

If We Are Saved by Grace, Does It Matter How We Live?

The story of Dr. Bryan Chappell

2 Cor 3:6 “[God] has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

John 1:17 “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

Why is it that grace, which places on us no requirement that we change, is the most powerful force to transform a person’s life?

Grace Frees You from Spiritual Slavery

Everyone is a Slave to Something

Vs. 6 “... so that we might no longer be *enslaved* to sin”

Vs. 12 “Let not sin therefore *reign* in your mortal body, to *make you obey* its passions.”

Vs. 14 “For sin will have no dominion over you.”

“You must recognize the shape of your spiritual slavery.” – Tim Keller

What Good Was Your Old (or current) Master?

What is your current master?

Possibilities: Money, Reputation, Romance, Independence, Someone Being Dependent Upon you, A Political Cause, Your Kids, Your Career, Fitness, Entertainment, A Hobby You Love...

Exodus 20:3-5 “You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of **anything** that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them **or serve them.**”

Vs. 21 “But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.”

Freedom Through Union with Christ

United with Christ

His past is our past

His death is our death to sin (vs. 3)

His crucifixion was the death of our “body of sin” (vs. 6)

We have died with Christ (vs. 8)

The death he died he died to sin, once for all (vs. 10)

His future is our future

Christ’s resurrection is our new walk (vs. 4)

We will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his (vs. 5)

We believe that we will live with him (vs. 8)

Christ will never die, death has no dominion over hm, so consider yourselves... (vs. 9-11)

A New Master

Present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life (vs. 13)

Transformation Starts in the Mind

So You Must Consider Yourself Dead to Sin

This is the first command in the book of Romans

The Greek word is “logidzomai” – from the word Logic. It means “reckon.”

Three Seasons – The Story of Hai and Lan

Questions for Personal Study

1. How do law and grace differ as approaches to controlling human behavior?
2. How does the principle of “spiritual slavery” show up in your life? What ways are you tempted to bow down and serve something other than the true God?
3. Put in your own words how Jesus sets us free through dying with him.
4. How can you fight the mental battle – that you “consider” yourself dead to sin?