

Father we pray for wisdom, knowledge and understanding to fully realize the value of the gift of grace, and the cost of it to you father, and the cost to you Jesus. We pray that each of us receive revelation of the opportunity that it gives us to receive eternal salvation and eternal fellowship with you. We pray that you do not allow us to squander your grace but give us strength to will and to want your will for our lives and to turn from what we want. We each who say amen, pray for overcoming spirits and the faith to believe in Jesus Christ and that he died for our sin. We pray you remove any unbelief from us.

in Jesus name

amen

John 3: **16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. **18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19** And **this is the condemnation**, that light is come into the world, **and men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil. **20** For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. **21** But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

When we come to the Lord, when we first believe, we realize that we are saved by grace, a gift freely offered by God. We realize that we need Jesus and the grace given through him to escape from the clutches of sin, torment, destruction and eternal death and damnation and separation from God for all eternity. We are told we are freed from sin and death and the good news is indeed good. It's by grace, a gift! Given to us freely when we believe the gospel. So if grace is a gift why do we have such a struggle and what is the purpose of Gods grace? What is grace given to us for and how do we use it?

John 3 **19** And **this is the condemnation**, that light is come into the world, **and men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil. **20** For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

We see here that if we love darkness rather than light this is our condemnation. So it becomes clear that we cannot stay in darkness yet we are saved by grace which is a gift. If we continue doing evil then it actually shows we hate the light and do not love the truth.

1John **5** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

John 8 12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

So we are saved by grace not to walk in darkness but to walk in the light. Jesus is the light so if we love Jesus we follow Him. If we love darkness obviously we are not following him and do not love him. We are then showing we actually love darkness if we continue to walk in darkness. It is made very clear that we should not continue in sin but love the light, love Jesus and walk in the light as he showed us how to do. By his life. By his death.

Romans 6 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? **2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

We see that we are now dead to sin but grace does not give us license to continue in sin. So what does grace do for us?

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

We see our sins are remitted and we have the gift of grace but not to keep sinning but to walk in the light. It is very clear we do not deliberately keep walking in sin but we begin to turn from darkness to walk in the light. To walk in Jesus. To walk in love. To follow the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth. We do not instantly escape from all sin but **turn from it in our hearts**, it is a walk. It is a walk of thinking of others to be as important as ourselves and to love others as Jesus has loved us. He sacrificed himself for us. This is how he showed his love. Jesus did not describe love as emotions or feelings and it is very important to realize what Jesus calls love and not be fooled by what **we may think of as love**. The bible tells us what God says love is and we need to know the truth about what love is, we must be careful not to define love in any other way. We do not want to be deceived. Walking as Jesus walked includes **doing** certain things and also **turning from** certain things. It includes having a right attitude toward others. Walking in light and repenting of darkness. Departing from sin and walking in love. Jesus sacrificed himself for us, showing his love is sacrificial.

Colossians 3 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. **3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: **6** For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: **7** In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. **8** But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. **9** Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; **10** And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of

him that created him: **11** Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

12 **Put on therefore**, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; **13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. **14** And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. **15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. **17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Once again it is very clear that we do not continue in sin but **put off** evil things and begin to **put on** good things. This is how Jesus walked and lived and shone the light in the world. He was our example and after him the early apostles followed his example and also left instructions such as found in colossians chapter 3 above. Once again none of it describes feelings and emotions. It describes what is evil and to restrain from that evil, and putting on those things that lift up and help others to do the same. It's an attitude and decision we must make to choose to live by these guidelines given to us. For instance if an angry person offends us we can show grace like Jesus did and forbear and forgive and be merciful toward them. Thus that angry person will see our grace and the Holy Spirit is then able to convict that person about the anger because we were graceful. If we get offended at the angry person we just encourage them and become angry like them. They spread their anger to us because in our anger we are judging them. We actually strengthen sin in them and also in us. We are being self righteous. We have become a judge. This is why satan loves us to get offended at each other, he wins on both ends if there is no grace. He causes one person to get angry then the other to get offended and if both persons co-operate with that evil spirit then sin is strengthened. And both people are now fallen from grace and come under the law and condemnation.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

