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CHRISTIAN LIVING

VOLUME 3

LIVING FOR YOUR +HERO

LANTZ MANOMANO

TOPIC SERIES

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INSPIRED WALK - TOPIC SERIES

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LIVING FOR YOUR HERO

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Lantz Manomano

CHRISTIAN LIVING – Volume 3

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INTRODUCTION

LIVING for Christ requires obedience and total surrender to Him. This TOPIC SERIES will help reveal why we need to live for Christ as we get to know Jesus the true HERO.

Living for Christ is a continuous process but it starts by us acknowledging the relevance of His word. In this booklet there are questions that are also addressed, such as how do we live for Christ and how do we deny ourselves for Him.

May this equip us and stir our hearts to grow and desire to live for Christ alone.

Why Jesus Is Better Than Any Superhero

For decades many of us have been fascinated by superhero comic books and movies about all kinds of superheroes from Batman, Superman, Iron Man, Wonder Woman and even Thor.

There are many reasons why superhero movies make billions of dollars at the cinemas. It's because all comic book fans are engaged and invested in the characters, their storyline and we love to watch our beloved heroes battle and win against powerful evil villains.

We love superheroes because we are amazed at their god-like superpowers and physical abilities. We love the fact that superheroes are able to defend the world from evil and wicked enemies who are bent on destroying humanity. We love the idea of being safe, protected and hopeful in a world where someone exists to fearlessly save us when danger and terror is near. We also love the idea that there is someone who can bring peace and justice in an unjust world.

Unfortunately comic book superheroes like Superman or Spiderman are fictional characters who don't exist in the real world. So if they don't exist, then they can't really save us.

However, do real-life superheroes who have supernatural abilities exist? Does a superhero exist out there who is capable of saving individuals and mankind from peril and destruction?

The Bible speaks of a real life Person who is like a superhero. In fact, He is **more** than just a superhero. He is the Alpha and Omega. He is the God-man Jesus Christ through whom all creation was made (**Colossians 1:15**). Jesus Christ came to save the world from spiritual destruction to anyone who will believe and receive Him through faith. He is not just a saviour – but He is the **only** true Saviour of the world.

Jesus is no ordinary hero. He is the perfect Hero and the true Saviour for mankind.

John 3:16-17 says: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”*

There is the expression which says **“The gospel is the only story where the Hero dies for the villain”**.

The gospel means the “good news”. The Hero is of course Jesus Christ. The villains that the Hero dies for is mankind. We are all sinners who have sinned against a perfect and holy God (**Romans 3:23**). So we are the villains because our sinfulness or sin nature is constantly against God’s holy laws thereby placing us at enmity with God. Our sins are what sent Christ to the cross.

So in order to be reconciled to God and to avoid the eternal penalty for sin, we need a saviour. We need a Hero to save us from sin and from the penalty for sin (**Romans 6:23**). This Saviour that we need is Jesus Christ.

If we are not cleansed of our sin through believing in Jesus Christ as Saviour, we will ultimately face eternal destruction.

Thankfully, even though we have sinned, Jesus our Hero and Saviour offers us salvation as a free gift (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

By being our Substitute on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross. Through the blood that He shed on the cross to redeem us, Jesus came to save us from the power of sin and to reconcile us back with God so that we would not have to suffer eternal punishment in hell.

John 14:6 – *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

So the good news is you don't have to lose hope because we have One who is more than a superhero who has conquered death itself and has revealed Himself as the Saviour of the whole world (**John 3:16, 1 John 2:2**).

Let's rejoice because we have One who we can call upon and who is willing to rescue us and show us a different path from the path we know.

So is Jesus Christ your Hero in your own life?

Well let me share with you why Jesus Christ is my Hero

and why He is a Saviour to many others who have put their trust in Him.

While fictional characters like Superman may have come to earth from a different planet, Jesus Christ came from heaven. He is 100% man and 100% God. He had a miraculous birth and He came to save the world from the final judgment.

Here's why Jesus is better than any superhero:

1. **Jesus Christ is real.** Unlike comic book heroes, Jesus Christ is not the figment of somebody's imagination. He is real and He has always existed for eternity before the universe was created. He is the reason why the universe exists. So ironically we exist because God imagined us and then He created us.

John 1:1-3 – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.*

2. **He has the name that is above every name.** This means that there is no disease, no individual, no nation, no ideology, no object, no entity of any kind that is above Jesus Christ. All things whether living or dead submit to Jesus Christ because He has been given authority over all things. There is also no fictional superhero imaginable who is above the

reality of the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is above all because He is God.

