



GRACE-LOVE-TRUTH COURSE.

LESSON 7: OUR UNION WITH CHRIST

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PART 7: OUR UNION WITH CHRIST

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INTRODUCTION

Grace brings us into a place of intimacy and oneness with God as Jesus has removed all barriers for those who are "in Christ".

Intimacy is defined as: A close or warm friendship, the absence of barriers and fences, a mysterious place where no one knows privacy, familiarity, close involvement, belonging together, sexual relations.

Sadly this is a word that many people simply don't associate with God. So often it has been taught that God is distant, demanding and unapproachable. For those

under the Old Covenant of the Law, this image certainly has some truth (Heb.12:18-21) and was reinforced as God the Judge related to Israel through the Law. A fearsome, distant and scary God inflicted punishment and disease on a pride filled, self righteous people who simply could not fulfil their promise to obey and do their duty. Israel rejected the faith and intimacy that their father Abraham enjoyed and valued. Because of pride,



Israel chose to live by rules and regulations (Ro.9:31-32) instead of by trust, faith and grace. In a sense, Israel was acting out the sinful choice of our original parents, Adam and Eve. They had chosen to live by their own knowledge of good and evil, which is the essence of law living, instead of trusting in a kind and loving God wanted to care for them and guide them. This choice destroyed mankind's intimate, trusting relationship with God. The good news is that Jesus came to restore and better the relationship that Adam and Eve had in the garden of Eden before the fall. Initially, theirs was a relationship of intimate, innocent, childlike dependence and trust in God. This intimacy and childlike relationship (Mt.18:3) is the purpose for which we were all created and the reason Jesus died - to remove all barriers and reconcile mankind to our loving Father (2Co.5:19).

PART 7. LESSON 1. INTIMACY WITH GOD

1. ARE WE CHILDREN OR WORKERS?

Luke 18:17 "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Many Christians believe that God has saved them to be his servants, or even his slaves. Many see themselves as "doers" for God instead of children of God. Another view is that we are called to be an eternal heavenly choir, worshipping God endlessly as a kind of eternal payback for salvation. Although we may well be called at certain time to do some or all of these things, we need to be clear that God is not looking for servants or workers, he has enough angels who fulfil that role. God is looking for "sons" created



in his image (which includes both male and female), with whom he can be loving, real and intimate. The Law mindset says that we are to fear God, obey God's commands and do our duty as God's servants. In contrast, New Covenant grace reveals that we are beloved children who are called to be close and intimate love relationship with Abba. It is then out of our identity as God's beloved children that we love, honour, obey, worship and respect our "Dad" and go about his business (Do you remember hero worshipping your dad when you were very small? I know I did.) God's business is now his children's business - the kingdom is now a family affair not a military duty motivated by fear. In fact the Spirit of "sonship" has set us free from the old "fear" of God the Judge (Ro.8:15). Our fear has turned to reverence and worship for our Father. Our new relationship gives us the confidence to approach our Abba Father to ask for anything we need (Heb.4:16). Intimacy and closeness - child to Dad - son's of God. Amazing but true! By grace, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, the great three in one, are calling us to join in their 24/7, eternal, loving intimacy and oneness.

2. ABBA'S UNASHAMED INTIMACY

Luke 15:20(KJV) And the son arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.



Surly this is one of the most beautiful and intimate scenes in the Bible. The Father, who represents God, runs to meet his wayward son. He falls on his neck with kiss after kiss, absolute relief that his lost son had been found. What an amazing image this is. Through this parable Jesus himself was revealing the Father's soft and vulnerable heart of love and compassion for his children. Spend a few moments picturing the scene, it's implications are enormous - it brings tears to my eyes, because I know I was once that son - just as you probably were. Let it be known, the Father's heart is for intimacy with his children and he is unashamed to make his need known to those who would hear. Far from being a stern and demanding, judgmental, Victorian father, Abba is compassionate, kind, loving and longing for intimacy. Jesus knew it - he experienced it, and he open the door for us to have the same intimacy with Abba. Intimacy is the core purpose of the Fathers grace to us. Through Jesus, the Father's grace has removed every obstacle to intimacy with him, nothing now can separate us from the love of God (Ro.8:39).

