

Ephesians

Week Two

The Importance of Identity

Ephesians 1:3-14 (part one)

Pastor Steve Treichler

January 23rd, 2022 (8:30 and 10:30am), FB Live (10am)

For His Glory and our joy!

Online Description of Message:

What is it that ultimately makes you “ok”? How can we anchor our personal identity in something that is not fleeting and unreliable? This week we will look at the simple little phrase “in Christ” used throughout the letter of Ephesians that, when understood properly, makes all the difference in understanding our amazing identity in Christ!

Passage:

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship ⁿ through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Message Notes:

Introduction – *“Identity Theft”*

Today’s Message:

The Importance of Identity

Ephesians 1:3-14 (part one)

All these spiritual blessing are ours IN CHRIST.

BQ TODAY? What does Paul mean by “in Christ”?

On our own we are NOT ok.

God justifies the ungodly in Christ!

Romans 4:5

Jesus and Union with Him

John 10:27-30

John 15:5

Paul and Union with Christ

Philippians 3:8-9

1 Corinthians 1:30

2 Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 4:4-5

Romans 6:1-14

How is the “bratwurst of our salvation” actually made?

Galatians 2:19-21

1. Dying to the law
2. So that I might life for God
3. Crucified with Christ
4. Righteousness is NOT from me

Gospel Implication:

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!

1. *In your status with God (Justification)*
2. *In your relationship with God (Redemption/Adoption)*
3. *In your life in God (Sanctification)*

Gospel Application: *Are you ok in Jesus?*

Scripture Passages used (New International Version)

Romans 4:5

⁵However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

John 10:27-30

²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Philippians 3:8-9

⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

1 Corinthians 1:30

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Romans 6:1-14

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death

he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Galatians 2:19-21

¹⁹“For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Quotes (used or referred to):

Union with Christ is . . . the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation. . . . It is not simply a phase of the application of redemption; it underlies every aspect of redemption.

~ John Murray, *Redemption—Accomplished and Applied* [Eerdmans, 1955], pp. 201, 205.

For years I have taught students that one of the most important items in Paul’s Theological vocabulary is the two-letter word **ἐν** [*in*], despite the failure of so many writers to pick it up.

~ I. Howard Marshall, Professor Emeritus of New Testament, University of Aberdeen

Whatever you have of life was not given you till you came into union with Christ. It is a new thing—as new as though you had been actually dead and rotted in the tomb and then had started up at the sound of the trumpet to live again.

~ Charles Spurgeon, *Christus et Ego* sermon on November 17th, 1867

[Union with Christ] is at once the center and circumference of authentic human existence.

~ Lewis Smedes, *Union with Christ* [Eerdmans, 1983], xii.

Once you have your eyes opened to this concept of union with Christ, you will find it almost everywhere in the New Testament.

~ Anthony Hoekema, *Saved by Grace* [Eerdmans, 1989], 64.

During the marriage ceremony, when a man and woman stand before the minister, they are two separate individuals. At the end of the ceremony, however, they are pronounced “husband and wife.” They are united; and the two become “one flesh” (Gen. 2:7; Eph. 5:25–31). The property of each individual becomes the property of both. But in our marriage union to Christ, the glorious exchange is far greater. Our sin and guilt are imputed to Christ, and His perfect law-keeping and suffering are imputed to us—what is ours becomes His, and what is His becomes

ours. Because of the representative union that we share with Christ, the Father no longer looks upon us as sinful but sees only the righteousness and holiness of Christ.

~ J. V. Fesko, "Union with Christ in Paul's Epistles," *Tabletalk Magazine, February 2013: Union with Christ* (Sanford, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2013), 14.

To live by grace is to live solely by the merit of Jesus Christ. To live by grace is to base my entire relationship with God, including my acceptance and standing with Him, on my union with Christ.