Philippians 2:9-11 says: *Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*

3. **We can only be saved by the name of Jesus**

Christ. He is closer than we think. Christ is literally a call away / prayer away for Him to save you (**Acts 2:21**). The only way to receive salvation is through **one** Saviour – Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:13 says: *For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

Acts 4:12 says: *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

4. **Jesus Christ has no weaknesses.** Unlike the other superheroes, Jesus Christ is perfect in every way. He was tested in all areas and there was no fault found in Him. Jesus has no character flaws or kryptonite to make Him weak.

So even though Jesus Christ is perfect, He understands our personal weaknesses, struggles and temptations because He too was tempted and tested in the world just like us. The difference is that Jesus

Christ perfectly overcame satan, the flesh and the world with all its trials and temptations.

Hebrews 4:14-15 says: *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

5. **Jesus knows our hearts and thoughts.** **Matthew 9:3-4** – *But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, “That’s blasphemy! Does He think He’s God?” Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He asked them, “Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts?”*

Christ is a Hero who is able to read our thoughts and the intents of our heart. He knows our inner most desires and motives. He knows exactly how many hairs we have on our head (**Luke 12:7**)

6. **Jesus could perform any miracle.** Jesus performed many signs and miracles to demonstrate that He was the Son of God or the promised Messiah who came to save the world. For example, He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, healed the lame, multiplied food and even rose someone from the dead. With Jesus Christ, nothing is impossible.
- John 20:30-31** – *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;*

31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

7. **Jesus is alive.** He conquered death. He resurrected after being crucified on the cross. This is the best quality that has stamped Jesus as the world's superhero because He could not die but He chose to lay His life for all mankind. Even death could not defeat Him (**Luke 24:1-8**).

8. **All authority belongs to Him both in heaven and on earth.** *Jesus came and told His disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth" (**Matthew 28:18**).*

These are just a few of the many reasons why Jesus is the ultimate Hero. As our Saviour, He is gracious enough to let us partake of His kingdom and become part of the adopted family of God.

Below are some benefits of being connected with Jesus Christ our Saviour and true Hero:

- To ensure our safety we have been adopted into His family those who have and who will call on His name for salvation. **John 1:12-13** – *But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

- We have the privilege of experiencing His authority working through us according to His will and purposes in our own life. **Matthew 10:8** – *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!*

- For our assurance Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to be with us at all times. **John 14:16-17** – *And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn't looking for Him and doesn't recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you.*

- When Jesus died and rose, He conquered death for us and those who have been saved have passed from death to life

*But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ – **1 Corinthians 15:57***

*"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life – **John 5:23***

I pray we get to know that there is only true Hero who saves and rescues us from sin and death and from the lies of the devil. Who are your heroes? Can your heroes save you from hell and sin? Do they bring inner peace into your life? Are you able to identify Jesus Christ as your Hero? Do you believe that He can save you if you call on Him? Jesus is waiting on us to call on Him and

not only when we are in trouble, but He wants to be in every part of our life. He wants to speak and order our steps to a life of wisdom, victory and eternal life.

The Relevance of the Bible

Is The Bible relevant for these times? Does it still have answers to issues that we face in this day and age? Are some portions of the Bible just mere myths?

Usually people despise the Bible's relevance because it corrects sinful behavior and whenever we love sin, then the Bible will appear to be a book that restricts our life. Yet the Bible itself has words which bring life and conviction and faith in order to bring us to God so that we may be free from sin instead of being a slave to sin.

Hebrews 4:12 says: *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

To date, the Bible still remains the most purchased book in the world. The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book in the world. This fact alone is evidence that there is something special about the Bible and that the Bible still remains relevant in the world.

There are many books that have been written by people, but many of those books have lost their relevance with time.

The Bible is historical, poetic, and full of real adventures and mysteries. But its main focus is for man to understand his origin, the problem that crept in and the solution to that problem. However even as the Bible focuses on the spiritual things it does not neglect our day to day activities. It teaches us how to conduct ourselves in this system we are under. Let's look into how the Bible still remains relevant in this day and age?

Why Do We Still Need The Bible?

It Was Written By Our Creator

The Bible was written by the Holy Spirit through men whom He inspired to put down God's thoughts, instructions, direction and commandments to follow until His final judgment.