3. INTIMACY WITH JESUS

John 12:3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Intimacy with Jesus was something that really offended the religious leaders of Jesus' day (the Pharisees). They not only found people's intimacy with Jesus offensive, but also his intimacy with the people. They asked "How could he associate with "sinners" (Lk.7:39)? How could he touch and be touched by the "unclean"? Did he not know she was a prostitute or that he was a thief? How can this man



be from God?" Yet over and over Jesus poured out grace and promoted intimacy that even offends in this day and age. Just dwell on the above scripture and picture - even today such a scene talks of radical intimacy that pushes the limits. Mary has much to teach us about intimacy with Jesus. Mary chose to spend time close to Jesus, just sitting at his feet listening, near and close up. Jesus was never offended by this, quite the opposite. Jesus rebuked Mary's sister Martha, who was always busy, albeit serving Jesus (Luke 10:41); "*Martha, Martha,*" *the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."* Mary chose intimacy with Jesus, while Martha chose busyness for Jesus. Martha had good reason to be busy. After all it was her home and she had to make Jesus welcome. Martha was preparing and cooking for Jesus and his disciples! But, like many of us, Martha

got distracted from what was really important, because like so many of us Martha was a worrier and a doer. Martha wanted to make a good impression by doing for Jesus. But busyness, even for Jesus, does not please him. What pleases Jesus is intimacy and closeness. Jesus wants intimacy with all believers and Mary is a type of us, the New Covenant believer. So draw close like Mary and allow yourself to let go of busyness and worry so you can rest in the presence of Jesus. Remember the old acronym has some truth, especially in this day and age; BUSY = bowed under Satan's yoke. When we enter into a place of inner rest and let go of the nosiness and busyness of the world we are so much more able to hear the sweet voice of Jesus within us (Jn.10:27 KJV). Intimacy is about communication and closeness. When we are in an intimate relationship we find it easy to talk and easy to listen - this is exactly what God enables through his grace.

4. WE ARE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

2Co 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

Rev 19:7-8 (KJV) Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.

God has uses many analogies to describe the intimate grace relationship that we, the Church, have with him: Sons of God, children of God, the Bride of Christ, the Body of Christ, the saints, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, etc. On the whole these are word pictures that are there to help us see who we are in Christ.



These are not titles that should be used to divide the Church but truths that unite the Church as one in Christ. The whole worldwide Church of born again believers are all of these at the same time. One of the most intimate pictures that describes our relationship with Jesus is "The Bride of Christ".

Song of Songs 1:2-4 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth-- for your love is more delightful than wine. Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you! Take me away with you - let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you!

This is a prophetic picture of Christ and his love, the Church. The cross has removed every sin obstacle and clothed us in the white robes of righteousness - we are the bride of Christ.

Righteousness qualifies us as a fitting bride for the Son. We now have oneness with him by the Spirit. That's grace. And this picture is not just for the ladies it applies to men as well (hum, not an easy one for some guys). Jesus is not just looking for us to know about him or just to have faith in him. He wants us to know that we are one with him, like a husband and wife. Intimate intertwined lives full of love, grace and safety as Jesus, our husband cares for us and covers us. This is not talked about much,



I think because many men find the bride imagery hard to relate to. But in fact it's very similar to the picture the Scripture uses of us, both men and women, being sons of God (Ro.8:17), something that some ladies may battle to relate to. Ephesians 5 talks about marriage and the relational intimacy between man and wife. The Holy Spirit says *"This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the church"*. Christian marriage, between a man and a woman, is a prophetic picture of the relationship of Christ and the Church. Marriage is a union of two souls into one being with two separate identities - so are we with Christ. A healthy marriage is very intimate and loving, there are no secrets, no shame, no guilt. There is constant communication at the deepest level. So it is with us and Christ. Intimacy in a Hebrew sense is to know someone as a man and women know each other in intercourse, a deep intimacy that transcends all barriers of the body and soul, a joining together in ecstasy. The Hebrew word for intimacy is *"yada"*. It is first used in Genesis 4:1 (KJV) *"And Adam knew (yada) Eve his wife; and she conceived."* Amazingly the Holy Spirit uses the same word when Jeremiah prophesies about the coming New Covenant relationship between God and believers (Jer.31:34 KJV) *"And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know (yada) the LORD: for they shall all know (yada) me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, says the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more"* (also quoted in Heb.8:11). Jesus' grace has opened the way for believers and restored the intimate and deep relationship between God and his people that Jeremiah prophesied about.

