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Living Right - Not Living In Sin

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

God is a God of love, a God of second and third chances, however many that we might need. Always graceful and merciful to us, a God of restoration never stops loving us. As we pursue Him we must take on His character and His image. Christ being formed in us may be sometimes a challenge that we are all faced with. God knows that and continues to work with us.

Gal 4:19 "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you," KJV

There must be a balance between grace and holiness. Holiness without grace just brings bondage and puts us under the law. Grace without holiness, there are no boundaries, no challenge allowing Christ to be formed in us. We must have holiness in order for us to live a Christian life. Holiness is not a set of rules, but is following after the spirit and listening to the spirit of God in our lives.

Pro 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." KJV

Sin has a deception with it that we are not aware of; it comes gradually and overtakes us. Sin does have glamour with it. It always ministers to the flesh, the emotions and that part that feels good to us. It has a deception in the end that will not be so good.

Heb 3:13 "But instead warn (admonish, urge, and encourage) one another every day, as long as it is called Today, that none of you may be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [by the fraudulence, the stratagem, the trickery which the delusive glamor of his sin may play on him]." AMP

Eph 4:17-18 "So this I say and solemnly testify in [the name of] the Lord [as in His presence], that you must no longer live as the heathen (the Gentiles) do in their perverseness [in the folly, vanity, and emptiness of their souls and the futility] of their minds 18 Their moral understanding is darkened *and* their reasoning is beclouded. [They are] alienated (estranged, self-banished) from the life of God [with no share in it; this is] because of the ignorance (the want of knowledge and perception, the willful blindness) that is deep-seated in them, due to their hardness of heart [to the insensitiveness of their moral nature]." AMP

Eph 4:17-24 "And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion. But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you." MESSAGE

Paul teaches us in these scriptures that we are to make a decision regarding our walk with the

Lord Jesus, not going along with the crowd and ignoring the call that He has placed on us. Yielding our lives to Jesus and letting Him become the Lord of our lives.

What is sin? Have you ever missed the mark and felt like you were unworthy to be forgiven? The guilt that you feel is not what God wants for you. Rise up and with faith continue on with the Lord, knowing that you are forgiven. There must be boundaries in our lives and some regulations to live by.

1 John 3:4 "Everyone who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness; for [that is what] sin is, lawlessness (the breaking, violating of God's law by transgression or neglect—being unrestrained and unregulated by His commands and His will)." AMP

1 John 5:17 "All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin which does not [involve] death [that may be repented of and forgiven]." AMP

James 4:17 "So any person who knows what is right to do but does not do it, to him it is sin." AMP

1 John 1:9 "If we [freely] admit that we have sinned *and* confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action]." AMP

This revelation comes as we begin to get knowledge into who Jesus is and what He has done for us; His bloodshed covers us and cleanses us from sin.

Rom 6:23 "For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord." AMP

What are associations, who we are hanging with and how they can cause problems in our lives? Unless we have set some strong boundaries for our lives, they can be like "leaven in dough", causing us to compromise.

1 Cor 5:6-7 "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:" KJV

1 Cor 15:33 "Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt *and* deprave good manners *and* morals *and* character." AMP

Depending on who we hang around with, our attitudes can take on the bad influence that we are not always aware of. Influence is like the wind, not knowing where it is coming from or going, but we can see the results of it, good or bad. That is how influence affects us spiritually, like the anointing after we hear the word preached, raising us up or if no anointing, coming away from a service, down with no encouragement.

2 Peter 2:7-9 "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." KJV

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The situation that Lot was living in was horrible, however, God was able to deliver him and his

family, and his wife looked back because she liked the atmosphere, she liked the influence and she died because of it. That is what can happen to us if we are not willing to give up the old life style for the new life that Jesus has put into us. God knows how to deliver us; He knows how to make a way of escape for any temptation that we might face.

Temptation defined: I walk down the street and there is a deep hole, and I fall in, I am lost and helpless, but it is not my fault. I am trying to find my out. I walk down the same street, there is a deep hole, I fall in, but it is not my fault, takes me a long time, but I finally get out. The pattern is the same for the first time, and then back down the second time, third time I walk down the street, see the deep hole is still there, but still fall in. It has become a habit, my eyes have been opened and I see that I have a responsibility, but I get out immediately. I walk down the same street, see the same hole, but I walk around this time, don't fall in. So finally, I walk down another street.

1 Cor 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but *God is faithful*, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." KJV

There is no temptation that God has not looked ahead and made a way out of it for us.

1 Peter 5:8-10 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." KJV

Everyone is dealing with the enemy in some way, but God is always there to lift us up and strengthen and settle us. If you fall during temptation, is it over for us? No, God has provided the way to come back as well as to escape.