2 Timothy 3:16 says: *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*

Notice that **2 Timothy 3:16** says that all scripture is "**breathed out**" by God. What does this mean? It means that God is the Author of the Bible. Yes men put pen to paper to write it – but it was God Himself who inspired the writings and every word that is in the Bible.

Another way to explain it is that men were God's pen through which the Scriptures were written. The Bible speaks of God's love for us, man's rebellion and how God has reconciled us to Him and how He will return for His children. The authors are from different generations spanning thousands of years, but yet they spoke of one message and that message was about Jesus Christ. All their writing were compiled to give us the Word of God and it endures forever (**1 Peter 1:25**) meaning that it will always be relevant. So if we want to know our Creator and His plan for our lives as mankind, then we must learn from His word.

The Bible Was Written To Warn Us About Sin

1 Corinthians 10:6-11 says: *Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.*

The Bible contains warnings about the consequences of living a sinful lifestyle as it gives us many examples of people who obeyed the Lord and those who rebelled

against Him. So we can always look back into His word and see what God hates and how we can humbly repent and come before Him.

The Bible is the only book that does not look to make people happy but it wants them to see themselves for who they really are and the fact that they need Jesus Christ in order to have eternal life (**John 10:10**).

The Bible Reveals That There Is Nothing New Under The Sun

Even though the Bible speaks of events that happened many centuries ago, the same Bible speaks of prophecies that are yet to happen in the future.

However the issues and problems that mankind faced in the Bible are still the same issues that mankind is dealing with even in the 21st century.

For example, in the Bible there were issues of slavery where the Israelites were in bondage and were slaves to the Egyptians. To this day, the world still deals with colonialism in all its forms as well as modern-day slavery which is rampant in many countries.

Other examples of issues that mankind faced in the Bible are homosexuality, sexual immorality, corruption and lack of good leadership from kings, poverty, war between nations, relationship issues, betrayals, genocide, greed, hatred, suffering and so much more.

Throughout the Bible there was something about mankind that happened then and which still remains

constant even today in the 21st century. This constant thing is the issue of sin which began with the first man Adam (**Romans 3:23**). Mankind was sinful in the Bible and mankind remains sinful even to this day. And so the problems and issues that were in the Bible still remain relevant even today.

In the Bible we also see acts of love, acts of bravery and courage, acts of humility and righteousness, and even acts of patience and endurance from people in the Bible. So through Scripture we can also learn some positive things that inspire us to seek God and to do righteous things whilst being led by God.

So the Bible does not only show us man's sinfulness, but it also shows us the things that happen when we decide to follow God.

The Bible Answers The Issue of Life & Death

The Bible answers the issue of what happens to us when we die. It tells us where we will go depending on the choices we made in our current life. So it answers the issue of life after death which continues to trouble many. When man was created, he was to live forever worshipping and to be in fellowship with God. However we were given a free will from the beginning and Adam rebelled against God which brought in death. God didn't change His plan for man so He gave us Jesus as a sacrifice so that we could attain eternal life where we will worship and fellowship before God forever (**1 John**

5:13).

1 John 5:13 says: *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*

God's Word Is Final & Inerrant

God's word is final. The Bible cannot be added or subtracted (**Revelations 22:18-19**). God's word does not change because God Himself remains the same yesterday, today and forever.

Many books written by people have lost their relevance. Many books written about different subjects from science to morality and psychology have been corrected or even phased out or deemed out-of-date. Yet the word of God is still relevant on many issues that pertain to mankind. In many countries the Bible is the only book that is still used for oaths and dying patients. In courts those testifying are under oath to speak truth, and hospitals and prisons have chaplains who come to preach hope to the hopeless and help them come to a place of comfort in their pain and suffering and depending on one's heart some make wise decisions that lead to eternal life.

The Bible will always stay true, it will always be the people's guide and those who are wise will be led by the Spirit of God. The Bible is meant to be read by all who genuinely desire a relationship with God. It is a book not only meant to be studied by a priest or pastor but it is meant to be read by all people because it is God's word

to all of mankind.

We must study it because it warns of false teachers who will use it for private interpretation to manipulate and control others. So it encourages us to test all spirits whether they be of God (**1 John 4:1-6**). It gives us the example of the Bereans in **Acts 17** who studied the scriptures for themselves.

We must study it because it gives us direction as to how we ought to live and please God. We must read it because through the Bible we get to know the character and nature of our Creator.

