

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.

Under Law or Under Grace

By David Kuykendall

In Romans 6:14 the Apostle Paul teaches that all believers are either under law or under grace. He writes:

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

Meaning

What does it mean to be under law? What does it mean to be under grace?

In Romans 8:3 Paul explains the law arrangement with these words:

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh ...

Therefore, the law covenant is an arrangement between rules and flesh. This is true whether the rules are given by God or created by man.

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An arrangement between rules and our flesh is best understood by considering the original law arrangement between God and the Jewish nation.

God gave the ten commandments and other commandments. Three times the Israelites responded with, "What God has said we will do" see (Exodus 19:7; 24:3; 24:7.)

The Israelites committed themselves to keep the commands in their own strength. Flesh, then, is faith in ourselves. The deepest form of faith in ourselves is our belief that we are wise.

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What does it mean to be under grace? If being under law is living by faith in ourselves then being under grace is living by faith in God. It is through faith that we receive grace.

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Results

Several passages in the New Testament list the results of living by flesh. Read the following:

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like ...
Galatians 5:19-22

Living under law is morally and spiritually dangerous.

The results of living under grace is the invasion of all God is and does into every aspect of our lives

Migration

While legalism is laden with an abundance of negative results, there is one good result. Consider the following:

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more ...
Romans 5:20

Living in legalism results in so much sin and failure we know something is missing. We know God has something better than this. That something better is the grace of God.

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How do we make the migration from being under law to being under grace?

In Romans 6:14 Paul writes:

... for you are not under law but under grace.

These words follow a list of five commands.

Paul means by his statement in Romans 6:14 that those who obey the five commands of Romans 6:11-13 move from legalism to grace.

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Those five commands are listed on the front page of this publication.

Admittedly, to talk of obeying these commands sounds like living by law and not grace. However, Romans 8:2 explains it is not. The verse says:

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

The verse means that the Holy Spirit operates in our lives by a law. This means He has a way of continually working in our lives from which He never departs. The purpose of this work of the Holy Spirit is to give us the abundant life.

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The Holy Spirit continually works to give us the abundant life by leading us to live out our union with Christ by obeying the five commands of Romans 6:11-13.

When we follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we will obey these five commands. In Galatians 5:18 Paul writes:

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

And not to be under law is to be under grace.

Encouragement

The New Testament message of moving from law to grace is not a popular message. While it seems difficult to know why such a glorious message has not been embraced by the vast majority of believers, there are some suggestions.

Some have suggested the unpopularity of this message is due to the fact that it is not a well-known message. That is, not many have made the journey from legalism to grace.

When groups of people have been taught the message, often most of the group confesses they have never heard of the concept of living by grace. They have only known of the "commitment" concept for victory in the Christian life.

Some have suggested that the concept of living by grace is not popular because it means giving up control of our lives. And when we begin to live a life of faith in God rather than faith in ourselves, we do give up control of our lives.

Some seem to ignore the message because their spiritual leaders have not taught them the message. They feel they would be embracing heresy to turn to the life of grace.

Whatever the cause of the message being unpopular, it is still the message of the New Testament.

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You are, therefore, encouraged not to delay turning to the New Testament teaching on receiving God as the resource of your life—in every area of your life

New Printing of "Oneness"

For several months our only available version of "Our Oneness With Christ" included our workbook prepared by John Belken.

Because some prefer the version of the book without the workbook sections, we are having it printed again without them. It is now at the printers and in a matter of weeks it will be available. Both versions of the book will now be available.

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

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