~ Jerry Bridges, *Transforming Grace: Living Confidently in God's Unfailing Love*, p.59, Tyndale House



Ephesians

Ephesians 1:3-14

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With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

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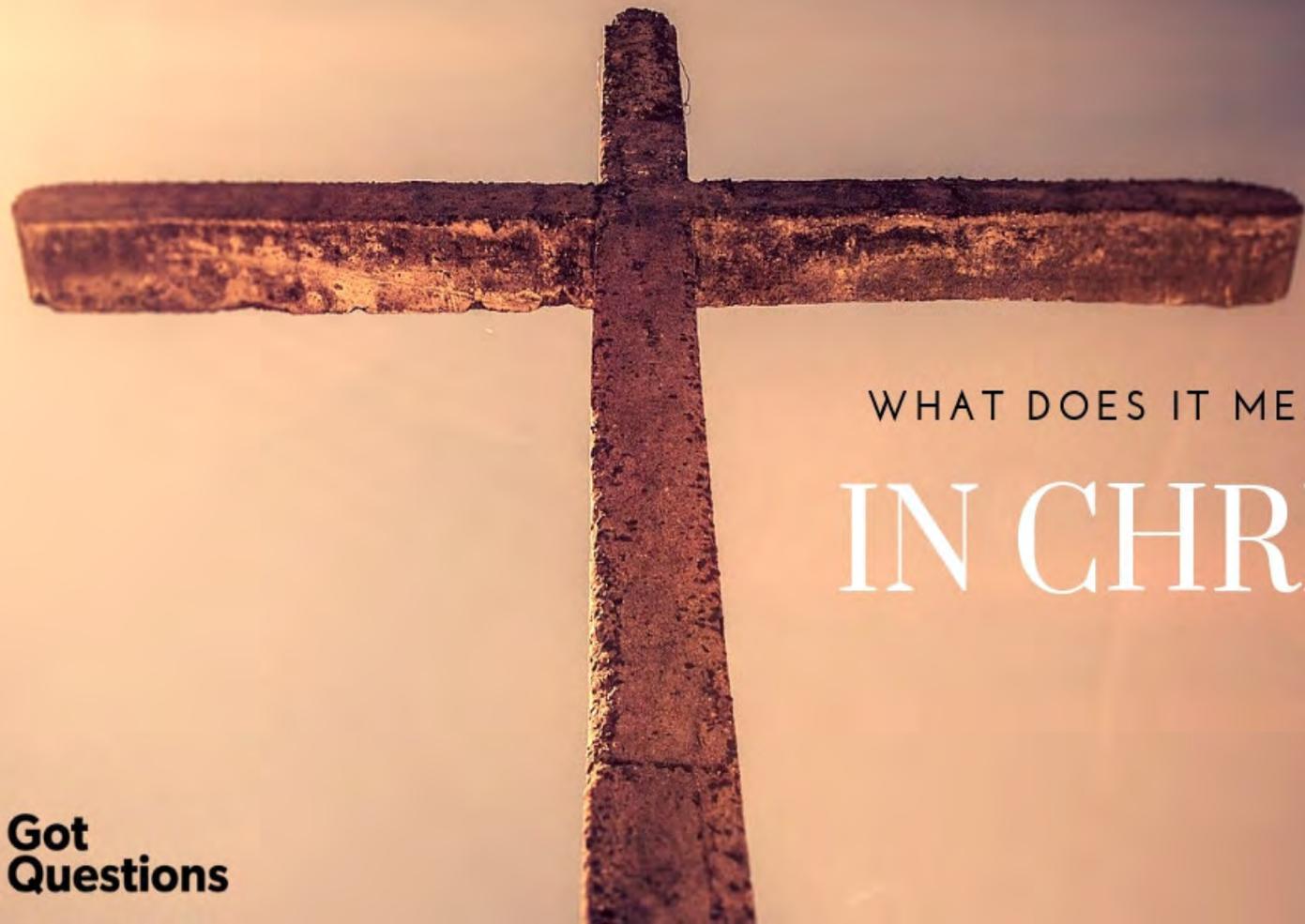
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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE
IN CHRIST?

