

Set Free by the Blood of Christ

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

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INTRODUCTION

As men, we cannot identify with animals. We can enjoy animals, and we can be blessed by them, but though we share similar characteristics, we will never be able to fully relate to them. As believers, we can only identify in the sense of God's essence.

An essential characteristic of God is life. In all of creation there is life, and all life comes from God. But of all living things, He made only man in His image. And though we have all fallen short of God's original design, He still chose to identify with us by coming to earth as a man and dying on the Cross for our sins.

In this booklet, we will discover how man's biggest problem—sin—is the thing that keeps us from completely identifying with God. More importantly, we will find how God, in His desire to restore our fellowship, found a way to set us free of the effect of sin through the cleansing power of His perfect, precious Blood.

Chapter One

ULTIMATE IDENTIFICATION

A person said to me recently, "People tell me I have a guilt complex. How can I get over it?"

That person didn't expect the answer I gave. I looked him right in the eye and I said, "You don't have a guilt complex. You're just plain guilty!"

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." This is what the Bible says, in Romans 3:23. But what does it mean?

The glory of God is His nature. We all have sinned, therefore we have all come short of God's nature. God's nature is lovingkindness, compassion, and longsuffering. So, the problem with mankind is simple: We come short. We have missed the mark, failing to meet the standards of God's nature.

All have sinned and come short of being like God. That is what it means to miss the mark. "Missing the mark" doesn't mean sin as we

think of it—as something wrong we have done. Missing the mark is coming short of ever being what God is, far more than anything that we could ever imagine.

The reason God's people have so many problems is that they still have an old sin nature. When a person lives with an angry temperament, it is because of sin. Even if he tries to cover it up, a person with an old sin nature that has not been crucified will eventually become angry. The old sin nature is there to be troubled. Wherever there is trouble, it reveals that sin is still reigning.

When a person confesses, "I got so upset this morning!" he might as well have said, "I let my old sin nature have control this morning."

Because of sin, a person often finds it hard to forgive. Because of sin, a man or a woman can confess, "I do not love my spouse." But it has nothing to do with the other party. It is because of sin. Sin does not want to submit to the death of the Cross. It is only through death that Resurrection life can reign in us.

The Problem behind the Problem

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest

freely eat:

“But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17).

From that day, sin (singular)—S-I-N—that is, the old sin nature, would reign.

The reason you feel ‘funny’ around certain people is this: Sin in you is meeting those people, and sin makes you feel strange around Spirit-filled people. Because of sin, you do things that you know are wrong. What makes you react? It is your sin nature. Your sin nature cannot be controlled to make you happy, so you get depressed living with your old sin nature.

But sin can only reign unto death. And when death takes over sin, sin’s reign is over.

The Wages of Sin

“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4).

God said in His Word that the soul that sins shall die. Sin can only be dealt with through death. The first death that occurred was the death of the human spirit, which is the only means by which the Holy Spirit can communi-

cate to and through men.

When Adam and Eve became self-conscious instead of God-conscious, they tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. They felt uneasy in God's presence. But they didn't need fig leaves. Fig leaves could not take care of the problem. There needed to be a death.

As God drew near to address the issue, Adam and Eve were filled with shame and with guilt. So, besides covering themselves with fig leaves, they also hid among the trees (Genesis 3:7-8). But God knew where they were.

Because of guilt and shame, people find things to hide behind. You would be surprised at what people hide behind today. Adam and Eve hid behind the trees, and they covered themselves with fig leaves. But now they were spiritually dead. At that point, in Genesis 3:21, the Lord very beautifully taught Adam and Eve about the only remedy for their sin. He declared, "I cannot accept your fig leaves. The earth is now under a curse, and anything that is cursed is unacceptable in My sight.

"Besides that, as large as those leaves are, as soon as you pick them, they will begin to shrivel up and die. In no time at all, your nakedness will be exposed again, and there will be no end

to your predicament. You will spend your lives trying to cover up with layers of dried-up fig leaves, but you will still be guilty. You have to die!”

Do you know what your fig leaves are? Drawing into depression, drawing into insecurity, withdrawing into yourself, hanging around the wrong crowd: These behaviors accomplish nothing. You don’t need counseling. You need death. Sin cannot reign in the soul that dies daily (1 Corinthians 15:31). Instead, grace reigns through righteousness by one, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:21).

Sin cannot reign when it has gone through death. It is impossible.