The key to understanding the Bible and its authenticity is knowing its true Author, His motive, and to read for yourself in order to witness or experience its relevance.

What Does The Bible Say About Denying Yourself?

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Why does God want us to deny ourselves? Why are my natural passions and desires not so important according to the Bible? How am I supposed to deny myself?

To deny yourself means to forego your own personal and carnal passions and desires in order to follow and obey the word of God. You put aside your own self-ambitions; you die to yourself and instead you live to glorify and obey God in your life and conduct.

As a people we love feeling safe and being in control.

The world will tell us to trust in ourselves; to be confident in ourselves; to follow our own hearts and to believe in ourselves. The world will teach us that our own personal dreams and passions are more important than anything else.

However this type of worldly philosophy contradicts the word of God. According to the Bible the self is not good enough; The self is never totally safe or in control; The self cannot always be trusted.

We must understand that man cannot order his own

steps perfectly and he is not in control of any situation. Whatever man tries on his own – it will ultimately be tested by God and it will result in failure. Why? Because man is not perfect and man can do nothing of eternal value without God.

Jesus Christ came to address this to us and He came to free us from the self so that we don't have to look to ourselves but we look to Him who saved us and has given us a purpose to live for.

The new challenge after being a follower of Christ is that of dying of self on a daily basis so that the life of Jesus is seen by others.

Galatians 2:20 says: *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

2 Corinthians 4:11 says: *For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

In **1 Corinthians 15:31**, Paul says that he dies every day. So denying the self or dying to self is an important part of the Christian life.

Do you struggle to die to self? Would you want the Life of Christ to manifest in your life everyday?

Let's look at how we can deny ourselves daily:

1) Denying yourself begins by becoming a born again believer in Jesus Christ. Becoming a Christian means that your life no longer belongs to you but it belongs to Jesus Christ. It is Christ who increases whilst you decrease (**Matthew 16:24-26; Galatians 2:20**)

2) Acknowledge Christ's Lordship daily (**Philippians 2:9-11**). This is a daily reminder of starting the day reminding ourselves that we no longer live for ourselves but for the one who died and rose for us to have life (**2 Corinthians 5:15**).

3) Rejoice in your infirmities / weaknesses so that we experience and trust in God's strength (**2 Corinthians 12:9**). Usually our infirmities fight to pull us away from God but making us feel that we are not enough but God wants us to know we don't have to cover them up but we should present them before Him and He will empower us with His sufficient grace.

4) Grow in faith (**Romans 10:17**). Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God. So we should spend time in the word of God and by listening to the ministering of sound doctrine. This helps us to hear the voice of our good Shepherd (**John 10:3-5**).

5) Praying without ceasing (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**). Constant communication reflects that we realize that

only God is the answer and we alone cannot live without God's input in our life. We submit ourselves as children who need guidance, instruction and teaching and protection from life's activities and trials by presenting everything before God.

6) Humble ourselves before God (**James 4:10**). Humility is one of the most important virtues to have. It is the foundation of learning to deny yourself. Without humility we cannot deny the self and neither will God uplift us.

There are many good things that come out of denying ourselves for the uplifting of our Lord. Some of them are:

1. We reflect the nature and character of Jesus to others. We become living letters of our Lord and Saviour (**2 Corinthians 3:2-3**)
2. Our understanding and experience of Jesus Christ becomes evident within us. We continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 3:18**)
3. Our total trust must be in God alone and not in ourselves nor in man. So denying self will teach us not to trust ourselves but on the Lord (**Proverbs 3:5**)
4. Because we come to a place of hearing His voice it means we will have a safe refuge in the Lord. (**Proverbs 18:10**)

5. Prayer will lead us to a place of obedience (**Proverbs 3:1**)

There are factors that may hinder us from denying ourselves in order to genuinely pursue or follow Christ. Let's list some of them below:

- a) Placing confidence in the flesh. **Romans 7:18** says: *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*
So we should not put confidence in the flesh (**Philippians 3:3**). The characteristics of the flesh are also listed in **Galatians 5:19-21** and these ultimately lead to destruction.
- b) Listening to the heart. Out of the heart flows the issues of life and we tend to say follow your heart in making decisions. The problem with this is that the heart is deceitful and wicked and only God can search it and knows it (**Jeremiah 17:9-10**)
- c) Living in fear of persecution. Fear leads to uncertainty especially during a time of trials and tribulations (**John 16:32-33**).
- d) Worldly or Carnal Lusts – **1 John 2:16** speaks of the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life and that these are not of God but are of the world.

