

“There must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.” (I Corinthians 11:19)

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Sylvia D. Pearce

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Christ, Our Life Ministries

P.O. Box 43268

Louisville, Ky. 40253

502-245-4581

502-417-2110

www.theliberatingsecret.org

www.spiritbroadcasting.net

sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org

“THERE MUST BE HERESIES AMONG YOU”

(I Corinthians 11:19)

Sylvia Pearce

“Shall we sin, that grace might abound?” This resounding question springs from the false idea that Christians have a license to freely sin because grace is so broad that it condones acts of unrighteousness. And then, sin is also thought of to be justified because it by contrast, shows up God’s forgiveness and grace. Paul quickly heralds back to this fleshly falseness with an emphatic “God Forbid.” The whole point of Romans 6-8, God’s revelation concerning our union with Christ, is to reveal the provision provided by Christ’s death and burial from **sin’s** bondages, and the resurrection of Christ providing His life which victoriously releases us from the bondage of **sin**. However, God’s grace never, never justifies **sin**.

First, before addressing the “sin explosion,” (“A rose called by any other name is still a rose,”) let us answer some pertinent questions concerning the Gospel of Grace. How is mankind forgiven for their sins? That question is answered in Romans 1-5; The Gospel is clear and full of glory to those of us who live by it. The precious cleansing blood of Jesus provides remission of our sins, (The shedding of that blood in public two thousand years ago was conclusive evidence that He paid the full price for the remission of sins.) We are saved from eternal death and damnation by inheriting eternal life through faith in the **precious blood** of Jesus.

Free from Sin's Dominion

How does the Christian know freedom from **sin's** dominion? This is the very question answered in Paul's presentation in the Romans 6-8. The furtherance of the Gospel, or "the rest of the Gospel," as some would say, is presented here in these glorious chapters. It is through the bodily death of Jesus that saves us in the present. Salvation from our past sins is assured to us through the blood. However, our daily deliverance from sin's dominion and power is provided for us in the **precious body** of Christ. Romans 5:10 says, We shall be saved daily by His resurrection life. How is that? Christ was made sin on our behalf that we might be made a "New Creature" i.e. a "New Man." That also means that we are "dead to sin." God made Jesus' precious body receive sin (Satan indwelt humanity) when He was on the Cross (II Corinthians 5-21). Christ died representing us ("made sin") bearing as us that sin nature in His death, so that out of our bodies went the false satanic nature forever. Christ, in His risen body, representing us, raised us up with His own divine nature of Holiness making us Christ indwelt humanity. We were thus made a new race of beings, a new man, a holy nation, and the body of Christ.

Another pertinent question answered in Romans 6-7 is; What gives **sin** its power over us Christians? The answer comes alive in the early verses of Romans 7. The body death also renders us "dead to the law." What does that mean? As long as we falsely think that we have an independent self that is capable in itself to keep God's law, we are not free from sin—for it has power over us ("The strength of sin is the law"). Sin gets its power over us because we falsely think that we are

independent selves and we can strive and try in our own power to keep ourselves free from sin by producing our own righteousness. Paul experienced tremendous struggle with relentless defeating consequences while believing that lie in Romans 7. Paul was enlightened when he, by revelation, understood that the root of his sinning came from self-effort, (trying to become,) which is shockingly an expression of Satan (Romans 7:17). Satan was deceiving him to believe that he had my own life and strength to live it. When the lie is exposed, then Paul was conditioned to leap by faith and know that he is dead to sin/Satan (Romans 6:2) as well as the law, (Romans 7:4) and alive to Christ, his very life. At the Cross, "God sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, for sin, and condemned sin in the flesh".

Then how do we walk in the Spirit and live the victorious Christian life free from **sin**? The answers to the walk of faith as Spirit sons is presented in Romans 8--As we walk in the Spirit of whom we really are, Christ lives our life. It is only as Christ lives our life that we are freed from sin's dominion and power. However, as long as we are in this fallen body, we will be within calling distance to sins/ Satan's presence and temptations and can slip into believing in ourselves again. The blood is always our available provision whenever that rarely happens. We will not be free from Satan's temptations on us until we get our new bodies.

John writes in his first epistle, "I write unto you that you sin not." So the union message and experience of sanctification is all about deliverance from **sin's** nature, and **sin's** power, but not its presence nor its temptations.

Temptations are good for us Spirit people--they are a good practice of faith. Our temptations, when rightly used by God , can be generated into redemptive words of faith furthering the Kingdom of God. I always call our temptations "God's calling card," calling us to creative faith for ourselves as well as for others.