Perhaps you know someone who is an alcoholic. How does he get victory? Through death to his sin nature. It is not death to the alcohol but to the sin nature. His problem is not the alcohol; his problem is sin.

If a man has a tremendous problem around the opposite sex, the problem isn’t women; the problem is sin. Can you understand that? If he were to do away with sin, he would not have the problem with women, right? But if he were to avoid women altogether, he would still find some other way to sin. He might put some fig leaves on and go to church, but God says, “I

have to punish sin.”

The Nature of the Old Man

It is interesting how quickly some people react with the least amount of provocation. Something inside causes them to drop their guard, sending them into an emotional nose dive. That “something” is the old sin nature.

I have a very high regard for the principle of confidentiality. “Never repeat a thing.” That is my motto, except for the purpose of receiving godly counsel. Why? When you give a sinner something to repeat, you will have sinners repeating things. They do not hear it right, and they do not tell it right, though they sincerely think they understand. Now you are in a real mess. You didn’t say what they claim that you said. You won’t believe their interpretation of it all. The situation becomes very confusing, because now sin is abounding while the old sin nature is interpreting the sincerity of your communication.

God said, “Adam, I have to punish sin. You cannot deal with your sin by putting on fig leaves. That will not take care of your guilt. You hoped the fig leaves would come between you and Me—is that right, Adam?”

“Yes.”

“I’ve got a better way. Since the wages of sin is death, I will kill an animal. I have to keep My word; My word is truth. Blood will be shed. But instead of your blood, I am going to provide a substitute.”

When an animal was killed in an Old Testament sacrifice, except for the portion that was sprinkled on the altar, all the blood had to be buried in one place. It could not be scattered, because the blood is considered sacred. It was a type of the Blood of the Lamb—precious Blood, spoken of in 1 Peter 1:18 and 19.

Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, made a way for every human being to be released from their sin and guilt. We are set free by the Blood of Christ, and we must never become familiar with the sacredness of this Blood.

Chapter Two
COVERED BY THE BLOOD

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skin, and clothed them.

“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

“Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken” (Genesis 3:21-23).

Consider the Source

“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

“As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (1 Corinthians 15:47-49).

When He saw their situation, immediately God saw to it that an animal was killed. Then, He covered Adam and Eve with its skin. Later, Abel received a gift from God, a gift of life, a lamb. Then he took the gift and presented it to God. But his brother Cain brought vegetables to God. The vegetables had come out of the ground, which was cursed (Genesis 3:17). Thus, Cain brought to God a gift that was unacceptable—a gift that fell short of God’s requirements. When his offering was rejected, Cain was angry.

Cain said, “I will not receive a gift from God. I will give a gift to God that I produced by the sweat of my brow. Here are my vegetables. I give them to You, Lord. They have value. I could eat them, but I am going to give them to You.” And God was angry at Cain for bringing something to Him that was cursed.

The Lamb of God, which was slain from the foundation of the world, was God’s gift to man. This Lamb doesn’t just cover sin. He *takes away* sin. Thank God, the Blood of the Lamb takes away sin. And now, between me and God is a Lamb, and that Lamb is a gift from God. I have a gift from God, and what do I present to God? I present the Blood of that Lamb.

In the Garden of Gethsemane the Lord Jesus

said, “I offer Myself as You have told Me. I will offer Myself on the Cross” (see Hebrews 9:14).

Beginning in the book of Genesis, lambs were brought to the altar. Those lambs could not offer themselves, so they were brought by others. But the Lamb of God? Yes, His Father sent Him, but this Lamb came on His own.

The Blood is between us and God. And through the Blood of the Lamb, we are cleansed and purged, even though we don’t experience its cleansing when sin is reigning.

Do you know why you do not love properly? Do you know why you do not have the right feelings toward your spouse? It is because sin is between you and God, experientially. It is not that you are a bad person, or that you live recklessly. But any time sin isn’t dead, we reproduce Adam.

So if I say, “I don’t like that person,” I might as well say, “I am living in my old sin nature today, and I don’t like that person.” It simply reveals that I need to be exalted above somebody else. I am saying, “I will not reveal the Lamb. I will give him sin—which is self.”

“Well, do you want me to go around giving the Lamb’s spirit to *everybody*? What do you think I am?” That attitude reveals that what is

between me and God is *me*.

God says, “Now that you have been raised from the dead spiritually, present your bodies a living sacrifice.” Instead of a dead sacrifice, we offer ourselves, a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1).