- d) Friendship with the world, **James 4:1-4** it states that friendship with the world is enmity with God because of what the world promotes and represents resulting in all the lusts that we envy.

These are but a few points of many other points that hinder us from dying to self or denying ourselves. Are you familiar to one or all of the points above? Is there a way of overcoming these hindrances so that we die to self?

Conclusion

If you're a believer, sometimes we get entangled with the things of this world and so we try to take on life's challenges and forget to deny ourselves and yield to the Lord. Denying yourself takes practice and learning from the Holy Spirit. It is something we do daily and it helps us to stay grounded and humble.

Denying ourselves requires sacrifice or that we carry our own cross.

For one to deny themselves they have to be a believer and a follower of Christ. If one is not born again they he/she is a slave to the flesh or sin nature and he/she cannot experience what it's like to have the mind and Christ. For a person to walk with Christ, that person should be in agreement with what His word says about Him.

It should be our desire for Christ to be uplifted everyday through the way we live our life.

Be blessed and if you don't have a relationship with the Lord do not brush it off, but consider pursuing Jesus Christ. Pray to God to reveal Himself to you and test His word whether it be of men or of God.

What is the Correct Concept of Grace?

What is the correct concept or doctrine of grace? How do we tell the difference between true Biblical grace and a false concept of grace?

First let us define the meaning of grace. The grace of God is when God gives us what we don't deserve. Grace is God's unmerited kindness and favour on mankind.

For example, we do not deserve salvation and we cannot earn salvation by our own merit or effort. Why? Because we are all sinners by nature and we cannot please God by our own righteousness.

Sin is missing the mark and we have all fallen short of God's glory because of sin (**Romans 3:23**). There's is only one result that comes from sin which is death (**Romans 6:23**).

Grace on the other hand is God's unmerited favour on mankind, which displays God's love, forgiveness and mercy that sets all people free from being slaves to sin and eternal punishment.

God's grace allows us to reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (**Romans 5:21**).

Therefore sin has everything to do with man but grace has everything to do with God. Our salvation in Christ

which leads to eternal life is 100% because of the work of God and **not** because of our personal merit or effort.

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that we are saved by grace and not by our own merit or our own works.

Therefore the grace of God is important for our salvation because if we were to attempt to work for our salvation, then we would certainly fail.

Ephesians 2:8 also informs us that salvation is a gift received through faith in Jesus Christ.

UNDERSTANDING A FALSE CONCEPT OF GRACE

Jude 4 says: *For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

From **Jude 4** we learn that it is possible for people to pervert the grace of God. Learning a false concept of grace can ultimately lead to deception, sin and also a denial of Jesus Christ Himself. A false concept of grace can deceive people into thinking that they have a license to sin.

The perversion of God's grace as mentioned in **Jude 4** is theologically known as *Antinomianism*.

Antinomianism is the false belief that because God's grace exists, then people are no longer obligated to obey any moral laws of God.

Antinomianism is derived from two Greek words which are [*anti*] meaning “against” and [*nomos*] meaning “the law”. So antinomianism or antinomians are people who are against the law including the moral laws of God. For example, antinomians believe that a Christian can wilfully and rebelliously live a lifestyle of lying, cheating, sexual immorality and all sorts of sins, and still call him/herself a “Christian” and not suffer eternal consequences.

As mentioned in **Jude 4**, antinomianism or a perverted form of grace also promotes sensuality. Sensuality refers to appetites, passions or desires that are carnal or fleshly.

Antinomians preach a kingdom of eating and drinking; Some teach that you can live your best life now; Some teach a name it and claim it doctrine; Many promote covetousness; Some have no problems with sexual sins and any other form of immorality.

The underlying deception of this false grace teaching is that *“We are ‘saved’. So now we can do as we please”*.

Antinomians believe that your salvation does not have to be followed by a transformation in one’s life.

They believe that whilst salvation is a free gift received by grace, they then pervert God’s grace by teaching people that good works or transforming one’s life to be more Christ-like is not necessary since one is already saved. In other words they teach that grace is a license to

continue to live a sinful life without any accountability to the word of God.

Antinomianism results in strife, envy, corrupt minds, sensuality and all forms of ungodliness. Their teachings are void of the *“words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness”* (**1 Timothy 6:3-5**).

