

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.

BELIEVERS' BODIES GOD'S GRACE

David Kuykendall

The most important passage in Scripture explaining how one can experience the life of grace is Romans 6:3-13. In the passage the word "body" is found two times. Reference to the body is made two other times with the word "members."

These four references to the body make it essential that we understand the place of our bodies in experiencing the life of grace.

Romans 6:3-5 teaches that when we received Jesus as Lord and Savior, we were spiritually crucified, buried and resurrected. We must understand the teaching of these three verses. The passage reads:

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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.

The baptism mentioned in Romans 6:3 is not water baptism. It is the baptism of the believer into Christ by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Water cannot make the changes that come when we are saved.

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The words in Romans 6:3-5 can better be understood when we understand Romans 5:12-14. There we are told that when Adam, the head of the human

race, sinned, he infected the entire human race with both the sin nature of thinking we are wise and a death nature.

The last few words of Romans 5:14 say that Adam is a "type" of Jesus. There are things true about Adam that are also true about Jesus.

Adam is the head of the human—natural—race. Jesus is the head of the spiritual race. When we entered the race of Adam, we received a sin nature and a death nature. When we entered the race of Jesus, we were spiritually crucified, buried and resurrected. First Corinthians 15:45 names Jesus "The Last Adam."

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Immediately following the teaching of Romans 6:3-5 Paul writes in verse 6:

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

It was our old man who was crucified when we entered the race of Jesus.

The words "that the body of sin might be done away with" are confusing. A few legitimate changes can make them understandable and in perfect harmony with statements made later in the passage. The word "of" can be translated "from" and should be here. The words "be done away with" are the translation of one word in the Greek New Testament. In Romans 7:2, that word is translated "released" and in 7:6 it is translated "delivered."

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When we substitute “from” for “of” and “released” for the words “be done away with,” our verse reads, “because our old man has been crucified, our bodies have been freed from sin”—our sin nature, our attitude that we are wise. These changes bring the statement into perfect harmony with statement made later in the passage.

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Romans 6:6 says that our bodies have been freed from sin.

Romans 6:7 adds strength to the idea of freedom from sin mentioned in Romans 6:6. It says, “For he who has died has been freed from sin.” However, the word “freed” in Romans 6:7 is best translated “declared free.” It was God who declared us free from sin—the sin nature.

Following the revelation that Jesus has died to sin and is alive to God in Romans 6:10, Romans 6:11 says that we are to believe that we are dead to sin and alive to God. Then in Romans 6:12, Paul writes:

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body.

This is a choice. God has declared His crucified ones “freed” from sin. Now we are to choose to live out what is true of us. We are to choose against permitting sin to rule our bodies. We are to refuse to live out of our own point of view. Jesus has made it possible for us to make that choice.

There are two more references to the body in this brief passage with the word “members.” Both are in verse 13. The first is that we are not willfully to give our bodies to the control of our sin nature. We are not to live out of our own point of view.

The second reference to the body in verse 13 and the fourth in the passage says:

[present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

The four references to our bodies in the passage explaining how we may live by grace clearly show that our bodies are involved in the experience.

After telling us how we can live by grace, verse 14 says:

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

Paul begins the next verse, Romans 6:14, with “For sin shall not have dominion over you.” The word “for” can be translated “then.” In making that change, the statement means that when we believe and obey the statements and commands of Romans 6:3-13, sin—the sin nature—will not have dominion over us. That is, we will not be controlled by trust in our own wisdom.

The passage continues with, “for you are not under the law but under grace

Romans 8:3 explains, “For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature.” The law arrangement God made with the Israelites at Mount Sinai was between His rules and man’s flesh.

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When God, through Moses, gave the laws, three times the Israelites said, “What God has said, we will do” (Exodus 19:8, 24:3, 24:7).

This arrangement is both impossible and dangerous. Under law sin increases (Romans 5:20). Flesh always produces sin.

Yet, when one’s approach to living the Christian life is “doing my best for Jesus,” he is living under the covenant of Mount Sinai.

After Paul’s statement about not being under law, he follows with “but under grace.” When we live by the commands of Romans 6:3-13, we are under grace.

That is, we do not have to attempt to serve God in our own wisdom. We serve God out of His resources for victory in living.

While Paul describes the Christian life as being by grace in Romans chapters 5 and 6, he describes the same victorious life as being the result of walking in the Spirit in Romans chapter 8.

In Romans 8:4, Scripture shows that the Holy Spirit will fulfill in us the righteous requirements of the law with the words:

... that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

MINISTRY NEWS

“Our Oneness With Christ” is being translated into several different languages. In one country an abbreviated version has been translated into four different languages and will soon be printed. Because of the brevity of it, we are told that we will have 28,000 copies printed in the four different languages. We already have 9,000 copies of the full version of “Oneness” there.

“Oneness” has been translated into Chinese. As soon as we find a printer in China, we will have several thousand copies printed.

In India the abbreviated version has been translated into three different languages. These will soon be printed. Also the book is being translated into a fourth language in India.

A missionary in Uruguay is translating “Oneness” into Spanish. We will possibly be able to use that in the United States as well as in Uruguay.

In addition to these a copy of “Oneness” in Portuguese will, in time, be translated and printed.

We praise God for those of you who make this ministry possible by your financial support and your prayers. You are as much a part of this ministry as those of us who are on the board.

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