The Power of a Living Sacrifice

Now, why does God ask us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice? Jesus Christ died as a sacrificial Lamb for our sin. Now we are made alive by Jesus Christ and His death. Therefore, we present ourselves alive—a living sacrifice. We have the same Holy Spirit indwelling us, but we did not have to die. He died for us.

When a man begins to realize the power of perfect identification through the Blood that washes away our sin and sets us free, he learns how to handle guilt. He realizes that what God gives him did not come out of the earth.

When a born-again believer goes through situations and he reacts in his earthy sin nature, *he* is not cursed, but what he is living in is cursed. Though he hates his predicament, he cannot get out of it. Every type of emotion comes over him because he is fulfilling the curse.

Get Up and Go On

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty where-with Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).

When you get depressed, you are living in bondage, under a curse. But when you are liberated with joy, you are living in God’s strength. Instead of withdrawing and crying over problems, you need to look at the big picture. What can you do about circumstances? Why hold on to circumstances and let circumstances overwhelm you with problems? You do it because you won’t listen to what God wants to say.

What is between you and God? It is the Blood of a sacrificial Lamb. That means that you are clean, you are purified by faith (Acts 15:9).

Someone with ongoing personal problems is established in Adam’s sin nature. But when we leave that establishment to be established in the grace of God, we are living in the liberty where-with Christ has made us free (Galatians 5:1).

People who have been delivered by the Cross to live inside the Kingdom of Jesus Christ are established in the grace of God. What makes the difference in their lives? They agree that the

Blood is between them and God. The life of God is in them—the life that made the flowers and every living thing. Even worms fulfill what they were created for. They may not have complex brains, but they do what they were created to do. Anyone who has rich soil in their garden beds will tell you it is so.

Yet, a man may go around not knowing what he was created for, and he ends up doing things that animals won't do. Your pet cat would never choose to smoke pot. No dog went to the bar last night and got drunk. Even if it's a bad dog, a wild dog, dogs live in what they were created for—to be dogs, that's all. Not drunken dogs, just dogs, because God didn't create animals to drink or to take drugs.

Every child of God needs to understand that God is Love, and Love became the One who would be unloved. Furthermore, all who represent His love will be unloved (John 15:18-19). Still, His love continues unfailingly as He says from the Cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Why do people have bad days? Anything outside of God's life is not a good day.

"Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that

cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin" (Isaiah 30:1).

What an amazing thing, to have a covering that comes from a Lamb. So many Christians get counseled, but not of God's Spirit. They have a covering, but it is not of Him. They add sin to sin. In the end, they go down to Egypt for help.

What does it mean "they add sin to sin"? People tend to add something out of the old sin nature to take care of the sin they just committed. This kind of chain-sinning cannot be covered except through the Lamb.

Covered with Fig Leaves, Hiding in the Trees

When the high priests prepared animals for the sacrifice, the blood had to be poured out of the animal—all of it. Certainly, there is nothing significant in the blood of animals. Still, the preciousness of an animal's blood is in the fact that it was their life. Animals cannot live without the blood; their blood brings them life. Therefore, it is precious, because it represents life.

Without blood in our bodies, we could not live. And though our blood is not sacred (as God's blood is) because of sin, still it is precious in that we know we could not live without it.

But far greater for us is knowing that with-

out the shedding of blood, you and I could not have eternal life. That is why everything about the Blood of the Lamb is more precious than silver or gold or anything on earth. The Blood is between God and us. And more than just covering all our sins, the Blood of the Savior took away all our sins.

If we could simply cover our sins, we could always uncover them later. And God knows that given the right circumstances, any one of us would eventually uncover something that we could have kept covered.

So what did He do? He said, "I am not going to stop with simply covering your sins; I am going to take them away."

Have you ever noticed that in the Old Testament, men's sins are mentioned, sometimes in detail? But the apostle Paul would not tell you what his sins were, because he understood that they were not just covered; they were taken away! Covered under the Old Testament, taken away in the New Covenant at the Cross.

Chapter Three

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD

If our sins have been taken away and we have received Jesus Christ as our Savior, we will realize that the Blood is our precious provision from God, and we need a constant cleansing by that Blood.

When we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ his Son keeps on cleansing us (see 1 John 1:7).

As long as we are walking in the light, every moment the Father is cleansing us by the Blood of His Son and purging us through the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 9:14). It is constant and it is complete. God keeps right on purging and cleansing, dealing with thoughts and projections that come in through the unconscious mind. There is a continual cleansing flow of the Blood of Jesus Christ through every part of the mind—conscious, subconscious, and unconscious—as

long as we walk in the light.

