



Letter to a Grace Warrior

FRANK FRIEDMANN

Preface



My dear friends and fellow soldiers in the cause of Grace,

If you have walked this journey in Grace for any length of time, you know that we are in a battle as we seek to proclaim the glorious finished work of Christ to the church. Over many years, I have sought to herald the pure beauty of the New Covenant that transforms lives. In doing so, I have been called a false teacher, a heretic, a hyper-Gracist, and various other names by the church. **Sadly, the glorious bride of Christ is locked into religion and largely fails to understand and embrace what the New Covenant is all about.**

It is tragic that the glorious bride of Christ has been so richly blessed, yet fails to experience and express those blessings. This makes the battle we fight a worthy battle indeed.

The Holy Spirit uses the message we proclaim to set people free from bondage and make them whole again.

If we are going to make headway in this battle though, we must learn how to fight well. **That is one of the reasons I wrote *Stunned By Grace* – to not only proclaim the message of freedom but to root people solidly in the truth.** It is a universal law – we cannot give away what we do not own ourselves.

Recently, a wonderful gentleman had his eyes opened to the glory of the New Covenant through *Our Resolute Hope*. This man is extremely well connected around the country in the Christian faith and is a greatly honored and respected minister in the Kingdom – he has joined the battle in a major way.

He has and continues to recommend *Stunned By Grace* to the recipients of his ministry newsletter which has a huge following and has ordered copies in bulk to give to his friends and partners in ministry. He is so excited, as we all are, to learn of the great love and Grace of God in Christ. It is for this exact reason that I knew I had to contact him.

I spent over two weeks compiling a letter that would capture everything I wanted him to know. **I wrote, edited, and re-wrote that letter because I wanted to prepare him for the onslaught of criticism that would very likely come his way.** How did I know that he would soon face criticism? Well, because it has come to many of

us, hasn't it? Religious people do not like Grace for it undermines all their religious activity by which they hope to secure significant standing before God and others.

I took the time to prepare him with answers to the criticisms that would come against him, and against *Stunned By Grace*. I wanted him to have the opportunity to be used by God to open those dear people's hearts and minds to the life and freedom that Jesus secured for them. In the letter, I asked him to fully weigh what he was getting into, and offered him an "out" in case he wanted to cancel his book order. **Upon receiving the letter, he wrote back with one word – "Excellent!" He then added a courageous phrase, "Send the books!"**

I am so proud of this man. He has such a heart for God and for people. He has sincerely expressed that heart for many years, but now **he is armed with the very powerful weapons of Grace, identity, total forgiveness, righteousness, and the glorious words of our Lord Jesus – "It is finished!"** I am convinced that he is going to be a very dangerous man in his work for the Kingdom. I cannot wait to see how God uses him to set people free and make them whole in Christ.

Because you too are in this battle, I long to prepare you with the same powerful weapons as I did this gentleman. That is why I'm going to share with you the words and thoughts I sent to this dear Saint so that you too can be equipped and prepared to answer those that have criticisms, and especially those who have questions. I have removed the personal aspects of that letter, but kept the meat of it so that you can grow *"strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."* 2 Timothy 2:1b (NASB)

Letter to a Grace Warrior

I am writing this to you, in a very real way to warn you. “Warn?”, you may ask. Yes, my friend, unfortunately, I have to warn you. I hope this letter won’t become a book, but I have been heralding the glory of the New Covenant for a long time now and unfortunately have had enough negative experience from “Christians” who are locked in religious bondage to have to use the word “warn.”

I also wanted to further clarify some of what is taught in my new book, *Stunned By Grace*, because as Peter said, we need to be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15). The arguments people use against what the Scriptures teach are pretty much the same, so I wanted to prepare you not only for their objections, but also to provide you with answers to their objections.

You mentioned sending a copy of *Stunned By Grace* to our dear friend (a famous theologian). I have thought about doing that as well. I did have some conversation with him about these truths years ago. It was a *short* conversation. I had shared a book that a friend of mine had written along a similar vein of what I teach. **He told me the book taught “sinless perfectionism and passivity.” Sadly, nothing could be further from the truth.**

No Longer Sinners, But Saints

When teaching that we stand perfect, righteous in Christ (Colossians 2:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21), the Scriptures are NOT talking about behavior, but rather identity. I am not teaching that we reach a place of sinless perfection in our behavior but instead in our nature. **The New Testament makes it very clear that there are only two kinds of people in the world — believers and unbelievers; those who are *in Adam*, and those who are *in Christ*; those who are Saints and those who are still sinners.** The problem is that the church defines the term sinner as someone who sins. That is a very poor biblical definition. It makes our identity dependent on behavior. If a sinner is “someone who sins,” then if someone barks like a dog, are they a dog? Obviously not, because behavior does not determine identity.

Birth determines identity. That is why the term “born again” stated in John 3 is so important.

We were all born in Adam, and therefore we were all born sinners, and we all verified that identity by our sinful behavior. **But when we put faith in Christ, we were born again, born from above, made alive in Christ, made brand new** (2 Corinthians 5:17). Throughout the New Testament, we are now called Saints – *hagios*, meaning “holy ones of God”! That is why, when Paul wrote to the various churches, Ephesus, Colossae, Thessalonica, he called them Saints because that is who they now were! Paul even called the tenaciously sinning Corinthians “Saints” – something very few pastors are willing to teach, let alone admit!

