

CLARIFYING THE CONFUSION ABOUT *CHRISTIAN LIVING BY GRACE*

{God doesn't want a performance; He wants an intimate relationship. Colossians 2:6-3:11}

1. The Christian life by grace that God designed for you is to be lived the very same way in which you _____ Christ Jesus the _____ - by _____ {2:5; Jn1:12} as Supreme & Sufficient, not through human wisdom and strength as if you were supreme & sufficient. {2:6; 2 Cor. 3:5}
2. The Christian life by grace that God designed for you is to be lived in light of knowing your _____ in Christ "*rooted in Him*" instead of living as if you were still "in Adam" or could lose your salvation. {2:7a}
3. The Christian life by grace that God designed for you involves an ongoing _____ requiring you being _____ sound _____ which then abounds in you with _____ when mixed with faith. {2:7b}
4. The Christian life by grace that God designed for you still involves a spiritual _____ with the flesh {your internal foe}, the world {your external foe}, and the Devil {your infernal foe}, especially including a constant bombardment of _____ which is not in keeping with your sufficiency in _____. {2:8}
5. The Christian life by grace that God designed for you focuses you on Jesus Christ because of your union / position in Him including such spiritual blessings as ...
 - a. JESUS CHRIST being God's Solution to *your insufficiency* ... as you have been made _____ in Christ with all spiritual blessings. (2:9-10; Ephesians 1:3)
 - b. JESUS CHRIST being God's Solution to *your sin nature*... as you have been SPIRITUALLY CIRCUMCISED and RAISED WITH CHRIST. (2:11-12; Romans 6:1-7)
 - c. JESUS CHRIST being God's Solution to the *guilt of your sins* ... as you have been already been _____ and MADE ALIVE WITH CHRIST. (2:13; Eph. 1:7, 2:5-9)
 - d. JESUS CHRIST being God's Solution to the *burden of the Law* ... as He has paid your _____ and took it out of the way by God NAILING it to Christ's CROSS. (2:14)
 - e. JESUS CHRIST being God's Solution to the *angelic conflict* ... as He has defeated _____ and his _____ at the cross. (2:15)
6. The Christian life by grace that God designed for you will require discerning & resisting the spiritual counterfeit of _____ which offers the shadow instead of the reality. {2:16-17} What is legalism? Legalism is a false spirituality & mental attitude which seeks to earn or merit the blessings of God by religious rituals or works for either salvation or sanctification. How does legalism show itself in our day & in Paul's? What is God's solution to legalism?
7. The Christian life by grace that God designed for you will require discerning & resisting the spiritual counterfeit of _____ that highlights one's experiences and feelings under the appearance of false humility, extra-biblical revelation, and mystical experiences which are vainly puffed up by their fleshly minds and does NOT HOLD FAST to JESUS CHRIST and His sufficiency for the growth of the body of Christ. {2:18-19} What is mysticism? Mysticism is a false spirituality & belief that encourages its adherents to possess a deeper or higher spiritual state based on some personal feelings, subjunctive experience, inward intuition, or extra-biblical revelation.

How does mysticism show itself & happen today?

- a. By FOCUSING on the _____ instead of JESUS CHRIST.
- b. By FOCUSING on the _____ instead of JESUS CHRIST.
- c. By FOCUSING on _____ instead of the WORD OF GOD.
- d. By FOCUSING on _____ instead of JESUS CHRIST.

What is the solution to mysticism?

8. **The Christian life by grace that God designed for you will require resisting the spiritual counterfeit of _____ which is contrary to our freedom based upon our death with Christ to the world by submitting to _____ based upon religious traditions that confuse true spirituality by having an appearance of wisdom & false humility but are simply another form of bondage that leads to the indulgence of the flesh. {2{20-23}** What is asceticism?

Asceticism is the false belief that encourages rigorous discipline & denial of bodily desires to create higher states of spirituality in the soul. What are its characteristics? Asceticism ...

- a) elevates the NEGATIVE, instead of the positive.
- b) focuses on the EXTERNAL, instead of the internal.
- c) becomes RIDICULOUS, if pursued to their logical conclusion.
- d) emphasizes the TEMPORAL, instead of the eternal.
- e) seeks God's blessing thru human MERIT OR WORKS, instead of God's grace.
- f) is based on the COMMANDMENTS and DOCTRINES OF MEN, instead of God's Word.

9. **The Christian life by grace that God designed for you is to involve vertical _____ with Jesus Christ as you daily SEEK those things which are above and SET YOUR MIND on your heavenly union with Jesus Christ to view & live your life based upon your *new position, identity, security, and future glory in Christ.* (3:1-4) What word is found 4x in 4 verses and what does this emphasize? How should your union with Jesus Christ impact how you view your past, present, and future?**

10. **The Christian life by grace that God designed for you involves rejecting _____, which operates under the guise of your freedom in Christ, by taking responsibility for allowing God to now put to death personal sins of perverted love in your life since you died with Christ and are now a new man in Christ. {3:5-11}** What is *license*? License involves a wrong PERSPECTIVE and PRACTICE which perverts the grace of God in falsely assuming that God's grace and freedom from a law-oriented, performance-based spirituality is a LICENSE TO SIN. (Jude 1:4)

Unlike license, a true understanding & application of God's grace never encourages sin {Rom. 6:1-2,15} but results in a HOLY life {Rom. 6:16-22; 1 Pet. 1:13-18} that denies ungodliness and worldly lusts {Tit. 2:11-12} but involves an ongoing walk of FAITH in Christ as your life {John 15:1-5} via the WOG {Col. 3:16-17} and overflows in humble service to others in LOVE {Gal. 5:13-16}, while looking for the blessed HOPE of Jesus Christ's imminent return. {Tit. 2:13}

What is the objective of all this? {3:11}