5. A SCRIPTURAL EXCERSICE

Read and meditate on Ephesians 5:21-33. Write down what it is saying to you about the intimate relationship between Christ and the Church, and the role of each.

PART 7. LESSON 2. OUR UNION WITH GOD

6. PRESENCE

6.1 GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE OLD COVENANT

Mat 27:50-51 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

In the Old Testament because of the fall of mankind into sin, people could not experience the permanent presence of God.

After Sinai, God would appear to certain leaders at certain times to instruct them, guide them, or correct them. These leaders would then communicate God's will to the people. The people themselves could not



have a personal relationship with God. Priests and prophets were the mediators between man and God. If a Israelite wanted to offer a sacrifice or prayer to God it could only be done through a priest. If someone wanted to hear from God they would have go to a prophet who would then enquire of God and hear on their behalf. The common Jew had no relationship with God, They had rejected any type of personal relationship at Sinai (Ex.20:19). They did not have the Holy Spirit in them. The Holy Spirit could not live within Old Testament people because their un-atoned for sins separated them from God's Holy presence. The Holy Spirit only came upon certain chosen people at certain times to empower them for acts of service (Nu.11:24-30). Complicated acts of worship, consecration and sacrifice were used to invoke God's presence at certain times, but on the whole God was distant and far off and his presence was dangerous - as those who dared to touch the Ark of his presence found

out (1Sam.6:19)(1Ch.13:9-10). Only the great High Priest of Israel dare go beyond the curtain veil and enter the Holy of Holies, the place of God's presence in the Temple. And he could only do so once a year on the day of atonement. He did so with fear and trembling, with bells on his feet and a rope around his leg just in case he was struck dead and had to be pulled out. Under the Old Covenant, being in God's presence was a fearful thing. The good news is that through the cross Jesus dealt with the sin issue and tore the curtain veil (Mt.25:512) that represented the division between man and God. Jesus paved the way for God's permanent presence and grace to be poured out to every believer.

Heb 10:19-21 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God.

6.2 GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE NEW COVENANT

John 14:18-20 Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you".

Unfortunately many believers still have an Old Covenant mindset with regard to the presence of God. They believe that God's presence needs to be invoked through acts of worship, prayer, rituals, fasting, etc. Or that God presence inhabits church buildings, holy places, icons or certain holy people who need to impart God's presence to us. Many also believe that the Holy Spirit comes and goes based on the amount of sin in a believers life or the amount of righteous acts, or ministry, a believer is doing . Nothing could be further from the truth! Jesus reassures us that under the New Covenant of grace, God's presence is permanently with each and every believer, all the time. Once we are born again and are a new creation in Christ, we are permanently at one with God and his presence never leaves us. We have union with God through Christ. We may feel separated from God at times but the truth is that he can never leave us because we are now part of him and he is part of us - that is the new creature in Christ. We don't have to call God's presence down from heaven (Ro.10:6-8) or go through complicated rituals and acts of worship any longer, Christ Emmanuel is with us and in us - the word Emmanuel means God with us (Mt.1:23). We are no longer orphans, we are no longer alone. He will never leave or abandon us for his grace guarantees our oneness with him.



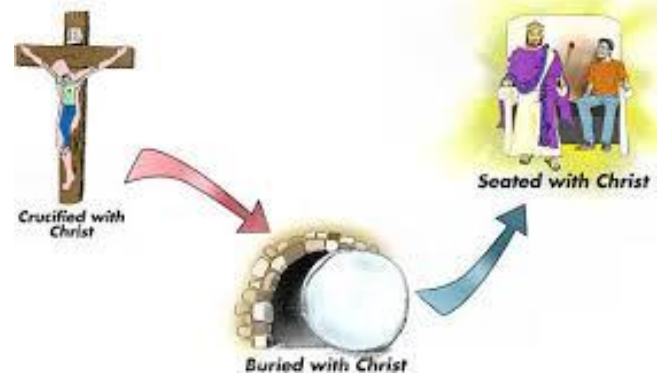
7. WE ARE HIDDEN IN CHRIST

Col 3:2-3 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Eph 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

