

GRACE Newsletter

MARCH 2001

By HIS GRACE, God the Father places each believer in union with His Son. Even while I was trying so hard to do “good” with my life...

Jesus died for me....and I died with Him. [Romans 6:6]

And Jesus was raised for me....and I (a new “I”) was raised with Him. [Romans 6:8]

And now Jesus lives for me....and I live with Him! [Romans 6:13]

Through sharing these truths this month, I witnessed someone begin to experience freedom from a lifelong bondage.

When we focus on our true **identity in Christ**, we can joyfully rest in **HIS GRACE** and experience **His very life!** Any other focus subtly leads to the bondage of seeking a false identity through “laws” – attempts to live up to self-imposed standards.

I used to focus on “doing” things to exalt Christ. I now believe that the greatest exaltation of Christ is this:

Simply believe who God says I am in His Son through His cross (my “being” in Christ).

And God says I am His righteous child not because I “do” anything, but because of what Christ has “done.” Oh how this honors God! With this (Christ) as my focus (faith), I experience this union with **Christ’s life** “doing” through me! Amazing (a.k.a., awesome) grace!

*By God’s grace, I soooooo yearn to share this message of life in Christ!
I have an opportunity to teach Romans 5-8 to some great men at a prison in May. Would you pray for us?
I have prayed the riches of God’s grace for you. Warmly in Christ, Gregg*

Below is a comparison of living with a **law (self-effort)** focus versus a **grace (Christ’s life)** focus. To which focus are you drawn?

LAW Focus	<i>GRACE Focus</i>
My identity is affirmed by what I accomplish for God.	<i>My identity is based only on what Christ has done for me through the cross! Galatians 2:20</i>
Joy is happiness I seek.	<i>Christ is my joy now! Psalm 16:11 and Galatians 5:22</i>
I am a man of integrity who lives by Christian values.	<i>I am a child of God who lives in relationship with the living Christ! Romans 8:16-17</i>
Prayer is a discipline to learn.	<i>Prayer is my very nature because Christ lives in and through me! 2 Corinthians 2:14-15</i>
God’s commandments are things I ought to do.	<i>Commandments are opportunities for Christ’s life to be revealed in me! Galatians 1:15-16</i>
I try to witness to others out of gratitude to God.	<i>Witnessing is a continuous, spontaneous expression of Christ’s life through me! Colossians 1:28-29</i>

GRACE NOTE

Although God’s laws are good, grace enables us to focus only on Christ. Christ Himself fulfills God’s laws through us.