us I'm Ok In Jesus I'm Ok In Jesus I'm Ok In Jesus I'm Ok In Jesus
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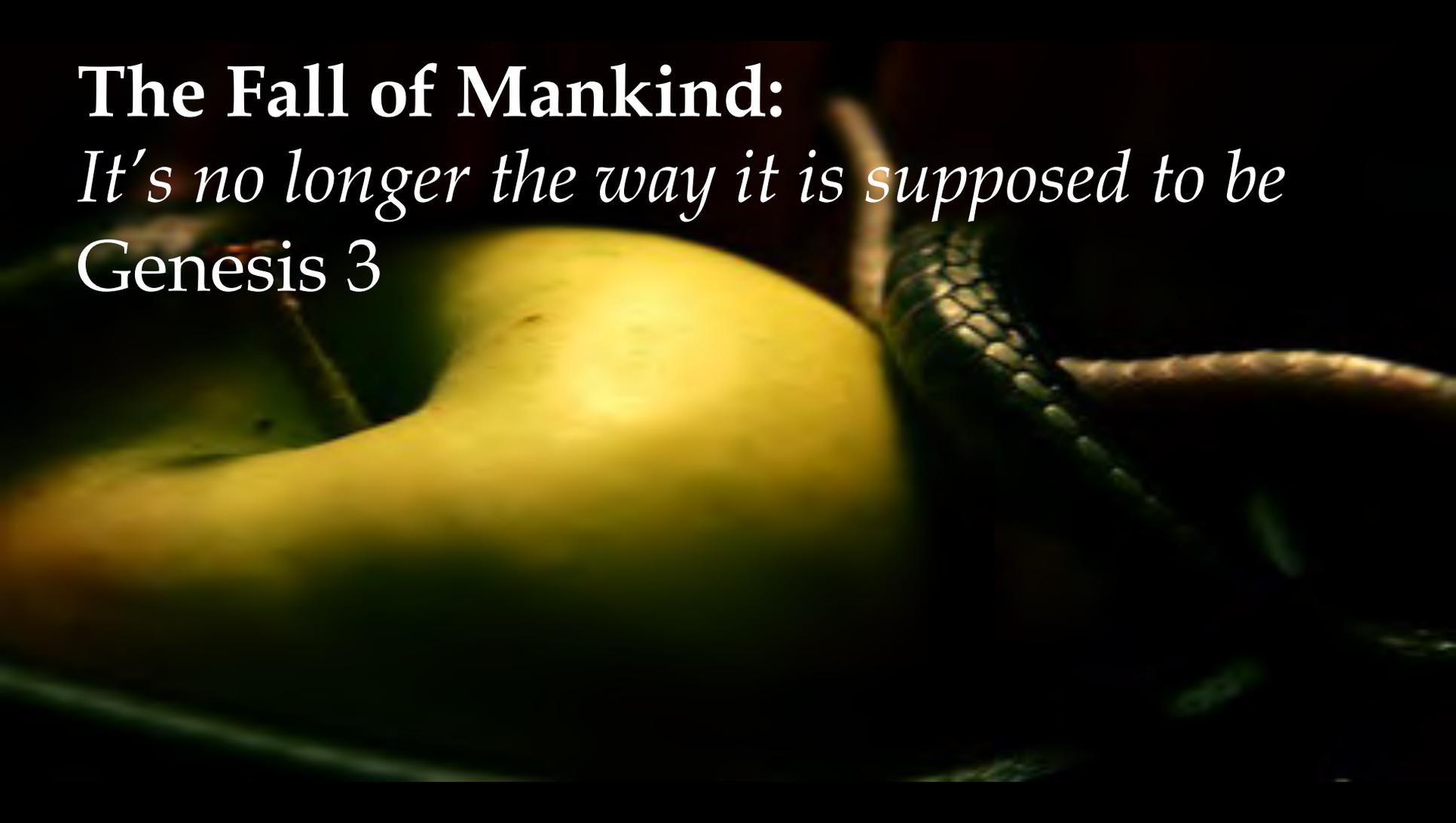