One of the great mysteries of God and his spiritual kingdom is that although we are clearly physical beings who dwell upon a physical earth, at the exact same time we are always seated with Christ in heaven. Where Christ is we are also, and likewise, where we are Christ is. The cross broke the great divide between heaven and earth, between the physical and the spiritual realms, no longer are we excluded or separated from God and the spiritual. We now see and live in the spirit with eyes of faith. Now these truths are mind blowing and cannot be rationalised, it's simply something we have to accept by faith. These concepts of God's presence, us in hidden in Christ, the body of Christ and Christ living in us, are truths that can only be understood by the spirit. They are miraculous truths that may not be borne out by our feelings or even our circumstances, but never the less they are very real and actually the fulfilment of the whole purpose as to why God took hold of us by his grace; union and oneness with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we were saved we mysteriously died to our old self and were born again by the Spirit to be a new creation that is both physical and spiritual. Along with all believers we also became part of the body of Christ (1Co.12:27). In a sense each of us are like a individual cell in Jesus' physical body which is manifest here on the earth and at the same time seated at the right hand of God in heaven. Jesus is our head and we are part of his body, the Church (Eph.1:22-23). God loves us so much that when God looks at us, he see Jesus' body. We are hidden in Christ, that is why, by grace, God now see us as sinless, perfect and righteous. In God's eyes, as Christ is in heaven so are we on the earth (1Jn.4:17). God see us clothed with Christ (Gal.3:27), perfect and beautiful, the apple of his eye. Wow, that's good news and that's the mystery of mysteries.

We are described as being seated with Christ in heaven, because in Christ we are in the Spirit and in a place of rest. We have ceased from our own works and we now reign and rule with him from the throne of God. Grace is a place of resting in Christ and his finished work of the cross.



8. CHRIST IN US

8.1 THE WORD IN US

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word (logos), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1Jn 2:14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word (logos) of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Rev 19:12-13 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word (logos) of God.



The Scriptures teach that Jesus is not only a person but also the *logos* (Greek word); the Word of God. Again this is one of the mysteries of our faith. God created the heavens and the earth by his spoken (*logos*) word, Jesus Christ. Likewise when we accept the gospel through hearing the (*logos*) word of God, we are recreated and Jesus comes to live within us. Hearing the (*logos*) word of God is how Christ is conceived in us and is how we are born again by his Spirit. That is why simply sharing the gospel with someone is so powerful, as the word they hear has divine power to come to life and grow within them over time. Now this concept of the Word of God coming to live in us is declared by Paul to be the mystery of the ages which all the old prophets longed to see.

Understanding this deep truth can change our lives and the way we relate to God; Jesus Christ, The Word, lives in us and the Holy Spirit is constantly bringing to mind the Word of God

8.2 CHRIST IN US

Gal 2:20-21 (KJV) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Col 1:26-27 The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

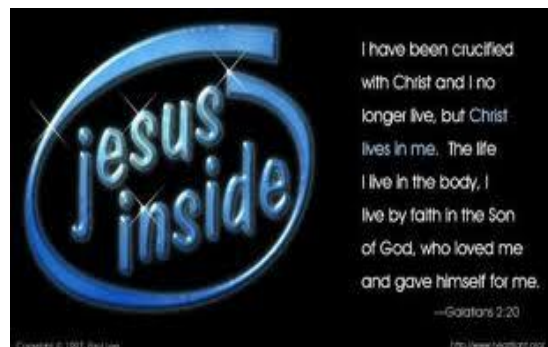
John 17:23-26 I in them and you in me--so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

8.3 A SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION

Before looking onto this part, please spend some quiet time meditating on the enormity of what the Holy Spirit is saying through the above scriptures "Christ himself lives in us".

8.4 THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES: CHRIST IN US

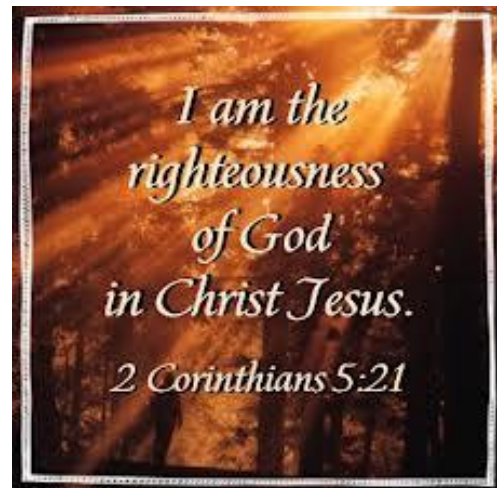
"The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people", what an powerful statement. The Holy Spirit is telling us that we have the privilege of receiving an amazing secret from God, one that he had kept hidden for many generations. This amazing truth is that Jesus Christ is inside each and every believer.



