

Timothy ... will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul - 1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

# In Christ

Or don't you know that all of those who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death...burial...and resurrection.

Paul - Romans 6:3-5 (NIV)

David Kuykendall Ministries

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Obey the five commands listed below and experience your life "in Christ."

Experience the abundant life through living by grace.

Notice that each command is either to believe something or to choose to do something.

## THE FIVE COMMANDS

### Believe

Romans 6:11

Reckon (believe) yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord

### Choose

Romans 6:12

Do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts

### Choose

Romans 6:13a

Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin

### Choose/Believe

Romans 6:13b

Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead.

### Choose

Romans 6:13c

[Present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

We can and should obey each of these commands because Romans 6:3-5 teaches that all believers have been baptized into Jesus and as a result all believers have been baptized into his death, burial, and resurrection.

## SPREADING THE "IN CHRIST" MESSAGE THROUGH LISTENING COMMUNITIES

By Kenny Moore

**Kenny Moore has been a church planter missionary for more than twenty years—in a local church ministry, in the city of Denver and the entire state of Colorado. He is now officially retired but continues to join others in a ministry of church planting.**

About fourteen months ago, four denominational guys involved in church planting in Colorado met to talk about what were the "missing pieces" for a movement of the Holy Spirit in our state and what we were doing that might be barriers to such a movement.

Desiring to listen to the Holy Spirit, we decided that we would begin to meet for prayer, Bible study and discussion—but most of all to try and learn in community what it was like to hear from God. Our overarching question was, "Holy Spirit, what do You want us to hear from You today about a particular topic, a Bible passage, a book, a problem or an opportunity that we are investigating."

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We started our group using the book "Our Oneness With Christ" as a guide, and soon the "missing pieces" began to emerge. It became clear that we had compartmentalized our methodologies and the Holy Spirit's role into separate packages as we sought to see new congregations started.

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Now after fourteen months of study—which includes a study of the totality of Paul's writings—we have come to believe that the Holy Spirit has shown us what Paul taught in the School of Tyrannus that resulted in the Gospel saturation of the entire province of Asia (Acts 19:9-10). This revelation from the Holy Spirit has shown us what our "missing pieces" have been in our attempts at Gospel saturation of the state of Colorado.

As we studied about the flesh (our know-it-all-attitude), we learned that only by experiencing our union with Christ could we put the flesh out of power in order to receive/hear what the Spirit had for us.

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These studies led us into wondering what would happen to our gospel saturation efforts in Colorado if we would de-emphasize our historic and heroic machinations of self-effort, strategy development, training events, preoccupations with innovation, performance and results.

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We then began wondering what would happen if we really believed that we have been united with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and placed into an intimate LIFE—a full-time life—within the Trinitarian community—24/7 (Ephesians 2:5-6; Romans 6; Colossians 3:1-3). We now ask the Spirit to teach us how to move these biblical essentials from a mystical reality someday to a practical application today.

Each week when we meet and during the week via cell phone and email, we encourage each other and share what it is like to “pray continually” as we imagine ourselves, moment by moment in our true reality—in the “heavenlies” in the presence of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit—in community with the Trinity.

We brainstorm as we study the Bible, books on the life of grace, and personal revelation on how this constant conversation with the persons of the Trinity impacts every aspect of our lives individually, vocationally, corporately—as we experience our union with Christ.

We also began to learn how the Spirit works in community. We were confident going into this experiment that the Spirit spoke and taught us as individuals, but the greatest discovery has been to experience and come to believe that the Spirit may speak more clearly and teach us more effectively in community. That community can be as small as two or it can be larger—there is a growing number of Coloradans who pray with a partner daily over the phone or by email.

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### **What Are The “Missing Pieces?”**

Prayer is an absolute essential before there will be a movement of the Spirit

There must be an understanding of our basic sin problem, i.e. the flesh (know-it-all-attitude) and that it is at war with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18).

There must be a move from today’s focus and dependence on man-centered methodologies to a renewed biblical understanding and emphasis on the centrality of the

Spirit’s guidance and power in all that we say, do or promote.

There must be a renewed biblical understanding and emphasis on our oneness with Christ (Romans 5:12-8:39) as the effectual means of putting our self-efforts (flesh) out of power in favor of the Spirit’s power.

There must be an exercise of our collective imaginations and our belief in the reality that we are *already* in the presence of the Trinity.

### **What Our “Listening Community” Looks Like:**

It is small—six to eight people seems to be the optimal number.

It is diverse—economically, educationally, vocationally, gender and ethnically.

There is a common vision—the total Gospel saturation of Colorado.

It meets weekly and is not rushed—an hour and a half works well for prayer, fellowship, study and dialogue.

It is considered an expression of “church” for participants.

It is intentionally leaderless—different participants facilitate the time together.

Participants are encouraged to start their own “listening communities” as the Spirit leads.

A regular question, “Does what the Spirit is teaching us apply to our individual missionary calling and in our daily lives as Christ followers?” A common value is that we are all incarnational missionaries.

The most refreshing and unexpected reality is that there is no encouragement to attend because no one wants to miss.

*The message of living by grace through experiencing our union with Christ is taught and shared by participants wherever the opportunity arises because it has become the “pearl of great value”*

### **What Is The Potential Should These Communities Reproduce?**

A Trinitarian perspective on *everything* as participants experience a resurrected life of face-to-face interaction with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

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If you would like to communicate with Kenny Moore personally, his email address is:

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Kenny would be delighted to receive your email.

## **Our Book Ministry**

For several years our policy has been to distribute our books as gifts. We will send one or more upon receipt of request.

The book, “Our Oneness With Christ,” mentioned in the article by Kenny Moore is available. We have sent copies of this book to individuals or multiple copies for group study.

The book also is available in workbook form which for some seems to be more useful for group study.

We have been out of copies of “Here’s Life” for several months while waiting for a new printing. We will receive copies of the new printing—which is a revised version of the book—in a few days.

“Here’s Life” is a verse-by-verse exposition of Romans 5:12-8:39 which is the most important passage in the Bible concerning victory in Christian living.

Most Bible students seem to be very familiar with the earlier chapters of Romans that describe the sinfulness of man and the provision of salvation through faith in Jesus.

The passage on living the Christian life does not seem to be as well known.

We also have other books, and all of them discuss the New Testament message of living by grace.

We have limited our subject matter to this one theme because experience has shown us that many of God’s children are not aware of the New Testament teaching that as we are saved by grace, we can and must live by grace. You download our books from our Web Site.

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### **Our Devotional Ministry**

Each Sunday our ministry sends by email a weekly devotional. Just as all of our books deal with the theme of living by grace through experiencing our oneness with Christ in crucifixion, burial and resurrection, our devotionals do the same.

Also, just as our books magnify different features of our oneness with Christ, so do our devotionals. Because we email a new devotional weekly, they provide the most thorough study of the theme of our oneness with Christ.

If you are not receiving our devotionals, you can sign up for our weekly email devotionals and download our books at:

[www.livingbygrace.org](http://www.livingbygrace.org)