UNION WITH CHRIST

The Fall of Mankind:

It's no longer the way it is supposed to be

Genesis 3



I'm

NOT

okay

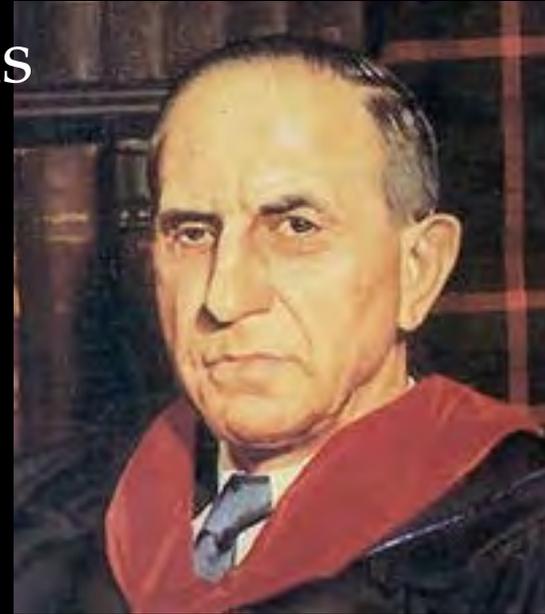
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Romans 4:5

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How It's Made







How the “bratwurst of ok-ness” is made

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Galatians 2:19-21

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How the “bratwurst of ok-ness” is made

1. Dying to the Law

Galatians 2:19-21

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How the “bratwurst of ok-ness” is made

2. So that I might live for God

Galatians 2:19-21

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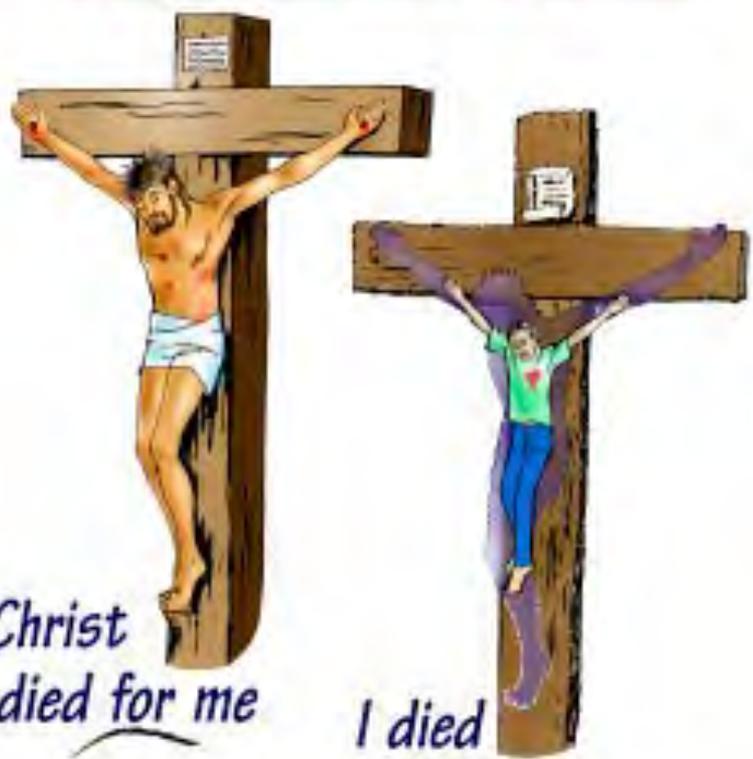
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3. Crucified with Christ

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Two Great Facts



*Christ
died for me*

*I died
with Him*

How the “bratwurst of ok-ness” is made

4. Righteousness is NOT from me

Galatians 2:19-21

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Gospel Implication:

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Label

(See instructions on page 14.)