The Point of This Article

Now that we see the truth of the Gospel of grace, why then this article? It is because we are living in a generation where sin is denied or justified. It is true even in Christian circles. Yes, the Gospel is full of glory, freedom and is God's gift and provision for the sin problem. Yet it is only available to those of us who know our need for it and live by drinking His crucified blood, and eating His resurrected flesh by faith (John 6: 53). The Gospel is of no value to those who live their own sinful lives refusing the truth of the Gospel by justifying themselves and loving their sins.

Nowhere at any time in the Bible is sin justified, nor is it white washed, nor is it conveniently interpreted as anything but sin. Sin is sin, and as Romans 7:13 says, before it can be fully done away with, it must come to the surface as "exceedingly sinful." Romans 7 is about sin's exposure and sin's deliverance. It is not about sin's exposure, its reinterpretation and its **acceptance**. Sin is exposed and its power and reign is defeated through the Cross, for Christ's sinless life is resurrected in us and as us. Trying to mix sinful acts together with union with Christ is like trying to mix oil and water. It cannot be done,

and is blasphemous. I agree with Paul when he says, "may it never be."

The Bible talks much about walking in the light. Jesus said that, "Ye are the light of the world," and John says now since that is true, "walk as children of light." When light shines in a dark room, its job is to make plain what is in that room, and its one demand is for us to respond honestly to it. When we are in darkness, we can call anything, anything. But when the light is turned on we can by no means call a chair a table. We must call it what it is.

All God has ever required of us, even in our lost condition, is to be honest. It is dishonesty, not sin, that damns the soul. It is our unwillingness to part with sins, and a refusal to admit what God shows us we are, by His word, or by his convicting Spirit. We refuse to admit to it simply because we love our sins too much. I always say, "we love our demons too much to want the deliverance available in Christ." One thing is for sure, the precious blood of Jesus does not cleanse dishonesty and excuses. It cleanses, but it only cleanses sin admitted to be sin, for it was shed for that purpose alone.

Sinful acts were so very obviously sinful to the early Christians that most people in that day would want to borrow our modern sarcastic expression: "Duh!" Yet, look at us in our modern sophisticated and learned society. We now believe that somehow God has changed and become so loose in his mercy that he doesn't even interpret sin to be sinful anymore. And even in our church circles, it is not politically correct to even say something is sinful.

All this “loose mercy and grace” leads Christians to believe that since God is nothing but mercy and love, this means He doesn’t even see sin. Then, He will make sure that all will be saved at the end. What we have forgotten is that we serve a holy God who cannot lie and must be as true to His justice as well as His mercy. Yes, sin is swallowed up in the death of God’s son on the Cross, and God’s justice was satisfied there, yet if we flagrantly sin and call it all God, we treat that precious sacrifice as invaluable and worthless and shake an arrogant finger at God’s justice.

If God doesn’t see sin, then why did He send His son to save the world from sin? And, why does the third person of the Trinity grieve in agony interceding until the sons receive their full inheritance as sons of God? The answer is simple. God sees sin, sent His son to die for it, and is grieved until Christ’s body is fully delivered from it. He as well intercedes for that body until it receives its final perfection.

Universalism or Ultimate Reconciliation

Universalism is a growing doctrine based on the false belief that universally all are already saved or will be saved in the end. Some even say “everyone is already saved they just don’t know it.” “Universalism is a false teaching that says that God, through the atonement of Jesus, will ultimately bring reconciliation between God and all people throughout history. This reconciliation will occur regardless of whether they have trusted in or rejected Jesus as savior during their lifetime. This universal redemption will be realized in the

future where God will bring all people to repentance. This repentance can happen while a person lives or after he has died and lives again in the millennium or some future state. Additionally, a few universalists even maintain that Satan and all demons will likewise be reconciled to God." See: www.carm.org/uni/universalism.

It is true that "God was in Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." However an objective universal truth is meaningless and useless to us, unless we subjectively apprehend to it by faith. When we reach out by faith and personally accept the fact that God has reconciled us to Himself by the death, burial and resurrection of His son Jesus, then we are personally saved. But it is totally illegitimate to say we already are saved, we just don't know it. That sounds like a new age phrase, "sin is only ignorance." Even if I know the truth that Jesus did it all, salvation is not mine until I receive Him as my personal Lord and Savior and make Him my all. So, being enlightened doesn't save us--what saves us is our choice to personally believe it, and receive Him who cleanses us of our sins; delivers me from the fallen satanic nature and fills me with His Spirit. It is only then that I am saved. Sad to say, many will refuse to obey the Gospel and will be lost. II Thessalonians 1:8-10 testifies to that fact.

Universalism is the beginning of the great deception which will eventually lead God's people into the apostasy prophesized in II Thessalonians. 2: 3. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts

himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God showing himself that he is God." You can't fall away from something that you didn't already have. This verse is talking to Christians.

