

The Basics of Grace

Part 5

The Grace Life part 1

Our Identity In Christ

- I. New vs. Old Identity
 - a. Identity in Adam. Adam had a relationship and oneness with God, but it was destroyed by sin. This broken relationship was passed on to all men.
 - i. Dead in sin (Romans 5:12-14, 6:23, 7:5, 8:13, I Corinthians 15:21-22, Ephesians 2:1, Colossians 2:13)
 - ii. Separated from God spiritually (Identified (one) with Adam/sin). This is really the same as being dead in sin. Spiritually we are dead to God, but that also means separation (Ephesians 2:12, 4:18, Colossians 1:21).
 - iii. Slaves to sin (Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:22, Romans 6:17)
 - b. Identity in Christ. The only way to restore this broken relationship and to take care of sin was through Jesus Christ. Now we have a new identity. Note: See I Corinthians 15:21-22 to see the significance of Jesus' coming in human flesh.
 - i. Dead *to* sin. Alive to God. By being identified with Christ in His crucifixion and burial, and resurrection, we are made dead to sin and alive to God. (Romans 6:3-6, 11, Galatians 2:20, Colossians 2:12-13)
 - ii. Made one with God.
 - 1. We have peace with God (Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:13-16, Colossians 1:20)
 - 2. We have His righteousness (Romans 3:21-26, 8:9-10, II Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 2:20)
 - 3. We are indwelt by God (Romans 8:9-11, I Corinthians 3:16, 6:17-20, II Corinthians 1:21,22, Galatians 2:20, 4:6, Ephesians 1:13,14, 4:6, 30)
 - 4. Literally one with God (Ephesians 5:30-32, Romans 7:4, I Corinthians 12:13, 27, Colossians 3:4)
 - iii. Servants of righteousness—freedom. (Romans 6:4, 18, 22)
- II. Living with this new identity. What does it mean practically to have a new identity in Christ, to be dead to sin and alive to God?
 - a. Attitude towards the flesh (Romans 6:11)
 - i. Mortify the flesh. The flesh is useless; it only yields the fruit of sin. This is a critical point. Even as Christians, we trust too much in ourselves. (Romans 8:1-10, Ephesians 4:20-24, Colossians 3:5-10). See also Romans 7:18, 8:8.
 - ii. Dead to sin. Sin is powerless. (Romans 6:11-14, I Corinthians 10:13)

- b. Life in the Spirit. Living a godly life is possible because we have Christ's life; that is, we are indwelt by God.
 - i. Freedom from sin (see above). Before salvation we were controlled by sin; we could not help but sin. Because of Christ we are freed from the bondage of sin.
 - ii. Righteousness of God. We have it; how do we implement it? (Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 5:16, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:1-2, 16, Philippians 4:8)
 - Additional rf: Philippians 1:11, 27, I Thessalonians 2:13
 - 1. Analogy of being confident in role. Initially timid, til gain confidence. (Tribulations worketh patience and patience experience and experience hope, Romans 5:3-4)
 - 2. Our tendency is to have confidence in the flesh—that we can somehow clean it up now that we are saved.
 - 3. Christ is our life. It is only because of His life that we can live righteously (Galatians 2:20)
 - 4. Walking in the Spirit; being filled with the Spirit. God's Word.
 - Quote from James Wilson: "Law and liberty cannot rationally become the objects of our love, unless they first become the objects of our knowledge."

- III. Why Do I Still Sin? Of course it is fine to talk about walking in the Spirit and that we are dead to sin, but we all know that we still sin!
 - a. Standing vs. State
 - i. Standing. Complete, perfect in Christ. (Colossians 2:10, Philippians 3:20)
 - ii. State. Still living in the flesh (Romans 7:18, 8:20-23)
 - b. Conflict between flesh and spirit (Romans 7:18-25, Galatians 5:17)
 - i. We still live in the flesh—subject to the law of sin (Romans 7:25)
 - ii. Our spirit has been made alive (quickenened) (Ephesians 2:1)
 - iii. Our flesh *will* be made alive (quickenened) (Romans 8:11, 21, 23, I Corinthians 6:14, 15:51-56, I Thessalonians 4:14-17, Philippians 3:21)
 - iv. Though this transformation is not fully complete, we are commanded to "put on the new man." (Ephesians 4:24). It must be possible or God would not tell us to do it!