

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.

CRUCIFY THE DEEDS OF YOUR BODY

David Kuykendall

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Romans 8:13

In Romans 7:9 Paul had written, "I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died." With this statement Paul is using the words "alive" and "I died" in a spiritual sense. With the words "I died" Paul speaks of a life of failure and grief within. With the word "alive," Paul speaks of the abundant life. Because in Romans 8:5-16 Paul is contrasting life in the Spirit and life in the flesh, we can assume that he is using the words "shall die" and "will live" here in the same way.

It is true that in some cases people walking in the flesh die physically early and people walking in the Spirit live longer than the natural life. However, in this case we can look on the words as having spiritual meaning. Believers who walk in the flesh live a life of spiritual grief and those who walk in the Spirit experience the abundant life.

When Paul speaks of living "according to the flesh," he means walking according to our own sinful nature. Our sinful nature is that we think we are wise. So walking in the flesh is walking according to our point of view rather than walking in God's point of view.

Paul's adds, "... if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." With the word "live" Paul refers to the abundant life.

It seems strange that Paul would say we will live if we put to death the "deeds of the body." What about sins such as hate and resentment? We can receive help for our understanding of Paul's statement from Romans 6:12. That verse reads:

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

"Its lusts" in the verse is a reference to the lusts of the body. It seems that because the sin nature

reigns in our bodies all sin is the result of the lusts of the body. Our bodies are not sinful.

The words "putting to death" are another way of saying "experiencing the crucifixion of the deeds of our bodies."

If "by the Spirit" we are going to put to death the deeds of our bodies, we need to understand how the Holy Spirit will be involved. The answer to this question is given in Romans 8:2. That verse reads:

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

The law of the Spirit is like the law of gravity. It always works the same way. Beginning at the time of a believer's conversion to Christ, the Holy Spirit continuously teaches, prompts, enables, and leads the believer to experience the putting to death of the deeds of the body and to experience the abundant life.

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of your Father, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of holiness, the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of grace, and the Spirit of glory. In Romans 8:2 Paul calls Him "the Spirit of life." He is the One who makes possible the abundant life that Paul mentions in Romans 8:13.

Continuing the study of Romans 8:2, Paul uses the words "in Christ Jesus." New Testament scholars say that this term and others such as "in the beloved" and "in whom" are used in the New Testament over 160 times and most of the time it means in union with Christ.

It is interesting that we speak more about Christ being in us than we do about our being in Christ. There are far more references to our being in Christ than those teaching that Christ is in us.

We are in Christ because the Holy Spirit baptized us into Him when we became God's children. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.

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For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

This explains our baptism into Christ that Paul mentions in Romans 6:3 when he writes:

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death (Romans 6:6).

In saying that we were baptized into the death of Christ, Paul means that when we were saved, we were spiritually crucified. It was our old man that was crucified. Our old man is the sin nature that we received from Adam and all that the sin nature has produced in us—things like anger, jealousy and lust.

Romans 6:4-5 reads:

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection

These verses teach that in addition to our being crucified at the time of our conversion, we also were spiritually buried and resurrected.

All of these truths about the Holy Spirit mean that He is continuously teaching, prompting, leading and enabling each believer to experience his spiritual crucifixion, burial and resurrection in order to give us the abundant life. But how is a believer to experience this? What is he to do? He is to do five things that are listed in Romans 6:11-13.

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” is misleading and has caused many believers to believe that just because they have been saved that they are

living in victory over sin. We all know that we are not. So how can we make sense out of Romans 6:14. The word “For” can be translated “Then.” It should be translated that way in this verse.

In this verse, the word “Then” means that because we do something, we can have victory over sin, because we are not under law but under grace. In this case we know exactly what it is we must do. Five commands in three verses above Romans 6:14 tell us what we must do to put to death the deeds of the body. Notice that the word “sin” in Romans 6:14 is in the singular and not the plural. This means our flesh—from which sins come. When we obey the 5 commands in the passage, we crucify the flesh and the sins produced by the flesh.

Now, take a look at the five commands that will enable us to experience the crucifixion of the deeds of our bodies that we might be delivered from a life of inward agony.

First, you are to “reckon yourself to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:11). The word “reckon” means “to believe.” Because you have been spiritually crucified, buried and resurrected, you can believe that you are dead to the sin nature and alive to God.

Second, you are to “...not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts (Romans 6:13a).” Our sin nature is that we think we are wise. You are to decide that you will no longer live out of your point of view.

Third, you are to decide not to “present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin” (Romans 6:13b).” You are not to make the parts of your body available to your own point of view.

Fourth, you are to “present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead” (Romans 6:13b). You are to make your life available to God’s point of view rather than your own and as one who is alive from the dead.

In light of the larger context presenting yourself to God “as one alive from the dead” is to present yourself to God as one who is spiritually crucified, buried and resurrected.

Fifth, you are to “present your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:13c). This means that you are to make available to God your body that He might use your body to do His works of righteousness.

Let us put to death the deeds of our bodies and experience the abundant life. If you have not begun to live out your spiritual crucifixion, burial and resurrection, many would encourage you to join them and *try it*.

Personal Testimony

I had been a pastor for 21 years when the Lord revealed to me the New Testament message of living by grace. I knew there was something more in the Christian life that I had not received.

Throughout those 21 years, I believed and taught that the ultimate in Christian victory was commitment—dedication. I was passionately committed to the Lord but at the same time I knew there was more.

I would pray over and over for the Lord to fill me with His Spirit. At times, I believed that God answered my prayer but those times were only for special things such as preaching a sermon. There was not a consistent, day by day, filling of the Spirit.

I had occasional problems with two sins. One was the sin of anger and the other was being jealous of my preacher friends when God would use them in ways that He did not use me. In spite of repentance and prayer no victory came.

One day, I was so desperate for change in my life that I asked God to kill me if He could not change me. Within ten days God began to open my eyes to these truths. From the first early revelation God gave, I was in victory before dark.

The immediate changes were not just those in my life. There were unexpected changes in the fruitfulness of ministry. That first insight into the life of grace that brought so many changes was 42 years ago. God is still changing me. God is still using me in His work.

May the Lord increase the numbers of those who are realizing that the Christian life is not our commitment, but it is our availability through living by grace.

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

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