

Life Application

- How has this message changed your thinking?
- Do you find it easier to live by values (rules) or by abiding in Christ?
- Do you find it difficult to believe the God made you righteous? Why?

DO YOU NOT KNOW? PASTOR STEVE MARTIN

Romans 6:1-4 (NASB) What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Why is there no such thing as a “good” or “bad” Christian?

A value system is nothing more than a shared set of beliefs, principles and priorities that a group uses to decide what is important, right or desirable.

If you want to really enjoy your Christian life, stop living your life based on Christian values.

The essence of Christianity is the person and work of Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a value system *about* Christ. Christianity *is* Christ - the resurrected Jesus living in and through you to produce His life, His righteous character, and His work in this world.

John 15:4-5 - Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

The most important question a believer can ask is not: "would it be right or wrong for me to do this?"

A better question to ask is, "am I abiding in Christ at this moment so that His life is fully expressed through me?."

Romans 13:14 - Christ's righteousness is the Father's gift to us. We are clothed in Him and His clothes fit us perfectly.

Romans 6:2b - How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

If your focus is on your sin and your failures then you will continue to try and control your behavior.

We are transformed from the inside out, not the outside in.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil = self sufficiency; life apart from Christ

The tree of life = Christ's sufficiency; life abiding in Christ.

There is no love or freedom without choice. The choice of life or death is always before us.

Matthew 7:21-23 - Even "good" deeds when produced apart from Jesus are wrong.

When we died to sin, we died to our definition of goodness, we died to our definition of righteousness, and we died to our definition of what brings life.