What helps us identify those who take the grace of God as a license to sin

1. The fruits that come from the people who teach this false doctrine (**Galatians 6:8**)
2. Disobedience to the things of God. The word says they shall be lovers of self, love money, disobedient to parents, boastful, proud, lovers of pleasure more than God etc (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**).
3. They'll profess knowing God but in works they deny Him (**Titus 1:16**)
4. They believe the more possessions you have, the more spiritual or blessed you are (**1 Timothy 6:5**)

UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL GRACE

However Paul deals with this false doctrine or perversion of grace in the book of Romans.

In **Romans 5:20-21** and **6:1-2** Paul writes: *Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Antinomianism elevates man's carnal desires and lusts. Hence the antinomian feels no godly sorrow or desire to repent of sin.

On the other hand Biblical Grace is a gift of God that leads us to good works that we were created by God to do.

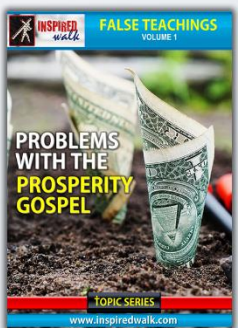
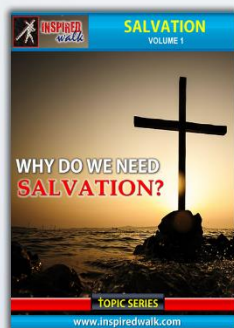
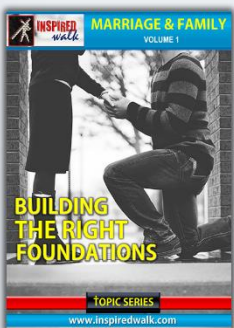
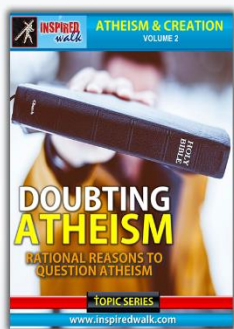
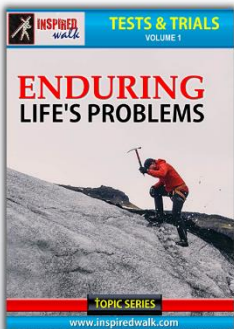
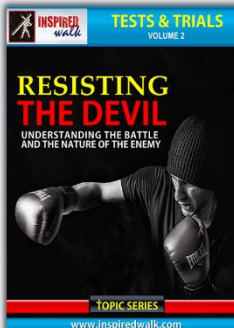
Ephesians 2:10 says: *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*

Biblical Grace brings salvation and *"has appeared bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age"* (**Titus 2:11-12**)

Biblical Grace is not a license to sin as we are dead to sin. As long one has believed in Christ and His finished work they have been delivered from the power of sin. What it means is we no longer sin willingly but we ask the Lord to deliver us from sins. Yes indeed we still struggle with sin but we have a sense of brokenness and a contrite spirit knowing that it is only the power of Christ that delivers us from sin. We begin to experience God's sanctification and His work of changing us (**Philippians 1:6**).

However in contrast the antinomian may become proud or arrogant when they sin. So because they enjoy their sin they exhibit no conviction to repent. They lack humility and brokenness and they lack the desire to genuinely repent and obey the teachings of the Lord.

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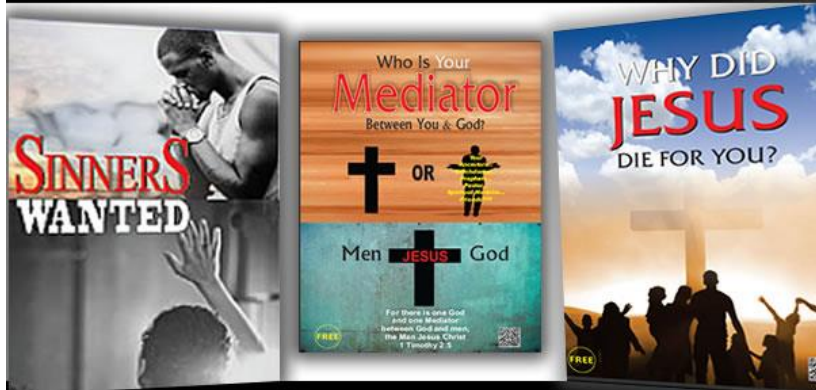
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