

Grace That Transforms: Finding Freedom from Sin's Shackles

Understanding Forgiveness, Repentance, and Justification in Christ

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The Bible is God's written word. God told people what to write down in the Bible. It is true and trustworthy. The Bible has two parts called the Old Testament and the New Testament. It also has smaller parts called books. There are 66 books in the Bible. The first book is called Genesis.

Each book of the Bible is divided into smaller parts called chapters. Chapter numbers are big. Each chapter is divided into smaller parts called verses. Verse numbers are small. Together, the book, chapter, and verse number make an address.

You can find a line in the Bible by learning its address. The address is written Book chapter colon verse. For example, the address for the first verse of the Bible is Genesis 1:1. The second verse is Genesis 1:2.

There is one true God, who exists eternally as three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father's name is Yahweh. The Son's name is Jesus.

Sometimes Father God is just called God. Other times he is called LORD. LORD is spelled with all capital letters. Sometimes Jesus is called Christ. Christ means King. He is King Jesus.

God is the ruler over everything. He does not have a boss. No one is higher than God. God is the creator, strong, smart, unchanging, forever, good, fair, holy, and forgiving. God is love.

Jesus is God. Yahweh is God. Jesus is Yahweh's son.
Jesus died on a cross. He is stronger than death. On
the third day, Jesus came back to life. This is called
resurrection.

Jesus is the only Savior who can rescue us. He is
the real God. He is a real man. He defends us.
Jesus always agrees and cooperates with Yahweh.
They are in perfect unity.

Jesus became a man. This is called incarnation. The Holy Spirit put Jesus into Mary's womb (tummy). Mary was not married yet. Jesus never sinned. He is coming again.

The Holy Spirit is God. He lives inside Jesus' disciples. He guides us. He shows us if we are wrong. He gives new life to people who turn from sin (repent).

The Holy Spirit cleans us inside. He makes us strong. He teaches us the truth. The Holy Spirit helps us turn away from sin.

Satan is God's enemy. He is our enemy also. God will judge and punish him. Satan comes to steal, kill, destroy, and devour. Satan is the father of lies.

People chose to sin. Sin separates us from God. God is the only source of life. When we sin, we turn from life (God) to death (sin). Every person desires sin.

Sin can include actions, attitudes, and thoughts.
The opposite of sin is love. When we love God,
others, and ourselves, then we are not sinning.

The desire to sin is called temptation. We don't have to sin. We can say no to temptation. The Holy Spirit helps us say no. He can set us free from sin.

God made people to be like him. We are created in his image. Our sin earned our death. We need new life. Because of God's help, we can choose to do right instead of wrong.

God saves people from sin, hell, sickness, and enemies. This is called salvation. Everyone has sinned and needs forgiveness. Forgiveness is a free gift from God.

Only God can forgive the cost of sin. Jesus paid the cost when he died so we can live. This is his free gift to us. God will judge sin. Only people who have forgiveness will get eternal life.

Repentance means turning away from sin and turning to God. Whoever repents and believes in Jesus Christ is made right with God, given new life, and saved from sin.

Justification means God removes our guilt, releases us from the punishment for our sin, accepts us as righteous, and includes us in his family as adopted children of God.

Grace is God's kindness. God gives grace to all people. But some people do not accept it. God also gives grace to little children and people who cannot understand because of their mind.

Baptism is like God washing your soul inside. Jesus commanded us to be baptized. The water of baptism is a symbol of washing. Baptism connects us with Jesus.

When a person is baptized, they are obeying Jesus and showing their faith. Going down into the water is like Jesus' death. Coming up out of the water is like Jesus' resurrection.

God says we are like fruit trees. Part of the fruit he helps us grow is loving the unlovely, joy in frustration, peace during stress, patience in irritation, and undeserved kindness.

God also helps us grow the fruit of goodness when others are bad, faithfulness to the faithless, gentleness to the bully, and self-control in the face of temptation.

We are more than just a body. We are a soul. Our souls will still exist after our bodies die. God will bring our bodies from death to life. Some people will live forever with Jesus. Others will live forever apart from him.

Heaven is the place where Jesus and his followers will live forever. Heaven is full of joy. Hell is a place of darkness, pain, and crying. People who turn away from Jesus to live in sin suffer forever in hell.

The church is the people in God's family, a community who follows Jesus Christ as Lord. God commands the church to get along and work together.

Fellowship is like friendship, only even more special. Fellowship connects the people of the church to each other and to God. This kind of special friendship must be loving and forgiving.

The purpose of the church is to continue God's mission to save people from sin. The church does this by telling other people about Jesus. This is called evangelism.

The church continues God's mission by teaching people how to follow Jesus. This is called discipleship. The church also serves people outside the church to show them the love of God.

The Bible says the church is like a body. Jesus is like the head. Each person in the church is like a body part. Each part has a job. The body needs all the parts to be complete and healthy.

The Bible describes the jobs of some of the people in the church. Elders are leaders who are chosen by God. Deacons are servants who take care of others.

Jesus told his followers to eat a special meal, not for our bodies, but for our souls. This meal includes bread and juice. The bread is Jesus' body. The juice is his blood.

The meal Jesus told his followers to eat is called communion. It is also called the Lord's Supper. When we eat and drink this meal, we remember that Jesus suffered and died.

Jesus will come back to take the church from the earth. He will judge everyone. People who have been forgiven will live with Jesus forever in his home in heaven.

God is the only source of all life. He is the Creator of everything. God is the ruler of the universe. He wants to adopt us into his family. God taught us to call him Father.

Trinity means three in one. Like a triangle with three sides, God is a trinity with three persons. There is only one God. He is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Character describes what a person is like. God's character is holy love. Holy means different from everything else. Everything about God is good and perfect.

God wants the best for us. He cares for us. God showed his love for us by sending a savior to rescue us from sin and death. God is the source of all love.

Jesus is God's son. Christians are adopted sons and daughters in God's family. Jesus is the savior who rescues us from sin and death. Jesus is God.

Jesus was not created like we were. He is the creator. He has always lived. And he will always live. He gives us the gift of eternal life.

Incarnation means God became a human person like us. We remember the incarnation when we celebrate Christmas, Jesus' birthday.

Jesus died on a cross. On the third day, God the Father raised Jesus from the dead (he made him alive again). This is called resurrection.

Jesus stayed here 40 days after his resurrection.
Then he went back to heaven. He sits next to God
the Father. He remembers us and offers us
forgiveness.

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of God, our helper. He lives inside of those who place their faith in Jesus. He teaches us to understand God's Word.

The Holy Spirit is God. He cleans the stain of our sin away. He fills us up by never leaving us. And he gives us the strength to say no to sin.