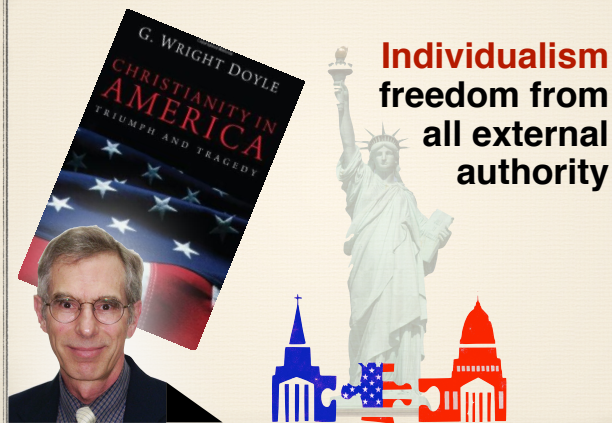


## The American Christian Culture



**Individualism**  
freedom from  
all external  
authority

**Americanized Christianity is tainted by a spirit of independence from all and any external authority.**

- **We are suspicious of central government - We have a libertarian impulse.**
- **We are suspicious of church hierarchy - We have a local congregation mentality.**
- **We are suspicious of community identity - We have a "personal" (self defined) faith.**
- **We are suspicious of a controlling God - We have a god made in our image.**

**Paul introduces himself as a bond-slave of Jesus and as an apostle to the Gentiles.**

*Romans 1:1*

"Paul, a bon-servant (slave) of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God."

**context - New Identity through baptism**

*Romans 6*

"<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, <sup>13</sup> and do not go on **presenting the members of your body** to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but **present yourselves** to God as those alive from the dead, **and your members** as instruments of righteousness to God. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace."

**Present ourselves**

**Present our members**

<b>Aorist tense - once for all</b>	<b>Present tense - continuous</b>
<b>Settled at our baptism (union with Christ)</b>	<b>Witnessed by our moment by moment behavior</b>
<b>Secures our eternal life</b>	<b>Does not define our eternal state</b>
<b>Strategic Repentance from the sin of unbelief</b>	<b>Tactical repentance from behavioral sin</b>

"<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be!"

**6:1-14**

**Our new identity**

**We are to be true to our new SELF**

"<sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!"

**6:15-23**

**The identity of our new Master**

**We are to be true to our new MASTER**

"<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"

✓ **A point of logic:** Slaves are expected to obey **THEIR** masters.

<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that though **you were** slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

✓ **A point of fact:** You were set free from one master (sin) to serve another (righteousness).



<sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.”

- ✓ **A reality:** Our weak fleshly nature results in irrational behavior.

<sup>19</sup> . . . For just as **you presented** your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so **now present** your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.”

- ✓ **A challenge:** Be true to your new master as you were to your old master.

<sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.”

- ✓ **A reminder:** There was a time when you were not free to obey as you are now.

### *Philippians 3*

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

### *Galatians 5*

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please (wish, desire).”

We are into a body of sin inherited from Adam.

Our union with Christ creates two conflicting natures.



We are to put off the old self and put on the new self



<sup>21</sup> Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.”

- ✓ **A reminder (continued):** Your old master brought shame and death to you.

**Note:** Shame is a virtue when it brings us to faith or when it glorifies the grace of God as we reflect upon our old life.

It is toxic when it is used by Satan to condemn those who are in Christ by faith.

**Note on death:** As long as we are in this mortal body we are in a “body of death” Rom.6:6, 7:24, 1 Cor.15:42-57



"<sup>22</sup> But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the **wages** of sin is death, but the free **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

✓ **A reminder (continued):** The fruit of God as our Master is 1. being set apart & 2. eternal life.

✓ **Note:** Under the Old Covenant we were in a "wage" system conditioned on behavior where the Law stirred up sin.

Under the New Covenant we are under a "gift" system based on God's grace in Christ through faith.

When we "present" **ourselves** to God in Christ we are called to "present" **our members** as instruments of godliness.

*Romans 12*

"<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

- Note that Paul is speaking to **believers who yet need to** present their bodies to their new master.
- "Spiritual" service of worship is literally "**rational**" service of worship.

### **Paraphrase of Romans 6:15-23**

"Let's be consistent. When you offer yourself to someone as a slave you are expected to obey them. You were offering yourself to the dark side and you lived in sin. But now you have come to the light and offered yourself to God, which should mean that you also offer your body to obey Him as your new master. The old way was the way of death. The new way is the way of life. Walk in a manner worthy of your high calling. You can only serve one master."

### **Clarifications**

This passage is about **liberty** not about independence.

This passage is about **lordship** not about salvation.

This passage is about **love** not about fear.



**Evangelical Christians disagree as to what extent the 2nd point is essential to the 1st.**

## **Discipleship salvation**

A person has to display the obedience of a disciple of Christ before their faith is genuine.

**What constitutes true repentance and saving faith.**

**Level #1**  
Intellectual assent  
"superficial faith confession"

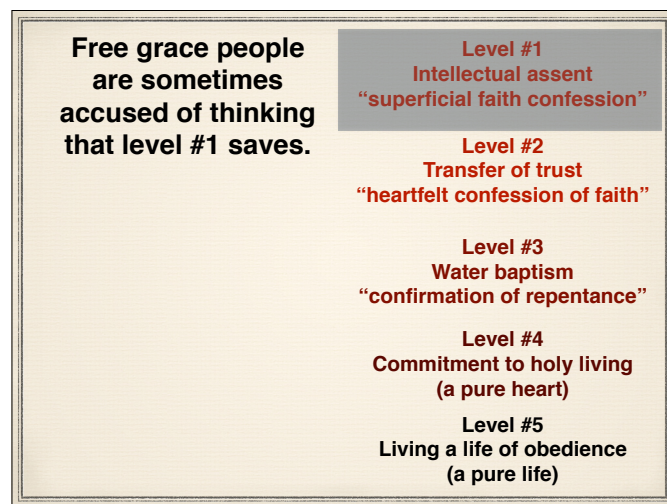
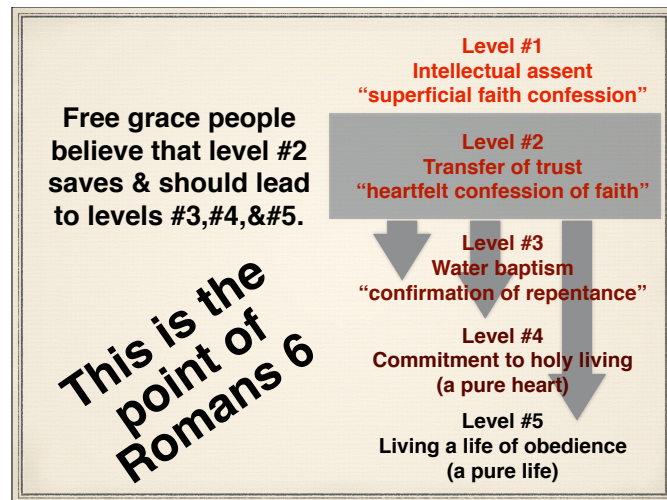
**Level #2**  
Transfer of trust  
"heartfelt confession of faith"

**Level #3**  
Water baptism  
"confirmation of repentance"

**Level #4**  
Commitment to holy living  
(a pure heart)

**Level #5**  
Living a life of obedience  
(a pure life)





*2 Corinthians 5:14*

"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

- ✓ **Fear** and **guilt** are powerful motivators but what do they change and do they bring glory to God?
- ✓ The **Word of the Cross** must ever be before us in teaching, worship, ethics, and relationships.

