** to now, we've all been infected with thinking we are wise. And **since** we are trusting our own estimation of things instead of God's estimation, we say that we know better than God Himself. And just like with Adam and Eve, this attitude separates believers from God and all the great blessings He wants to share with us.

But if we're not supposed to discern right and wrong, how are we to live? Before they broke their relationship with God, Adam and Eve didn't have to figure out what to do.

The Bible hints that God's visit with them in cool of the day in the garden was not unusual. If they were walking with Him, they didn't have to figure out which path to take, they simply could follow His leading. He would know which "wrong" path led to a dead end, though it appeared attractive and "right" to them. Until they thought they were wise, Adam and Eve had no big decisions to make. They simply followed God's lead daily even in the small directions.

Similarly, believers today can simply walk with God and follow His leading. We really have no decisions to make about what is right or wrong, or what we should or shouldn't do. As we live more fully in God's grace, we are seeking to simply receive His guidance. "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it (Isaiah 30:21)'. We do not hear with our ears but with our hearts. We can know that God is leading us. We can, as Proverbs (3:5) says, "trust in the Lord with all [our] heart and lean not on our own understanding."

That inner sinful voice of direction is called in the New Testament "flesh." Galatians 5:24 says that the flesh has been crucified. However, we must experience that crucifixion to put away the power of the impressions of the flesh. We do that by obeying the 5 commands of Romans 6:11-13.

Now more and more, my wife and I are encouraging our children not to try to figure out what the right, wise, even Godly thing is to do in any given situation. Instead, because of what Christ has done and now offers us, we can consider ourselves "dead to sin"—that is, to our own "wise" thinking about what is right. But instead we can be alive and responsive to God's leading and power in Jesus. (Romans 6:11)

So these two stories have been helpful for believers to see that their know-it-all attitude lies at the base of all other sins and our loss of trust in God.

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