Universalism and **false** oneness go hand in hand. False oneness says that we become God—(it is true that we are indwelt by and are an expression of God through Christ, but we never become deity.) That is what Satan thought he was choosing to be in his fall. This false union is what Paul warns against in these previously mentioned verses in II Thessalonians. Satan sitting in the temple of God (our bodies) saying that he is God. Then whatever I do or say is God without ever questioning the possibility of sin. Scary isn't it?

If this is all true, then sin is irradiated, and there must not be any hell. Eventually, Jesus loses his preeminence as "The way, The truth, and The life." There ends up being **many** ways, **many** truths, and **many** roads to eternal life, which sadly forgets what Jesus said to his disciples, "no man comes to the Father, but by me."

I heard a woman say once that, "everyone already has Jesus...The Jehovah Witnesses have Him, they just call him Jehovah. The Jews have him they just call him Yahweh, but it is really Jesus. The Muslim's have Jesus, they just call him Allah." This woman went on to say, "My friend and I are going to the Mosque and tell the Muslims that they already have Jesus. They just don't know that Allah is Jesus too." I was outraged when I heard such blasphemy.

If there is no hell, Jesus is a liar, the Gospel is a farce, we need not have personal faith for salvation, and Billy Graham's ministry is in

vain. Universalism is dangerous. In my opinion it is a doctrine of demons. It tears down the foundations of our faith; it makes taking up our daily Cross irrelevant; and it leaves us in a dangerous passive state which counterfeits God's promised "rest," and leaves us totally indifferent to the true response and activity of faith. If I believe this garbage, then why believe God for my personal salvation, my family member's salvation, or for my unsaved friends? It makes personal responding faith invalid altogether. Yet in contrast to this outrageous heresy, there is a comforting verse in I Corinthians 11: 19, "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. Opposites show up each other, and make clear the truth from the lie.

I heard a new age woman who believed in reincarnation talk about her hateful unsaved mother. She said, "Oh well, if my mother doesn't get it right in this life, she will get it right the next time around." I saw in this woman a faithless passivity which relied on the Devil's lies. How sad. I often see this same kind of faithless passivity in the universalist who trusts in the devil's doctrine of ultimate reconciliation instead of putting trust in the person of Christ who keeps the person to the end and saves him from a deserved hell.

False oneness closes up all possibilities of any distinguishable opposites....Satan is not considered as a viable enemy....Sin is non-existent...There is no difference between the Creator and the creation; there is only oneness, eliminating unity (the **two** become one.)....There is no personal choice or faith response on man's part (that appears to be separation)....Some even go so far as to say that there is no Trinity

(there isn't three in one, that is separation)....Others say it is wrong to distinguish between the sin and the sinner....There is no dividing soul/flesh from Spirit....There is no learning who you are not, and replacing that lie with who you really are.... And eventually there are no opposites, just a faithless gray oneness without distinctions.

True oneness is our union with our precious Lord and Savior; Jesus Christ and what He gained for us through His Cross. Jesus prayed for us to know this oneness like He knew it with His father. True oneness was not cheap for Him to know, and neither is it cheap for us either. Jesus, personally learned the obedience of faith by a painful process according to the bible, it says that He learned "by the things that He **suffered**," (Heb. 5:8). Salvation is not salvation unless you loose your own self-life (Matt. 16:25) and by faith inherit the eternal life of Christ. It is not easy to lose yourself. It personally cost me everything.

John 17 is Jesus' intercessory prayer, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me. And the glory which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in oneness." Paul says it is like a marriage relationship, "the two will become one flesh," That means that Christ joined to my spirit manifests Himself as one flesh being. I Corinthians 6:17 says that "He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him." We humans are the vessels Christ in us is the divine nature, and the two are made one.

Jesus says that we are the light of the world. We all know that it is He who is the light of the world manifesting Himself in us, as us. However, the good news is that we humans end up being and expressing the one who indwells us, because Jesus said, “You are the light...” That is true oneness, yet the vessel never becomes the deity it contains. False oneness counterfeits true oneness by declaring the creation to be the Creator, which makes man God. New Age oneness is not new at all, it’s author Satan, declared this lie to his Creator eons ago, by saying, “I will be like the Most High (Isa., 14:14).

