

## Tradition or Truth? The New Covenant

In many, if not most, of our traditions we grew up attempting to live New Covenant realities by Old Testament theologues. We learned "trying hard" rather than "trusting Him" brands of Christianity. We made our commitments and deeds central, while God's commitments and deeds were moved more to the periphery. Not relying upon the Promise Keeper's personal presence in us we were forced to shove most of God's promises to us off into the future, to be experienced only after we die and get to heaven.

The liberating power of grasping the actual Truth of our salvation afforded by the New Covenant is life changing on many fronts:

1) Not Everything That Is Biblical Is Christian:

Stoning people... blood sacrifices... Sabbath observances... tithing... not eating shrimp - all are Biblical, but not Christian! As long as we keep preaching from "Sinai" and not "Zion/Calvary" we will remain confused.

2) It Is the Cure For Both Legalism and License:

Both are self-serving. Both look for a "reward". Both are ways to fall from grace! The New Covenant reality of Christ Himself, the one full of grace and truth, living in us is the only way to live between the ruleless indifference of the Gnostics and the anxious concern of the legalists.

3) The New Covenant Alone Accurately Defines and Fully Interprets Our True Child of God Selves:

Since the New Covenant proclaims the "new creation" of someone brand new (in time and type), the disorienting and disabling tradition of calling ourselves "sinners" and "saints" at the same time is put to death and replaced by the new birth gift of Christ in me. He is not part of my life, not even the most important part of my life... He is my Life! (Col 3:4). "Not I but Christ" is not only our salvation theology, it is our living-the-Christian-life theology.

4) We Stop Begging God for What We Already Have:

We thank God for His holiness, His patience, His strength, His love (His "Christian Life" = Christ!) already living in us. If we ever cannot find in us what is being asked of us:

a) It is not God doing the asking, or...

b) Confess we cannot find it, but that Christ has it, and He is in us.

Then trust your conscious confession will result in the proper expression of His supplied life. "Truth" - what God says - is always better than "tradition" -what man says!

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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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## GREETINGS

We so appreciate your vital role in the journey with us of bearing witness to the New Covenant realities of Life in Christ (see other side). Through conferences and conversations, counseling with pastors and church leaders, and investing in a whole new generation (90% of our CCF congregation is under 25), we remain excited and intentional in seeing truth win out over error and the truth of the gospel overpower the tradition of man.

Your part in encouraging, praying, financially supporting and even meeting up with us around the country is such a blessing not only to those who are hearing and embracing this liberating secret, but, also to us personally. The calls, the notes, the personal edification - all are powerful and empowering as we press on in the race God sets before us.

Many of you continue to ask about our college congregation, CCF. Yes, we are still going strong. Yes, I am (still!) the pastor. Yes, we see "fruit" from time to time but are fully aware we are mostly sewing seeds so others will get the harvest (95% of them do leave town). I am excited about a new school year, a new discipleship group starting up at our place next week, and continuing to try and find illustrations that a congregation 1/3 my age know anything about!

Thanks for your prayers!

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

2 Steve's Birthday ☺  
3,10,17 CCF  
12 Alachua Study  
\*19 Ocala Study \*Note Change\*  
24-29 Glenwood Springs, CO


### OCTOBER

6-8 Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)  
20-22 Hardin, KY (270-437-4172)


### NOVEMBER


3-5 Waverly, OH (740-947-8004)

## PRAISE and PRAYER

 Thanks for our new covenant supply

 Thanks for faithful co-laborers

 A new "crop" of CCF students

 A renewed awareness of New Covenant realities in our churches

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