The moment we do not walk in the light, the Blood is still efficacious, having saved us forever. It is still between us and our sins, positionally. But experientially, we will be living in Adams establishment, and we will go back to “sin (singular)” in the old sin nature.

Many people who do not commit terrible overt sins can still live in personal sin twenty-four hours a day, in Adam’s old sin nature. They don’t even acknowledge it, because they live in self-denial.

The problem is not with people, or circumstances, or your past, or what your father did, or what your brother did. It wasn’t what your teacher did or what happened at your job. It wasn’t any of those things. It was what sin did. Sin did the damage.

People can only do so much to us, but sin has done its damage. It is sin that caused the original damage and continues to damage people without ever defining it. It is sin having been thrust into the human race that has done all the damage. Therefore, your problem isn’t first to get right with your father, or to get right with your mother or with your brother. Your need is to go to the Cross and get right with God, once

you recognize you have been living in your old sin nature.

Satan needs to have an instrument in order to use you. And the only instrument he has for his armies to manipulate is the old sin nature. If he can activate the old sin nature, his goal is to let it reign without death. As a result, people do everything to be counseled out of their problems, except to bring sin to the Cross.

Get the Facts Straight

You say, "But that guy is the problem; he's the one." In fact, you are thinking of sins (plural), but God is thinking of sin (singular)—*personal* sin. He is describing our nature, not what we do with it.

The alcoholic, the drug addict, the arrogant man, the proud man, and the religious man—of all the people in the world, sin has had so many different effects. It is possible for a man to put on fig leaves and be a good husband while he is hiding behind the trees. Yes indeed, he can have a nice quiet life in the trees.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

We have made a point that in the Old Testament sacrifices, the blood was sacred; no one could partake of it. The blood was buried and not scattered. Through these details, God is teaching us about the sacredness of the Blood.

When the Blood of Christ covers us, we are totally cleansed—spirit, soul, and body. We do not have to be condemned to die in order to pay for our sins. And the precious Blood of Christ keeps on cleansing us. What a magnificent life! I am not the one who keeps on cleansing myself. The Blood does it. I do not bring gifts to God to appease Him. Rather, I avail myself of the cleansing power of the Blood. This is God's gift to me.

Why was Cain so angry? Because God wouldn't accept his sacrifice of vegetables. God will not accept any efforts of the natural man. If He did, there would be no need for Calvary, and we, of all men, would face a hopeless, Godless eternity.

The Activity of the Cleansing Process

It's a very beautiful thing to be totally cleansed by the Blood of Jesus Christ, isn't it? We may fail God and acknowledge it before Him. But immediately, we must also acknowl-

edge God's provision. It is vital to keep that Blood flowing by having a spiritual application of eternal life. I let it go into my conscience and cleanse me so I can, in a moment of time, be totally liberated into the freedom that comes from divine emancipation.

"As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe" (Mark 5:36).

Only believe.

"What do I do in this case?"

Only believe.

"But I can't believe."

That is one place I can't help you. I cannot add anything to God's provision. I can only tell you what it is. And what is God's provision? Only believe.

Why did He say "only"? Because, that is exactly what we have to do. "Only believe"—nothing more.

"What do I do about...."

Be practical. Do whatever you can. Pray first. But only believe.

Why should a situation that you cannot control take away your faith? Let your faith take away the negativity of the situation, even if it cannot take away the situation.

Revelation 1:5 and 6 says that Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the first begotten of the dead, the prince of the earth. "...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own [precious] blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Picture yourself this moment, totally washed with His Blood. Consider what that really means—to be washed clean as can be, comforted us with the oil of the Holy Spirit and clothed in His righteousness. We have truly been set free.

CONCLUSION

Think of these four words from John 15:3:
Now you are clean.

It is so amazing to be free—free because we have been cleansed from any feeling of guilt. Though we are guilty, we have been made clean, once and for all, by the precious Blood that saved us. Moment to moment in our experience we can avail ourselves of its cleansing power.

Can you imagine what it is like to go from day to day without guilt or shame? Can you picture not being self-conscious about your personality or about anything you have ever done? When you are filled with God-consciousness, you are not self-conscious. You do not need to cover yourself with layers of shriveling leaves. Rather, you can put on Jesus Christ and be covered with His perfect robe of righteousness. Accept the fact that you have been set free by the Blood of Christ—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.