



*"As the Scriptures say,
'I will destroy human wisdom and discard their most brilliant ideas.'
1 Corinthians 1:19 NLT*

The Most Excellent Way

1. Diagnosing the Problem

We teach that a person's struggle with alcohol and drugs, sexual immorality, gambling, eating disorders, etc., are sin — not disease.

Galations 5:19-21 NKJV — "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; ..."

Consequently, the solution for sin is found in the one who came to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15 NKJV — "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ..."

2. The Identity of Our God

We teach that Jesus Christ is the Most High God, not one of many higher powers.

Luke 1:32a NIV — "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High..."

The Bible declares Jesus to be God-Incarnate.

John 1:1, 14 — "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

From the beginning of time, our God distinguished Himself from the many false gods of pagan lands by ascribing to Himself the title **God [El] Most High [Elyown]** (Genesis 14:18). Throughout the generations, God's people have recognized God as **Most High**.

Genesis 14:22 — "But Abram said to the king of Sodom, 'I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, ...'"

Psalm 57:2 — "I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me."

Acts 7:48-49 — "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands,..."

Luke 1:32 — Angel Gabriel said: "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Daniel 4:32 — Daniel said: "They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

Luke 6:35 NIV — "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, ..."

In fact, to the shame of many, even Satan and his demons refer to God as the Most High.

Mark 5:7 NKJV — A demonic spirit cried out: "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" (Luke 8:28)

Isaiah 14:14 — Satan said: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High."

Interestingly, the Bible does use the term **higher power**, and references "powers in high places." However, all refer to human authorities, angels, Satan or demons.

Romans 13:1 KJV — "Let every soul be subject unto the **higher powers**. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

Ephesians 6:12 KJV — "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but ... against **powers**, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Romans 8:37,39 NKJV — "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, ... nor **powers**, ... shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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Colossians 2:15 NKJV — *“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*

1 Corinthians 8:5-6 NKJV — *“For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords),...”*

Therefore, in light of Biblical evidence that such a term fails to properly identify our God and because only He can deliver us from we reject the term “higher power.”

3. The Identity of the Believer

We believe and teach that in order to overcome life-controlling sins one must be regenerated (born again) — not re-educated.

1 John 3:9 NKJV — *“Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”*

1 John 5:4-5 NKJV — *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

The Bible states that when one receives Christ, the sin nature is crucified and a new nature is birthed.

Romans 6:2-7 NIV — *“We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin*

might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”

Romans 6:11-12 NIV — *“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.”*

Therefore, in Christ we become a new creation and the old passes away!

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 NKJV — *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

The spiritual life we lost in Adam is restored to us in Christ.

Romans 5:14 NKJV — *“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.”*

Romans 5:15-17 NKJV — *“But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”*

He makes us new and thus we have new potential to overcome where we’ve always failed. Our natural tendency before Christ was to yield to sin, but now we have a tendency to yield to righteousness. The Bible declares that sin will no longer dominate the lives of those surrendered to Christ.

The Most Excellent Way

Romans 6:14 NKJV — *“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”*

We are born again – new creations in Christ! Whether one was a drunkard, drug addict, sexually immoral, gambler, glutton, or even murderer, what we were before Christ is nailed to the cross if we believe in His finished work.

In fact, the Bible says that while Jesus was on the cross, He became bearer of all sin so that we could become the righteousness of God in Him. Therefore, we no longer view ourselves as alcoholics, addicts, codependents, etc. And we do not make a practice of confessing things like “I’m an alcoholic” or “I’m an addict.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV — *“For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Romans 6:11 NKJV — *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

We freely admit we are sinners in need of a Savior, and continue to confess and forsake our sins daily. We embrace our identity as new creations and place our faith and trust in Christ to lead us into obedient living.

4. The Identity of Our Enemy

We believe and teach that our lifelong enemy is Satan, not an addictive personality.

1 Peter 5:8-9 — *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”*

The Bible teaches that Satan is the archenemy of God and man. Additionally, his mission is to keep the world of unbelievers from coming to faith in Christ, and to tempt, mislead, accuse, and bring suffering into the lives of Believers.

2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV — *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

Matthew 4:1 NKJV — *“Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”*

2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV — *“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*

Revelation 12:10 NIV — *“For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”*

John 10:10 NKJV — *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

By His sacrificial death on the cross, Jesus overcame Satan and made freedom available to those who were in bondage to sin, giving them new life and power to overcome.

Luke 10:18-19 NKJV — *“And [Jesus] said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.’”*

1 John 4:4 NKJV — *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*

A Believer who is submitted to God can be victorious through the empowerment of his new birth, reliance upon Christ and obedience to the Word of God. Conversely, those who are simply being reeducated with principles from the world to combat their “addictive personality” can never be truly victorious.

John 15:3-5 NKJV — *Jesus said: “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*

While we may learn to cope with the addiction, the enemy simply chooses another weapon we’re not trained to defend — we remain in bondage and many times return to that which first enslaved them, or worse.

Luke 11:24-26 NKJV — *“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.”*

Only through the power of Jesus Christ can we overcome the enemy of our souls. Christ defeated Satan and all of his demons at the cross and no weapon he forms against us can succeed as long as we stay yielded to Christ.

Colossians 2:13-15 NKJV — *“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh [sinful nature], He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was*

contrary to us. And He has taken it out having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

Ephesians 6:10-11 NKJV — *“Finally, ...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

5. Victory in Christ

Romans 8:31-39 NKJV

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies.

Who is he who condemns?

It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,

shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

AMEN! So be it!