

## **A New and Living Way! Part 3:**

**The Church is at its best when we're ALL-IN, booting all out that stands in the way, to step up to the life God has planned! We know Jesus didn't come to make us Bible experts but to open the new and living way God has planned... So that we can invade our world with the power of God, like Jesus did!**

**Clearing the air...** We don't want to be powerless, vain, religionists like the Pharisees... Who could quote the word but couldn't live the life! Who fought for vain traditions that they could define and redefine at will... And let "loose" of the word of God that they could not change! They were an offense to God and offenders of His Son!

***With their lips they put on a show of piety... but their hearts were very far away!***

We want to be all-in, with everything out of the way that can hinder us... Things like taking offense, getting mad, upset, walking away... Jesus knew offenses, but wasn't redirected by ANY OF THEM! Every single one was meant to stop Him... and He overcame them all!

***Then the Overcomer made us more than conquerors in this life – by giving us His “covering” love! Rom 8.37***

**We overcome because...** He overcame the world for us! **J16.33** We are not overcome by evil but we overcome evil with good! **R12.21** We have escaped the corruptions in the world thru our lusts! **2Pet2.20** We have overcome the wicked one! **1J2.13,14** Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world! **1J4.4**  
We are born of God and have the faith of God in Christ Jesus! **1J5.4,5**

**We overcome offenses because we don't fear what people can do to us when we're all-in with God! Which makes us doers of His new and living way, not hearers only! Not just talking it, thereby deceiving ourselves and others...**

**Deceiving ourselves and others!** “Spots” in feasts of love, people who feed themselves without fear/care! “Clouds” without water, blowing in but never freshening! Trees whose fruit has withered and now barren, “twice dead!” “Raging waves,” driven by wind, foaming out their own shame! “Wandering stars,” meteoric missiles!

***ANTIDOTE: “Contend for the faith...” And by it, step up into it... the “new and life way” God has planned!***

**First Steps Of “Usefulness!”** Every born-again believer begins as a baby being cared for! The kingdom is revealed to babes! **Lk 10.21** Fed with milk, and not with meat because they are not able to bear it! **1Cor3.1** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, so you can grow, having tasted that the Lord is gracious. **1Pet2.2**  
But the time comes for us to “grow-on” and become useful in the purposes of God! **Heb 5.13-6.3**

**First Step Of “Usefulness!” 1 Timothy 3.8-15** Deacons must be honorable, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as servants, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be honorable, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons *obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus...* these things I write so that you may know how to conduct yourselves in the house of God, which is the church of the loving God and the pillar and ground of truth!

**First Step Of “Usefulness!”** Service: Diakonos: diakoneo. Misapplied by the vain traditions of men! This is not a “ruling class” of people in a church! (*one step up from beginner!*) 1<sup>st</sup> step into useful service/servanthood! Put people into positions of authority unproven, unseasoned in new life way... Trouble/problems ahead!

**1 Timothy 3.8-15 Fourteen point checklist (for a couple)!** Not a “legal-list,” not for legalists, guidelines for safety!

**First Step Of Useful Service!** "Let them be husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well! For those who have served as a servant well, acquire for themselves a good step-up and great boldness in the faith we have in Christ Jesus!" **1Tim3.12,13**

"Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action." –Mother Teresa

If you can't serve well at home, you cannot serve the church well! **3.5**

**Stripping out the vanity... "Husbands of one wife..."** Does not mean you have to be a married man to step up... Not anti-woman!!! Doesn't mean that God is anti-single... NT/early church father's don't say anything about Timothy being married! The early church father's hold that Paul was single at this time... Though to be a Pharisee among Pharisees **Acts 23.6, 26.4,5 Phil 3.5, he would have been married w/children!**

**"Husbands of one wife..."** does not mean you've only been married once! So, if you're divorced, "Sorry Charlie!" Divorce was rampant, divorcees plentiful, church was full of them... Redeemed/reconstituted/*repurposed!* Literally: only one wife... (a restraint in a polygamous society) Morally: hormones in check... (I want that one and that one and that one!) Spiritually: heart centered... (like Christ)

**"Ruling their children and their own houses well..."** From: "Let me tell you what to do even though it's not working for me!" To: "I can't tell you what you can do until I know what to do myself..." All the way: "I can tell you what worked for me and maybe it can help you too!" "Ruling..." standing before, presiding over, maintaining household... *well!* Nothing in that verse is spelled: "D-O-M-I-N-A-N-C-E!" "I am man, bow down and worship..." "I am woman, hear me roar!" "I am child, hear me no more!"

Jesus is the image of a Ruler! "The son of man came to serve and give His life as a ransom..." "My kingdom is not like the world kingdom of "Lording" (dominance)..." "If you want to be great, serve!"

**Usefulness...** To be great leaders of our families, we have to be personal *followers* of Jesus! We lead by example... in love... with grace (Mentoring/equipping)... We inform (teaching)... We watch (engaged) and we cheer (coaching) or correct (fathering)... And we defend against all enemies (warrior) strategies... Heal all wounds (pastor/doctor)... It's what "step-up's" *do on the Life-way!*

**It's a test... but not only...** My Anaconda don't... My Anaconda don't want none unless you got buns hun...

Boy toy named Troy used to live in Detroit/Big dope dealer money, he was getting some coins/Was in shootouts with the law, but he live in a palace/Bought me Alexander McQueen, he was keeping me stylish/Now that's real, real, real/Gun in my purse, b\*\*\*\* I came dressed to kill/Who wanna go first? I had them pushing daffodils/I'm high as h\*\*\*, I only took a half of pill/I'm on some dumb s\*\*\*

By the way, what he say?/He can tell I ain't missing no meals/ Come through and f\*\*\*em in my automobile/Let him eat it with his grills/He keep telling me to chill/ He keep telling me it's real, that he love my sex appeal/ Because he don't like 'em boney, he want something he can grab/So I pulled up in the Jag, and i hit 'em with the jab like.../Dun-d-d-dun-dun-d-d-dun-dun/ Oh my gosh, look at her butt (x4)

This dude named Michael used to ride motorcycles/D\*\*\* bigger than a tower, I ain't talking about Eiffel's/Real country a\*\* n\*\*\*\*, let me play with his rifle/P\*\*\*\* put his a\*\* to sleep, now he calling me NyQuil/ Now that bang bang bang/I let him hit it 'cause he slang Cocaine/He toss my salad like his name Romaine/And when we done, I make him buy me Balmain/I'm on some dumb s\*\*\*\*/ Little in the middle but she got much back (x3)/Oh my God (look at her butt) [241M]

**Ruling well...** 60's music brought on a revolution... There were people up in arms, but no one heard them... Society is bringing on dissolution/ dilution/delusions... Will we be heard?

Blessed is the man/woman who is not condemned by what they allow... **Rom 14.22** We don't have to change the whole world, just our own...