Yes, Christ is seated in heaven but by his Spirit, Jesus lives inside each and every born again believer. Just as each and every believer is hidden in Christ, so Christ is hidden in us. This is true intimacy, true oneness. This has profound implications for us. It means we no longer have to wait for Jesus to come to our aid when times are tough, or when we minister, he's already in us going through what we are going through. When we pray we don't have to hope our prayers make it to heaven and aren't blocked by demons or a closed heaven, because Jesus is now a part of us and we are part of him, he hears us straight away and even knows our thoughts and feels our emotions. As it says; "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" - my life is now his life. When we worship we don't have to do so in the hope of opening heaven - we are already seated in heaven with Christ and he is already in us. Because of Christ in us our whole life now becomes an act of worship pleasing to God. Now we worship in Spirit (Jn.4:23) and Truth because of God's Spirit within us. It is also important to realise that we can't have a little bit of Jesus or a little bit of the Holy Spirit in us, we all have the fullness of Christ, all the time.

8.5 UNION, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GRACE

The Holy Spirit teaching through Paul, links the fact that "Christ lives in us" with the truth that it is only through the righteousness that comes by grace (Gal.2:21) that Christ is able to live in us. We reiterate, that for those in Christ, our right standing with God never changes. Our state i.e. our emotions, feelings and physical well being, may change from day to day as it is temporal, but our standing is eternal and unchanging. Paul makes it clear that mixing Law with grace frustrates God's purpose of Christ living in us (Gal.5:4). If we are living by laws, rules, regulations, works and self



righteousness we are not able to hear, or respond to "Christ in us" as the spiritual veil of the Law descends (2Co.3:15). Legalism and self righteousness blocks us from hearing the voice of God, causes us to depend on others to hear God on our behalf and to motivate and empower us. That is why so many Christians chase after Christian "big names" and why motivational speaking has often replaced Christian preaching and teaching. This is the nature of law living; like Israel, one comes to depend on priests and prophets to minister and hear on our behalf. Instead of "Christ in us" being our mediator (1Tim.2:5) we follow other anointed men and women who in effect become our mediators and communicators with God. Grace living is the exact opposite of this. Grace living is about living by the Spirit of God within us, hearing his voice for ourselves and responding with faith and action, trusting that God has got our backs and that he is enabling us to do things we would never do in our own strength. "Christ in us" is always there for us and we are never alone, so we no longer have to be anxious or afraid when we take risks in faith. We are one with Christ the living Word and his word will guide us from within.

"Righteousness means the ability to stand in the presence of the Father God without the sense of guilt or inferiority." - E. W. Kenyon

9. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US

Grace living is directly linked to living by the guidance, truth and empowering of God, the Holy Spirit. Christ is our holiness, righteousness and redemption (1Co.1:30) but it is the Holy Spirit that leads us on a day to day basis and gives us the spiritual power we need to live the Christian life. The New Testament confirms that the kingdom of God comes about by the Spirit and the system of the

kingdom is grace. Grace and the Spirit go together, one reinforces the presence of the other. It is not purpose of this course to go in detail into the important and vital truths of the Holy Spirit and life by the Spirit, but we will touch briefly on the Holy Spirit in us.

9.1 JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 1:32 Then John the Baptist gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him".

Jesus received the full presence of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, only then did Jesus' ministry start. The Holy Spirit came upon him and remains on Jesus to this day. Jesus is now the bearer of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit no longer comes and goes as in the Old Covenant, the Spirit now remains on the Body of Christ. As said previously, when we died to self and were born again, we became part of the body of Christ. Because the Holy Spirit



is permanently upon Christ, he is permanently upon and within us, the body of Christ. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one, you can't have one without the other. If we are born again, Christ lives in us, then the Father and the Spirit live in us too. Jesus said that he and the Father are one (Jn.10:30) and Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ (Ro.8:9). We do not receive the Spirit because of something we do, we have received the Spirit because of something we are; the Body of Christ, the New Creation, sons of God.

9.2 WE ARE TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1Co 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.