All were in sin when Jesus died. He hung on the cross as the crowd jeered and mocked him and yet he forgave and showed pity and mercy and love. He did not judge any of them because he left that to His father in heaven. The selfsame Father in heaven who is now watching over us who are his children. If he had judged and retaliated then he would not have overcome the enemy and we would have no grace. He showed grace and sowed in love and so the enemy was left absolutely powerless against this most awesome of weapons that God has given us. Called love. This is what defeated the enemy. This is what made his sacrifice acceptable to God.

Colossians 2:15 *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

Right when satan thought he had defeated God by murdering His Son, Love defeated him in an open show. Jesus defeated sin and death by simply walking in love. **He forgave. He showed grace where none was deserved.** Thus showing the **ultimate weapon** that God has given us. LOVE

Right here at this point in time is our best lesson to live by. Whether we think someone deserves to be forgiven is not given to us to decide or judge on. Jesus himself did not judge. Even having fulfilled all the law and being perfect he still held his peace and thus made a way that we can be saved. He fulfilled the law and his sacrifice made a way for all to be saved. The law has now been dealt with by the cross and Jesus sacrifice.

John 8 15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

John 8 26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. **27** They understood not that he spake to them of the Father. **28** Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. **29** And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. **30** As he spake these words, many believed on him.

This is how Jesus walked and we are to walk as he walked. He held his peace and left all judgement to God. Despite being innocent he opened not his mouth against them. He walked in love as described throughout the bible. He walked sacrificially. If HE refused to be offended at the things he suffered which were great, how much more should we do the same being sinners and in need of grace? If we get offended we make ourself a judge and we fall from grace. We must show grace to receive grace or sow grace to be covered by grace.

Acts 8 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: **33** In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

So why did Jesus have to die? Why did he have to sacrifice himself for us to be redeemed? God cannot lie and he puts his word above his name, and so Jesus came to fulfill all that was written in the Word of God. He came to fulfill the law and the things written in the word about himself, to prove who he was. He fulfilled the law because we cannot. By him fulfilling the law and by his sacrifice he defeated sin and death and so through His achievement (and never our own) we can be saved if we walk as he walked. If we stay under grace.

Matthew 5 17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. **18** For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Romans 5 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For

scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. **10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. **11** And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and **so death passed upon all men**, for that all have sinned: **13** (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. **14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. **16** And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification. **17** For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall **reign in life** by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. **19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, **so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous**. **20** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, **grace did much more abound**: **21** That as sin hath reigned unto death, **even so might grace reign through righteousness** unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

So we see that Jesus has dealt with the law and we are now no longer held under the law because of the grace given to us freely by God in order that he can stay true to His word and still save us from damnation. He cannot break his word and so without Jesus we would all be under the law and under sin and under death and under damnation. This is why Jesus had to come and had to sacrifice himself. This is why he is the only way. He fulfilled Gods Word for us. He fulfilled the law. By Gods grace we are freed from the law and sin and death and damnation. Praise God!

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

So is this grace given so that we can continue in sin because Jesus fulfilled the law for us? Does this mean we can continue on as sinners and not walk in love? To be greedy and angry and hateful and lustful and depressed and hurtful and prideful and judge and gossip and slander and covet? To be offended and unforgiving? Of course not!