Use the IRS label.

Otherwise, please print or type.

L
A
B
E
L

H
E
R
E

For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2008, or other tax year beginning _____, 2008, ending _____, 20

OMB No.

Your first name and initial

Last name

Your social security number

If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial

Last name

Spouse's social security number

Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see page 14.

Apt. no.

▲ You must provide your SSN.

City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, see page 14.

Checking a box on this line may change your tax status.

Presidential Election Campaign

Check here if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, want \$3 to go to this fund (see page 14) **You**

Filing Status

Check only one box.

- 1 Single
- 2 Married filing jointly (even if only one had income)
- 3 Married filing separately. Enter spouse's SSN above and full name here. ▶
- 4 Head of household (with qualifying person). If the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent, enter this child's name here. ▶
- 5 Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child

Exemptions

- 6a **Yourself.** If someone can claim you as a dependent, **do not** check box 6a
- b **Spouse**

Boxes c on 6a and b No. of dependents on 6c who are:
 • lived with you during the year
 • did not file a separate return (see page 17)
 Dependents who do not enter an exemption

c Dependents:		(2) Dependent's social security number	(3) Dependent's relationship to you	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if qualifying child for child tax credit (see page 17)
(1) First name	Last name			
		⋮		<input type="checkbox"/>
		⋮		<input type="checkbox"/>
		⋮		<input type="checkbox"/>
		⋮		<input type="checkbox"/>

If more than four dependents, see page 17.

Filing Status:
Single

ME-----LAW-----GOD

Filing Status:
Single

JESUS-----LAW-----GOD

Filing Status:
Married

ME & JESUS-----LAW-----GOD

Filing Status:
Married

ME & JESUS-----LAW-----GOD

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Filing Status:
Married

ME & JESUS-----GRACE-----GOD

Gospel Implication:

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You are not alone

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In your status with God (Justification)

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In your status with God (Justification)

