



Freedom From Enslaving Sins

By Dr. Steve McVey

“I hate myself!” These were the first words Jim spoke after our initial introduction to each other. He had scheduled an appointment with me to discuss “a personal problem.” “Why do you hate yourself?” I asked him. As Jim began to explain his problem to me, I learned that he was addicted to pornography. “I can’t help myself,” he said. “I have come to love pornographic movies. I tell myself that I won’t watch them anymore, but like clockwork, I find myself at the video store renting the under-the-counter videos that are available.” Jim was a victim of the same lie that keeps many Christians in bondage to sin. He confessed that he hated himself and loved the sin. In reality, Jim didn’t even know himself. And he certainly didn’t love the sin that had brought him to see me after coming to the place of absolute desperation. In the weeks ahead, I was able to share some truths with Jim that helped to set him free.

Sin Is Repulsive To The Christian

Jim made the mistake of thinking that he

loved his sin just because he kept indulging in it. If he had genuinely loved the sin, he never would have come to my office seeking help. The fact that a Christian may temporarily enjoy sin says nothing about him, but speaks about the nature of sin itself. The Bible teaches that sin brings pleasure for a while, but eventually turns sour in the life of a believer. Don’t be deceived into thinking that you enjoy sin just because it brings temporary pleasure. The fact that you are unhappy about your sins prove that you don’t love it, but rather hate it. Read Paul’s description of his own encounter with sin in Romans 7:15-25 to learn more about the Christian’s attitude toward sin. We hate it.

Sin Is Overcome By A Person, Not A Plan

Paul asks in Romans 7:24, “Who will set me free . . .?” Many Christians ask, “What can I do to be freed from my sin?” But freedom comes in the Person of Jesus Christ, not by our own self efforts. Run to Christ with your sins and lay them in His

lap! He alone can deliver you from them, and He will. Freedom over sins comes from trusting Him, not from trying harder to say no to temptation. The answer to sin is a *Who*, not a *what* or a *how*.

The Indwelling Life Of Christ Is The Key

Romans 8:2 says, “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” It is Christ’s life within us that has already given us the power to resist sin. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus gives us victory over the law of sin and death in the same way that the law of aerodynamics gives an airplane victory over the law of gravity. The former law is stronger than the latter!

Jesus Christ is our only hope for overcoming enslaving sins. His life is sufficient to enable us to walk in freedom as we trust Him moment by moment.



Hi, I’m Steve McVey, President of Grace Walk Ministries, and we are thrilled that you have let us send you these proven, biblical principles that will help you restore the joy in your life as a Christian. Grace Walk is a teaching and training ministry which exists for the purpose of sharing the life of Jesus Christ with others. Our mission is to help Christians discover the freedom of their new life in Christ. To this end, we use conferences, mission trips, Bible studies, books, newsletters, CD and DVD Studies and my weekly Sunday Preaching message broadcast via our website.

Again, thank you so much for this opportunity to serve you. There’s lots more in store at our website. Be sure to visit us there at www.gracewalk.org. We hope you’ll drop by for a visit and that you’ll tell a friend about us.

In Him

flip over for another article by Steve

Jesus Christ Doesn't Take First Place In Your Life

by Steve McVey



We've all been told at times that Christ wants to have first place in our lives. Although this is a statement that sounds true at first glance, closer examination will show it is actually a statement that can set you on a wrong course in your grace walk. Christ doesn't want to be first place in your life. He wants you to recognize Him as all of your life.

If Jesus Christ wants the first place spot, what comes second? What about third place? What comes after that? The whole concept is absurd because it implies that our lives can be divided into compartments, with Jesus being one of those compartments.

To understand this point, think about your physical life for a moment. What would you think if I were to suggest that breathing should have first place in your life? What if somebody else said that having a heartbeat should be number one in your life? Maybe someone else could argue, "No, your circulatory system should come first, then breathing, then heart beating."

It's a ridiculous discussion because your body is a whole, unified entity. You can't prioritize which is most important. Your physical health will give expression to every one of those actions in your body. They all work together as they express your normal state of health.

In the same way, our lives are indivisible when it comes to the effect of Christ's presence within us. We can't divide our lives into marriage, parenting, career, hobbies and so on. All of those areas make up our lifestyle as one unified life and Jesus is the source of our attitudes and actions in each of those areas.

Jesus Christ isn't first place in your life. He is your life. He is the essence of who you are. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:4, "When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory." He described life in Philippians 1:21 by saying, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Note that Paul didn't give Jesus a high place in his life. Paul realized that the very core of his existence was his union with Jesus Christ. He said it this way in Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me."

So, there it is. Paul said that he didn't have a life apart from Jesus Christ. That's true for you too. While it may sound admirable to say that we want Him to be number one in our lives, it misses the point of our union with Him altogether.

Christ wants to be the life of your family, the life of your career, the life of your hobbies, the life of your finances, etc. Do you see the point? He is your everything!

We do ourselves a disservice when we think that Jesus is a part of our lives, even if it is the number one part. He is the substance of everything that you are. He is our very essence.

You know you're on the right track in your thoughts when you find yourself seeing your marriage relationship in a way that it is Christ living His life through you, expressing His love and life to your mate. Parenting becomes an expression of His life when we know that it is He who is loving and guiding our children through us. You have a right understanding of priorities when you know it's Him who animates your activity at work.

When we know the truth, we stop thinking of Jesus holding first place in our lives and we begin thinking of Jesus being the source that animates every place in our lives. His isn't number one. He's the whole list!



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