

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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Obey 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.*

## MAKING OTHERS RICH

David Kuykendall

However, there are a few suggestions that could be helpful.

Always begin the teaching where Scripture begins—in Romans 5:12-14. This will lay a solid foundation for teaching the message. This passage presents Adam as the head of the human race. It also teaches that when Adam infected himself with a sin problem and a death problem he also infected every one who would be born into the human race with the same problems. We know what our death problem is. Our sin problem is that *we think we are wise*.

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*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*  
2Corinthians 8:9

A person becomes rich by becoming a child of God. However, those who are experiencing their oneness with Christ are becoming increasingly rich. They are experiencing the abundant life. It seems, though, that since the days of Paul the theme of the believer's oneness with Christ has not been popular in the Christian world.

Many who experience the abundant life by living out their oneness with Christ grieve that others do not know the message and experience the riches of the life. They also grieve that God the Father and Jesus are not receiving the praise that is in the hearts of those who do experience it. So, what can we do to spread the message other than being an influence for the message by living it?

We can pray for the spread of the message to believers in every part of the earth. In addition, each believer who experiences this life can teach it to others. God has some already prepared to hear, understand and experience this life of grace.

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*... each believer who experiences this life can teach it to others.*

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In speaking of his ministry, Paul says in 2 Corinthians 6:10, that he was "poor, yet making many rich." He was making others rich by leading them to salvation and by teaching them the message of union with Christ. In 1 Corinthians 4:17, Paul says that he teaches about his ways "in Christ" in every church. The terms such as "in Christ," "in Him," "in the beloved" are in the New Testament over 160 times. Some say that most of the time the meaning is "in union with Christ."

When God leads you to teach the message to another believer, you should do it your own way.

The last part of Romans 5:14 refers to Adam as a "type" of Christ. A type is a picture. Just as Adam is the head of the human race, Jesus is the head of a spiritual race. Just as all are born with a sin nature and a death nature, a believer is born into the spiritual race crucified, buried, and resurrected (Romans 6:3-5). However, you need to tell your new disciple that he must do something to experience his spiritual death, burial and resurrection. He must follow the directions of Romans 6:11-13.

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In these three verses, there are five commands. The first one is:

*Likewise, ye also reckon yourselves to be*

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*dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
Romans 6:11

The word “Likewise” connects this verse to the statement in Romans 6:10 that Jesus is dead to sin and alive to God.

The idea of the word “reckon” is that one is to believe he is dead to sin and alive to God as mentioned in Romans 6:3-5. “Reckon” is in a tense that means we are to continue to believe we are dead to sin and alive to God.

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The second of the five commands is:

*Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.* Romans 6:12

We are to choose to live a life of being dead to sin. Be sure to teach your new disciple that “sin” is a term used often in the New Testament to refer to our sin nature—*our thinking that we are wise*. This is one of those places. Paul refers to “sin” here as being another person trying to keep control of our lives. The verb in “do not let reign” is one of continual action.

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The third command is:

*But present yourselves to God*

*as being alive from the dead ...*  
Romans 6:13b

The first word of the command, “But,” connects this command to the second and third commands. We are not to give our bodies to our point of view—living out of our own wisdom. “Present” means to make available. “... as being alive from the dead” means crucified, buried and resurrected. We are to make ourselves available to God while seated with Christ at the right hand of God without a point of view but available to God to live out of His point of view—His wisdom.

*We are to make ourselves available to God while seated with Christ at the right hand of God without a point of view but available to God to live out of His point of view—His wisdom.*

The fifth command is:

*[Present] ... your members as instruments of righteousness to God.* Romans 6:13c

Changing the order of words to “present to God your members as instruments of righteousness” makes it easier to understand the command. The verse means that God desires to have our bodies through which He expresses His righteousness. If the one you are teaching believes that his efforts of serving God have resulted in failure, he will be thrilled to know that God is willing to express Himself through his body.

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After this, show the one you are teaching Romans 6:14. It says:

*For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under*

*law but under*  
g-r-a-c-e.

The first word “For,” in this verse can be translated “then.” Here it should be translated “then.” That is, when we live out the five commands of Romans 6:11-13, we will experience our oneness with Christ in crucifixion, burial, and resurrection and our attitude that we are wise will not reign over us because we are no longer under the law but under grace.

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When we live under law, we serve God out of our own wisdom and strength. We are our own resource. When we live by grace, we serve out of God’s resources.

If your new disciple does what you have taught him, he is on his way to the abundant life. He is on his way to a life of increasing spiritual riches.

Do not get discouraged if you discover that many God-loving believers are not receptive to your effort to share with them the message of grace.

A main reason that many are not receptive is because they have never heard of their union with Christ. However, there are some who are so broken over their sins—or something else—that they will give you a warm reception.

Under the leadership of the Lord, keep sharing the message.

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