*In your relationship with God
(Redemption/Adoption)*

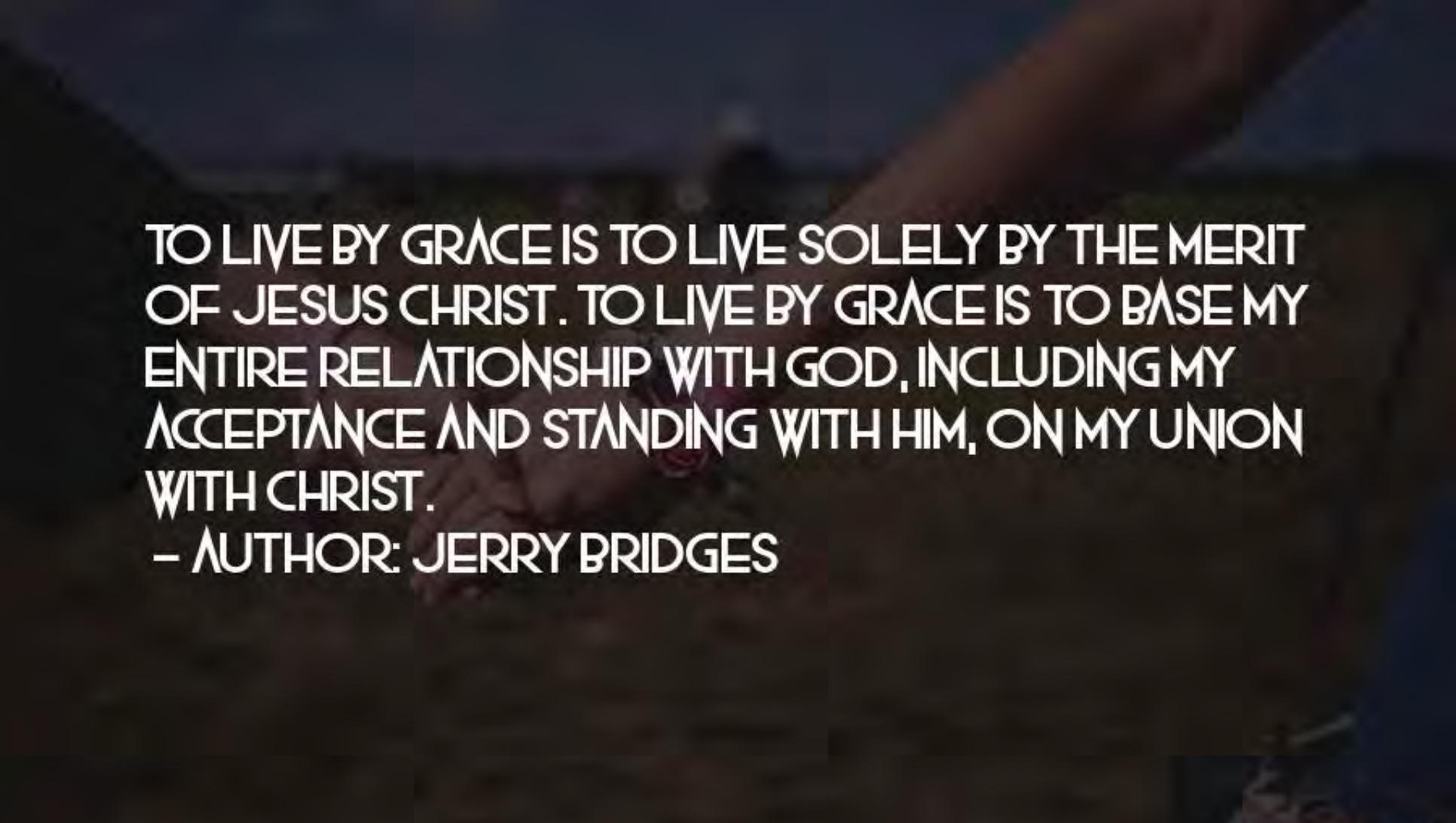
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In your status with God (Justification)

*In your relationship with God
(Redemption/Adoption)*

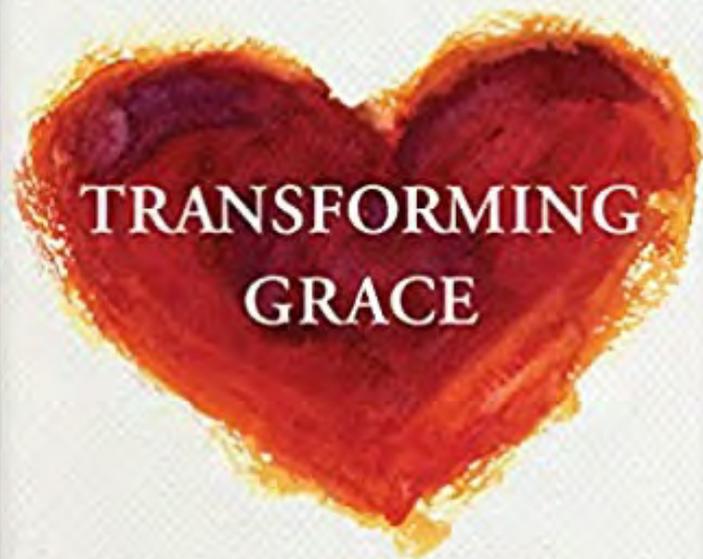
In your life in God (Sanctification)



TO LIVE BY GRACE IS TO LIVE SOLELY BY THE MERIT
OF JESUS CHRIST. TO LIVE BY GRACE IS TO BASE MY
ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, INCLUDING MY
ACCEPTANCE AND STANDING WITH HIM, ON MY UNION
WITH CHRIST.

- AUTHOR: JERRY BRIDGES

OVER 300,000 SOLD



TRANSFORMING
GRACE

JERRY BRIDGES

Gospel-Centered Application:

Are You OK in Jesus?