

Introduction: What's wrong with me?

"For I desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing." - The Apostle Paul

Romans 7:18-19

Review:

Ephesians 4:1-6

- **The call to transformation: "Walk worthy of your new life."**
- **The process: "Practice sacrificial, other-centered relationships."**

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| ➤ Be Humble | Not Proud / Selfish |
| ➤ Be Gentle | Not Demanding / Harsh |
| ➤ Be Patient | Not Impatient / Angry |
| ➤ Bear with | Not Critical / Judgmental |
| ➤ Making every effort | Not Slothful / Disengaged |

- **The problem: Our common struggle**

"Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it...What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord".

Romans 7:20, 24

The Questions:

- How did Jesus conquer sin?
- How does that work in my life?

How do we deal with the problem of sin?

Our text:

Ephesians 4:7–10

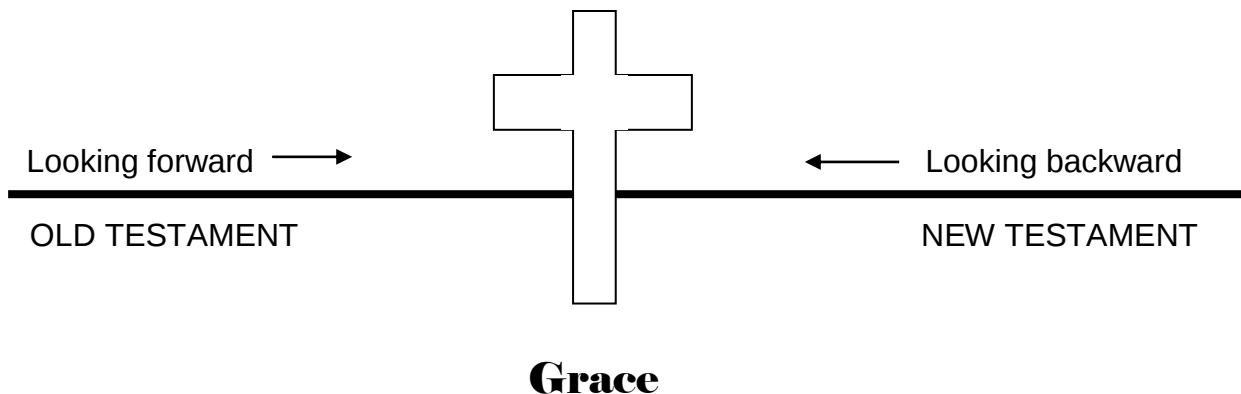
*But to each one of us, grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
Therefore it says,*

*"When He ascended on high,
He led captive a host of captives,
And He gave gifts to men."*

*(Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into **the lower parts of the earth?** ¹⁰He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, **that He might fill all things.**)*

Key words:

- "He led captive a host of captives" Psalm 68:18
- "the lower parts of the earth" - Jewish view of the after-life Luke 16
 - Hades – the wicked 1 Peter 3:18-19
 - Paradise – the righteous 1 Peter 4:6
- "that He might fill all things" Revelation 5:9-13



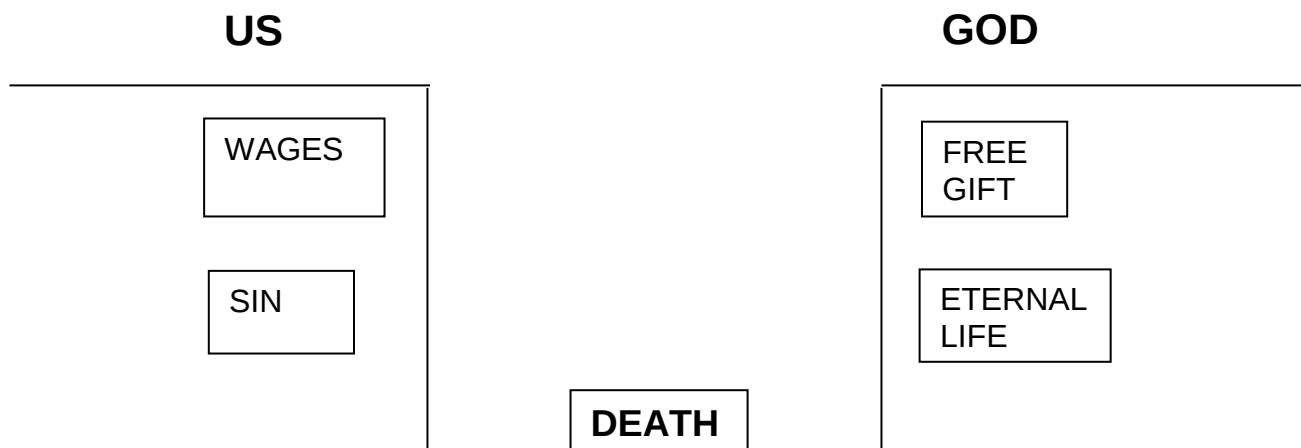
The implications for “Transforming”

Fact #1 - Christ is a conquering victor over sin, death, and Satan. The power to live a new life was made possible by His _____ and _____.
Colossians 2:13-15 & Ephesians 2:1-8

➤ **Principle #1** - Life change always begins with the _____.

Fact #2 - We become “co-partakers” of Christ’s victory over sin, death, and Satan the moment we _____ as our personal Savior by faith.
Romans 6:3-11, 17-19, 22-24

➤ **Principle #2** - Life change demands we _____ on the truth.



For the wages of sin are death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Fact #3 - Every believer is given a _____
(supernatural enabling) at the moment of salvation for two reasons:

- To remind us that “life-change” occurs on the basis of _____ not self-effort.
- To empower us as other-centered “agents of grace” who supply what _____ to be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Principle #3 - Life change is both a gift and a _____.

Discussion Questions:

1. Briefly summarize what Jesus did between the time of His death and resurrection. What is the significance of Christ giving spiritual gifts to His Church?
2. Have you ever asked Christ to forgive you of your sin based on His victory over sin, death, and Satan?
3. In what area of your life do you need to experience God’s power over sin?
4. How are you currently allowing others to use their spiritual gifts to help you grow in Christ? How are you currently using your spiritual gifts to love and encourage others?