Romans 6 **1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? **2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? **3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the

likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: **6** Knowing this, that our **old man is crucified with *him***, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we **should not serve sin**. **7** For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: **9** Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. **10** For in that he died, he died unto sin once: **but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God**. **11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let **not sin therefore reign** in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but **yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. **14** **For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

So we see that Gods grace gives us dominion over sin not to continue in it, but to escape from it. Gods grace gives us power over sin. We are no longer held captive by it. Before grace came we were servants to sin and held in bondage to it.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Our flesh(our old man or nature) still wants to sin but we are now spiritual and must by the Spirit put the flesh and the lusts of the flesh to death. Our old man -- that is our flesh -- is crucified with Christ, (considered dead) we no longer allow it to reign over us. And so being born again in the spirit by faith we now use the grace given to us to **overcome sin** in the flesh. Grace is given to **overcome** sin in our lives. So that we can be made more and more like our savior who sacrificed himself for us. When we sacrifice ourselves for others we walk in the light and show who Jesus is in our lives to others who are watching us. We show that now God reigns and **self has no rule over us**. The grace we show, then allows others to see Jesus living in us and helps them to see the loving God we serve. The more like Jesus we become the more people can see the love of God and so believe and be saved. We become walking testimonies of Gods love. But if we show no grace or love, what would convince others that our God is the God of love and the One True God. What would make christians any different to any other religion? It is love and grace that God wants us to walk in to show the difference. Walk in the light. Walk in love.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If we walk in the light which means putting **sin off** and putting **love and grace on** then the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. So we deny our flesh and our carnal nature of its desires and lusts so that we can walk after the Holy Spirit and put to death the selfish nature that we previously walked in. Thinking of ourselves and what we want instead of thinking of others and their needs as Jesus did. Our spirit must begin to rule over our flesh as we by the Holy Spirit begin casting sin out of our lives. As we begin to think more about the needs of others than our own needs. As we think about showing grace and love so that others might be saved. Jesus love and mercy and grace saved us and so God also wants our love and mercy and grace to save others. We cannot treat

Gods grace like garbage and continue in sin and selfishness. Peoples souls are at stake who need to witness Gods love and grace through our example. We reap what we sow. If we sow discord and offense we will reap the law and judgement. If we sow grace and love we will reap life eternal not only for ourselves but for those whose lives we touch through the Spirit of God. We must die to the selfish flesh. Live to the Spirit.

Romans 8 **1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. **3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: **4** That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. **6** For to be **carnally minded is death**; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. **7** Because the **carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.** **9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

So we see that grace is given to us to remove the bondage of sin and death from us. It is not given in order that we just go on sinning. It has given us **power over sin**. We now have the ability to escape all sin by grace through faith in Jesus.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

If there is sin in our lives we now have power over it to escape its grip over us. Sin and death have been defeated. Remember it is by faith and we must turn our faith into action by **believing** we can escape **any** sin in our life. If it is a sin that has a strong hold over us and we feel helpless to escape, such as unforgiveness or offense we must **believe** we **DO HAVE POWER OVER IT**. It cannot stay if we **believe** it cannot stay **and apply our faith**. We ask God to help us and by faith in Him he will. Our advocate is Jesus the righteous one who is at Gods right hand. His grace allows this. He overcame sin already, the grace is there now for us to **overcome** any sin **by faith**. We are no longer under condemnation **when we walk in Gods grace**. We walk in grace by showing grace. If we justify ourselves and judge others and point fingers and become offended without forgiveness, without repentance then we fall from grace and fall back into the grip of the law and into condemnation. Jesus did not get offended at the cross. He showed grace, mercy and love.

Romans 8 **10** And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life

because of righteousness. **11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **12** Therefore, brethren, we are **debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.** **13** For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye **through the Spirit** do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. **14** For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, they are the sons of God. **15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

If we continue to sow to what the flesh wants and what we want and allow the flesh nature to rule over us then we will reap to corruption and death. If we sow mercy grace and love and to the nature of Jesus then we will reap eternal life where Jesus is. If we choose to remain in unforgiveness and bitterness and rebellion and offense and loose living and self pity and such similar things we will squander the chance God gives us to escape from such things. We are not to stay in fellowship with the devil but are to deny his ways. Grace is there to empower us to overcome the enemy. The gift of grace by faith. Gods mercy toward us.

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

1John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

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