Ironically, when union with Christ is rightly understood, and the human being takes it’s proper God-given submissive and place, we as Paul Billheimer the author of DESTINED FOR THE THRONE says, “He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit’ (I Corinthians 6:17). This union goes beyond a mere formal, functional, or idealistic harmony or rapport. It is an organic unity, and ‘organic relationship of personalities.’ Through the new birth we become bona fide generated sons of God (I John 3:2), ‘partakers of the divine nature’ (II Peter 1:4) begotten by Him, impregnated with His ‘genes,’ called the seed (‘sperma’) of God (I John 5:1, 18 and I Peter 1:3,23), and bearing His heredity. Thus, through the new birth—and I speak reverently – we become the ‘next of kin’ to the Trinity, a kind of ‘extension’ of the Godhead. That this group outranks all other orders of created beings is attested by Paul’s dramatic questions in I Corinthians 6:2-3: ‘Don’t you know that someday we Christians are going to judge and govern the world? Don’t you realize that we Christians will judge and reward the very angels in heaven?’ Here as a completely new, unique, and

exclusive order of beings which may be called a 'new species.' There is nothing like it in all the kingdoms of infinity. This is the order of beings which God envisioned when He spoke the worlds into being. This is the order of beings which Paul called 'the new man' (Ephesians 2:15, the new humanity destined through the new birth to be the aristocracy of the universe. They form a new and exclusive royalty, a new ruling hierarchy who will also constitute the Bride, the Lamb's Wife. This order is divinely designated to be co-ruler, co-sovereign, co-administrator and a judicially equal partner to the throne by virtue of redemption and wedlock with the King of kings."¹ We are one with the Trinity without actually becoming the Trinity. Man is so important to God, that God would become man in order to redeem mankind, as well as through His resurrection and ascension position redeemed man in himself "far above principalities in heavenly places." Redeemed mankind's royal inheritance places him in Christ, who is the Second person of the Trinity, as well as the Trinity in us right now in the present (Colossians 2:9-10). Pretty great isn't it?

Yet true union and counterfeited false union have just an onionskin's difference between them, However, that difference is the difference between heaven and hell.

The Conclusion

To conclude, let us consider the faith of this courageous man and let him encourage us as we "see the day approaching;" George Lopez,

¹ DESTINED FOR THE THRONE is forwarded by Billy Graham

the actor, was recently interviewed on a early morning show--his life's story was shocking with one horror story after another. His father was unknown, mother deserted him to an angry grandmother who never encouraged him, nor showed her love to him, even to this day. To most this would sound like another victim story, yet his response was amazing to me. He said, "I am a little green blade of grass that dared to grow out of a hard piece of concrete." Life couldn't have been harder for him, but surprisingly that shoot sprung up out of hardness with thankfulness, instead of bitterness, and victory instead of self-pity. I really don't know if he is a Christian or not, although, I would suspect that he is.

George Lopez's story challenges us Christians today as we consider all the many heresies, false teachings, doctrines of demons and deceptions that would lead away God's people into distraction and cause their faith to become shipwrecked. We can know without a shadow of doubt that God promises, "The gates of hell will not prevail against the Kingdom of God." Satan will not win, Jesus has already won the battle—Satan only appears to win some of the wars, but take heart, God has all under control. He is Lord of his Body, He is Lord of Satan, He is Lord of all deceptions and even says in Isaiah 66:4, "I also will choose their delusions."

The Apostle Paul's faith struck me as incredibly noble as he released the Ephesians to the keeping of the grace of God, never to return again, in his farewell talk of Acts 20:32. He had declared "all the counsel of God" during his three years stay with them. He says, "I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among

you, not sparing the flock. Also, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." Yet Paul leaves them in the care of the Holy Spirit, saying farewell, and never saw them again. Let Paul's faith be an example of our faith whenever the wolves come to pervert the truth.

"The Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent one takes it by force" (Matthew 11:12). We, Christians are the little blade of grass which only grows stronger when challenged by hardness and the darkness of Satanic violence. The violent one, King Jesus, is birthed into our consciousness by way of opposition. Isn't a natural birth one of the most painfully violent events of all, yet disguised in all this violence is the blessedness of the miracle of birth?

The Spirit's word from John to the seven churches in the book of Revelation is that of "overcoming." "He that overcomes will I give to eat of the Tree of Life"...."He that overcomes shall not be hurt in the second death"..."He that overcomes shall eat of hidden manna, and given a white stone with a new name"..."He that overcomes will God give power over nations"..."He that overcomes shall be clothed in white raiment....He that overcomes will I make a pillar in my temple with a new name....He that overcomes shall sit in my throne, even as I also overcome, and am sat down with my Father in His throne." Overcome what? The mine-field of Satanic deception, the hardship of trials, the many pressures of life, and the increasing heresies creeping in to pervert us and stumble us from fully receiving our inheritance.

How do we overcome? Simply by faith in the “one who is able to keep us from falling and present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” Amen, and amen! “The gates of Hell will not prevail.”

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