

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.

"In Christ" Testimony of John Barber of Dallas, Texas

John Barber is a policeman, firefighter/paramedic for the Highland Park Department of Public Safety in Highland Park, Texas.

I was saved when I was eight years old and grew up in a very traditional Southern Baptist church. My father was a deacon and a Gideon and my mother was a Sunday school teacher and professor at a Baptist university. David Kuykendall was the pastor of my church from the time I was five years old until I went off to college. Three times a week (sometimes more) my family would load into the car and head to church.

Unlike other children who attended the children's program at our church, I liked to sit with my parents in the adult sermon. I probably logged as many hours in Sunday school, church, and prayer meetings between birth and age 18 as anyone. So from a fairly early age I was exposed to Bro. David's teachings on Romans 6 concerning living by grace and our oneness with Christ.

As I grew into adulthood, by most outward appearances I remained a Christian person who lived a relatively principled and moral lifestyle. But inside I knew that I often felt very distant from God and that my life was lacking His direction. I had countless conversations with friends while we were in our twenties in which the basic theme of the conversation was "I just want to know God's will for my life." I wondered why God was so quiet at times in directing me.

I began to realize that while I had been giving most of my life over to God and His will, there was still a small portion of it I held onto. While I was giving maybe 95% of my life over to God, there was still about 5% that I held onto myself. Five percent of my life was consumed by my own sinful desires, pride, and lusts that quite frankly I enjoyed having too much to let go. It was this 5% that was acting as a barrier between myself and God and preventing Him from speaking to me every day and directing my every move. I realized God doesn't want the majority of our lives, He wants all of it. I became

aware that even a small amount of sin in our lives can prevent us from having the relationship with God that we should.

With this realization, I set about trying to remove this 5% of sinful desires from my life in my own effort. After all, I figured, there was no one with as much willpower as myself and letting go of such a small portion of my life should not be a problem. Needless to say, I quickly failed. That small portion of my life that I wasn't giving over to God had its hooks in me and wasn't going to let go. I had given sin a foothold. Things that I had felt were such a minor part of my life before I now felt in bondage to. And to make things worse, I began to realize the sinful portion of my life was growing.

It was at this point that I began to fall back on some of the things I had learned earlier in life about Romans 6 and living out the five imperatives daily. I remembered that as Christians we don't have to be slaves to sin but can have victory over sin. I had this fear that as my sinful desires were removed from my life that life would somehow not be as fulfilling or as enjoyable as it was with them. But I came to realize that God replaced these desires with more fulfilling and uplifting things and the more He did this the greater my faith would grow in Him.

Now I don't claim to be an authority on the subject of living by grace by any means. But there are a few things I believe I have learned about the subject that I feel compelled to share with anyone who is studying this message.

First of all, the importance of daily living out the the five imperatives of Romans 6 cannot be stressed enough. I believe that many people who study this message and come to the realization that as Christians sin has no power over us and that we are dead to sin incorrectly believe that from this point on sin will not be an issue for them and they will not be tempted. However, the truth is that the five imperatives must be lived out daily.

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Secondly, based on my own experience, after having realized that I was dead to sin and being truly amazed how free we are from the bondage of sin as Christians, I made the mistake of thinking that I could be around temptation and that it would not affect me because I was dead to it. The truth is that even though we are dead to sin we must still flee temptation and not put ourselves in situations in which we know we will be tempted. Having the arrogant attitude "I'm dead to sin and can be around sin and temptation all I want with no effect on me" is a recipe for disaster.

Lastly, I believe I've learned that living by grace is living a life of total responsiveness to God's will, even in the most minor of decisions. As humans I believe we want to see a road map of our lives where we can clearly see where we are currently, where we will end up, and all the twists and turns in between. This is much more comforting and much more stable and secure in our way of thinking. In reality, I believe God wants us to live in such a way that we can turn and change routes on a moments notice in response to His will, even if we don't know the reason for doing so at the time—even if making such a turn seems dangerous and unwise in our own eyes. He knows the overall route from beginning to end, it's our job to make the turns when He prompts us.

Again, I'm no expert on the subject of living by grace and merely a work in progress, but I hope my own experiences and my own learning, as meager as it may be, will help you in your Christian walk.

David Kuykendall Ministries
318 North Brighton
Dallas, Texas 75208

NEW PRINTING OF "OUR ONENESS WITH CHRIST"

Recently, we received a new printing of "Our Oneness With Christ" in regular book form. Our last two printings combined the book with our workbook.

Now we are able to provide "Oneness" again in both regular book form and in the workbook form.

If you should order copies of "Oneness," it would be helpful to us if you would mention the form in which you would like to receive them.

Please remember that now we are able to make gifts of all our books. Feel free to share this information with others.

Also, if you would share the address of our Web Site with others, they will see the different materials we now provide.

DOORS OPENING IN AFRICA

In recent weeks doors have opened for the spread of the message of grace in Africa. Through Shem Okello of the Baptist Convention of Kenya we sent books to leaders of the convention.

The result of sending those books has been most encouraging. At the present time the Executive Director of the Baptist Convention of Kenya, Brother Newton Ombete, is in the United States spending some of his time with us studying the New Testament message of living by grace.

Brother Newton works with Baptists of several other nations in Africa. He plans to introduce them to the message.

Shem Okello emailed today that he plans to introduce the message to the leaders of the Baptists of Tanzania soon.

Shem works with the Baptists of several nations and will share grace with all of them.

In addition to our contacts with officers of the Kenya Baptist Convention we recently have been receiving requests for our books by a number of people in Nigeria.

We believe that all the requests are from students at a Bible Institute. We have no idea of how they heard about us. Brother Newton of Kenya tells us there is a brother who travels to many countries in Africa and possibly he has told them about our ministry.

PRAYER

We all know the power of prayer. Like all ministries, we stand in need of your prayers. God is moving in so many ways through this ministry. We praise Him for what He is doing. We always want to keep our eyes on Him.

We never experience great strides of progress in spreading the message. We do, though, experience a steady growth in the spread of it.

If the Holy Spirit should lead you to pray for us, we would very much appreciate your positive response to that leadership.

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

David Kuykendall Ministries
318 North Brighton
Dallas, Texas 75208
214-943-4473

www.living-by-grace.org

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Dated materials; please expedite

It is possible that the President of the Baptist Convention of Kenya will spend time studying with us.

