

Know and Believe

From: Know and Believe:

A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You

Taken from Chapter 35: Know and Believe

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Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; 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 for me.

The very core of the message of the gospel is that Jesus *loved* us and *gave* Himself for us. When we understand and believe this one simple truth, it is enough to last a lifetime. No matter what comes our way, we can remember His love and receive His grace.

Galatians 2:21

I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

We must acknowledge that the message of the above verse is directly connected to the one that precedes it. We were made righteous (free from guilt or sin, justified)¹ by faith in Jesus who "loved us and gave Himself for us." It was His love that sent Him to the cross, and that love had a purpose—to make us righteous, and righteousness is a gift. When we believed in Jesus, we received the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness.

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

¹ Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Again, Jesus gave His life because He loved us. When He died, He made us His very righteousness by forgiving our sins and canceling out the law that was contrary to us so we could never be made **un**righteous again.²

Colossians 2:13-14

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

These were gifts to us by His grace. We must associate the grace of God with the love of God that sent His only Son to die in our place so that we would become His righteousness. We are not only righteous; we are the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God.

Certainly it is equally significant that Paul writes in Galatians 2:20, “and the **life** which I now **live** in the flesh I **live** by **faith** in the Son of God.” We have eternal life, abundant life, overflowing life. This life we live while in our human bodies is lived by *faith* in Jesus, not by following laws. Think about this, please. We don’t **live** by following laws because the law doesn’t give life. We live this life by believing in Him.

Galatians 3:21-22

For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise (of righteousness) by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

We must take heed **not to set aside this glorious grace**, this life, that has been gifted to us because of His unfathomable **love**. We are making His sacrifice of no value when we equate our

² Among MANY other things

righteousness with how carefully we are following the law, be it the Ten Commandments or the hundreds of invented laws of Christianity—we are setting aside His love as insignificant.

Nothing, absolutely nothing makes us right with God beyond what Jesus accomplished at the cross.

When we know how deeply we are loved by God, we will want nothing more than to please Him. We stop “living” to make ourselves righteous and begin to truly live because we **are** truly free. We must return to this grace because all the Christian life flows from it.

Ephesians 2:4-73

God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved me,⁵ even when I was dead in trespasses, made me alive together with Christ (by grace I have been saved),⁶ and raised me up together, and made me sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward me in Christ Jesus.

It is appropriate for us to know more about God’s love. No matter where you are on your personal journey toward discovering His great love for you, and no matter how you might *feel*, you can rest in His precious love for you.

Nothing is more important. Without the love of God, there would be no Savior. Because of His great love with which He loved us, God will continue demonstrating to us the exceeding riches of His grace “in the ages to come” in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. This glorious journey of love before us is a path of joy and peace.

**Our entire relationship with God
is based on His love for us.**

My friend, God loves you more than you will ever be able to comprehend. His love for us is our first love. Everything else flows from His love. He wants us to abide in His love.

³ Personalized by the author

So, let us continue our discovery of the height and depth and width and length of God's unsearchable love. Let us "behold" it with pure delight. Let us rejoice in it. May we know and believe it with all of our hearts. Enjoy the journey!

*And we have **known and believed** the
love that God has for us.
God is **love**, and he who
abides in **love** abides in God,
and God in him.*

1 John 4:16