Just as Jesus lives in us, so to the Holy Spirit. We are referred to in Scripture as Temples of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can only live in born again believers, because only born again believers have been sanctified by the indwelling presence of Jesus. The Holy Spirit can touch any person, saved or unsaved, but the Holy Spirit lives only in God's people. People of the world cannot accept him or know him (Jn.14:17). It is the Holy Spirit within us that constantly reminds us that we are children of God (Ro.8:16). He engages with us spirit to Spirit and he is the seal of guarantee of our sonship and affirms us as sons.

9.3 LIVING LIFE BY THE SPIRIT

Gal 5:16-18 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Rom 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Our day to day life in Christ is to be directed by the Holy Spirit. Life in the Spirit is the life of grace. Just as grace gives us favour with God so the Spirit of God helps us to work out that favour and the blessings on a day to day basis so that we are affective for the kingdom of God and glorify Jesus with our lives.

9.4 BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Act 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Spirit is in every believer who is born again, but not every believer has necessarily been baptised with the power of the Holy Spirit. Many experience this empowering and the gifts (graces) of the Spirit for ministry when they give their lives to Jesus. However other experience this empowering of the Spirit at a later date. Either way, the Spirit empowers us for ministry and witness as and when the Spirit determines. This is an important part of Christian living and ministry that falls outside the scope of this course and needs to be taught in more detail at another time.



9.5 OUR TEACHER IS NOW THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH US

John 16:13-15 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

In the New Covenant it is the Holy Spirit that is our final teacher. No longer do we need other men to tell us what is right and what is wrong (Heb.8:11) as they did under the Law. Now the Spirit is at work within us guiding us, encouraging us and when necessary correcting us according to the Word. He reveals the spiritual truths of Jesus, his kingdom and his grace deep within our spirits. The teaching of the Holy Spirit is revelation that will often override the logic of worldly thinking.

The Spirit teaches us the deep things of the kingdom and reminds us of the things that Jesus has taught us through his word (Jn.14:26). The purpose of the teaching ministry (Eph.4:11) in the Church is now to bring believers to maturity, to the point where they are intimate with Jesus, recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit, understand righteousness and their sonship and are equipped for their own ministry of service to others and God.



10. GROUP EXERCISE

In a group discuss the concept of "Christ in us" and what this means with regard to intimacy, day to day living and church life.

10.1 QUESTIONS

- i. What is intimacy?
- ii. What is the Hebrew word for intimacy and the Jewish concept of intimacy?
- iii. Under the Law what prevent intimacy with God?

- iv. What are some of the characteristics of intimacy with God?
- v. What was Mary's better way?
- vi. What is the bride of Christ clothed in?
- vii. Under the Covenant of the Law where did God's presence dwell.
- viii. Under the New Covenant what is God's Temple?
- ix. What is the *logos*?
- x. What is the mystery of the ages?
- xi. Where are we seated and how does this happen?
- xii. Where does the Holy Spirit live?
- xiii. What is the purpose of baptism of the Spirit?
- xiv. Who is called to teach believers today?



11. CONCLUSION

Grace is good news! It establishes us in our unshakable identity as beloved sons of God. We have seen how the Scriptures confirms that Jesus is our all in all and grace is his gift to us. Through his finished work on the cross we have received God's more than abundant grace and blessing. Jesus is the mediator of a wonderful New Covenant of Grace that has brings us into a place of rest and peace. The Law which was given to expose self righteousness, sin and the need of a saviour, is completely fulfilled for those who are in Christ - the Law is now obsolete. In grace all our sins are completely forgiven and forgotten by God, his grace is now our empowerment to say no to sin. Jesus has taken all our sin and given us all his righteousness. We now have permanent right standing with God and eternal life that cannot be lost because Abba has made us his beloved children. We are one with God, Christ lives in us and the Holy Spirit empowers us to live righteous and holy lives. We are blessed to be a blessing. We are God's ambassadors and representatives to reign and rule in his kingdom. We have our Fathers heart of love and compassion and a desire to



share the good news of Jesus and his grace. We stand up for the oppressed and downtrodden because there but for the grace of God goes us.

This concludes the course which we hope has been a great blessing to you. Please recommend it to others and please give us any feedback on how you think we could improve the course. If you would like to support or help in this ministry of spreading the good news of Jesus grace please contact us. Feedback can be sent to study@gracelovetruth.com.

Grace and peace in Jesus.

Garry