

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.

It Is Not Legalism

By David Kuykendall

When God gave the Jewish nation the Ten Commandments, three times they said, "What God has said we will do" They committed themselves to keep the commands by their own determination and strength. That type of arrangement is called legalism. The result of their legalism was continual failure to keep the commands.

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The New Testament teaches freedom from legalism through living by grace. In the fifth and sixth chapters of Romans, Paul describes a life he calls grace. He never mentions the Holy Spirit. In Romans chapter 8, he describes the same life as being of the Holy Spirit and never mentions grace. Walking in the Spirit is living by grace and living by grace is walking in the Spirit.

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Romans 8:3-4 reveals that when we reject attempting to keep rules in our own strength and walk according to the Spirit, the Spirit lives out the righteousness of the law through us. The passage reads:

He [Jesus] condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Living in legalism is living in failure. Living by grace is living in victory.

Romans 6:3-5 teaches that all believers were spiritually crucified, buried, and resurrected the moment they received Jesus into their lives. It is by obedience to the five commands of Romans 6:11-13 that

one actually experiences crucifixion, burial, and resurrection—which results in living the life of grace.

Unfortunately, the message of living by grace is not popular. Some who hear the message reject it. Some not only reject the message, but they also become critics of it.

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The one criticism of the message of grace that is valid says that living by grace is another form of legalism. The criticism makes sense. The reasoning is, *if legalism is keeping commands then keeping the five commands of Romans 6:11-13 is also legalism.*

The purpose of this article is to seek to answer that valid criticism in a satisfactory way.

Those who teach that we live by grace by obeying the five commands of Romans 6:11-13 do so because immediately following the five commands, Romans 6:14 declares:

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

One could argue that Paul is saying that all believers are not under law but under grace. But from the standpoint of experience, any believer will admit that he has not continuously lived out his life by grace but has often lived by law through self-effort.

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Galatians 5:18 underlines the fact that some of God's

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children are not under grace but are under law. It reads:

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

The believer must be led by the Spirit not to be under law. He must walk in grace.

As mentioned above, in order to live by grace we must believe we are already crucified, buried, and resurrected and we must obey the five commands of Romans 6:11-13. When we do so, we experience our crucifixion, burial, and resurrection which results in our living out the life of grace.

With those thoughts in mind consider Romans 8:2. It reads:

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

The words "law of the Spirit" indicate that there is a way the Spirit of God works from which He never departs. The words "in Christ Jesus" speak of the believer's "union with Christ." When we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit, we were baptized into His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

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The word "life" in Romans 8:2 refers to the abundant life.

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The law of the Spirit then is the Holy Spirit guiding believers to the abundant life by continuously prompting them to experience their crucifixion, burial, and resurrection by obeying the five commands of Romans 6:11-13.

Consider Hebrews 8:10.

"I will put my laws in their mind and write them on their hearts ..."

The Holy Spirit in us is continually guiding us in what we are to do and what we are not to do. We can be sure that He is continually prompting us to obey the commands for experiencing our union with Christ which is experiencing grace. *It is not legalism to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.*

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Romans 7:4 says we died to the law. All believers are dead to the law but we experience our death to law by living out the five commands. Romans 7:4 continues:

... that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

We must be free from legalism to enter into a fellowship with Jesus that is so intimate the Scriptures call it a marriage.

When we live out our lives in a marriage relationship with Jesus, we will "bear fruit to God."

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Since living by grace through the promptings of the Holy Spirit enables a believer to have a fruit-bearing relationship with Jesus, the message of grace deserves a fair hearing.

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE SOON

A new book is at the printers and should be available soon. The title of the new book is "Living in the Garden of Grace." It is like our book "Living By Grace" in that it consists of the weekly devotionals we have distributed by email and have also placed on our Web Site.

"Living By Grace" was our first year of devotionals. "Living in the Garden of Grace" consists of the devotionals of four years.

The new book has an added advantage in that it contains a Scripture index of all the passages either quoted or even referred to. This could be a help in Bible study and in the preparation of devotionals or sermons.

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

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