A sinner is better defined as someone who is still in Adam, someone who has never put faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. A believer is best defined as a Saint, who sometimes does not act like who he is and commits acts of sin; but that sinful behavior does not make him a sinner. Acts of sin could never reverse what Jesus has done. When people call a believer a sinner, they are actually slandering the work of Jesus on their behalf. I am afraid that modern man has lost his ability to think. When a believer sins, he is acting contrary to who he is as a Saint and manifesting that he is being foolish!

**I like to call a believer who sins:
one who is experiencing temporary
insanity – albeit it is their choice to
do so.**

There are only three times that the word “sinner” is used in the present tense in the New Testament, two in James 4, and one in 1 Timothy 1. But there are dozens of verses that call us “Saints” in the

present tense. I believe it is quite obvious that the Holy Spirit is communicating to us through His inspired Word, that we are no longer inherently sinners, but rather Saints — **incredibly, people will argue against this glorious reality, assuming that because they sin, they must be sinners.**

Amidst the refutation that we are Saints, you will likely be confronted with a verse — a verse found in 1 Timothy.

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” 1 Timothy 1:15 (NKJV)

Here Paul says, in the present tense, that he is chief of sinners. The argument that has been thrown at me from “theologians” in regards to this verse is that if the great Apostle Paul calls himself a sinner, who are we to think we are not sinners?

Well, the first point I would make in response to this is the statement neglects the 58 present tense references that call us Saints. Second, and this is huge — this statement neglects the # 1 rule of interpreting the Bible — context! Note well the language Paul uses, he is *not* talking about his present sins, but rather his past sins — things he did before he became a believer (or a Saint). He says just a few verses earlier, in verse 13, that he was “formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor.” The context clearly indicates that Paul is not talking about who he “is” in Christ in the present, but who he “was” before he put his faith in Christ.

Further, when Paul uses the present tense to refer to himself as the “chief of sinners” — he is arguing that he is the worst sinner ever because he persecuted the church so horribly. In the context given

in 1 Timothy chapter 1, he again affirms this by saying that God displayed and magnified His Grace, mercy, and patience on him, a man who “is” the worst of sinners. Paul is using what is called the “historical present” (or dynamic present) in Greek grammar. The present tense is used for effect, where one would expect the “aorist tense” (or past tense). In other words, we would expect the “past tense” – “I was the worst of all sinners” – but instead, the present tense is used – “I *am* the worst of all sinners” – in order to awaken the reader to the dynamism of what is being said.

If I may very humbly illustrate – no one has ever broken the records I set for kicking at my college alma mater. I could use the historical present and say, “I am the best kicker in my school ever.” The point being – there is no way that I am the best kicker right now! There are currently a lot of young bucks that would smear me if we had a kicking contest today. I am using the historical present to say, “I am the best there ever was at that school.” That is what Paul is doing here.

He is not a present tense “chief sinner” – that would be a message contrary to what he was teaching believers all throughout the New Testament.

He is – as he calls others who have put their faith in Jesus – a Saint. He “is” however, the worst sinner ever in terms of how he so violently persecuted the church. I hope that makes sense. That one

verse cannot be used to repudiate what Paul said elsewhere throughout the New Testament.

As I continue to encounter Christians who refuse to receive the obvious truth of the New Testament — that we are Saints and not sinners — it puts a question in my heart and mind. Why? **Why do people want to use one verse to disregard the rest of the New Testament? Why do they want to degrade themselves and more importantly, refute the work of Jesus on their behalf, to identify themselves as sinners?**

My own take on it is that this can be a subtle and sneaky way on the part of an individual to justify their sinful behavior. Can you hear them doing so? Instead of recognizing that their sinful acts are the result of a horrific choice of the will to function in rebellion against God and all that God has done for them, they can simply excuse themselves with the rationale, “Well, I am just a sinner after all you know.” I want to tell them, **“No! You are a Saint, and you chose to act contrary to who you are at that moment of faithlessness!” That is a much more honest way to classify our sinful choices, but it is one that will emphatically sting our pride at how foolish we can be in our decision making.**

Sanctification by Faith

Now let’s take a look at the often brought up passivity criticism — this one really disturbs me. **The reformers did not reform enough — they brought salvation by faith back to the church and that was a**

wonderful thing. But they failed to also bring sanctification by faith back to the church.

In the New Testament, there is a glorious phrase found in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38 which says, *“The just shall live by faith.”* The context of these two passages is certainly one of being justified before God and escaping judgment. The statement, however, goes far beyond the issue of being justified positionally to include being able to live righteously practically.

**The verses do not say, “The just shall enter the kingdom by faith.”
They say, “The just shall live by faith.”**

I fear that we have reduced the Gospel to an issue of destination, of securing heaven or simply getting a ticket out of hell. When we do that and fail to herald and appropriate the intimate relationship that God established with us through salvation, we end up missing that experience of heaven right now through the Person of Jesus by the Holy Spirit Who has taken up residence within us!

Interestingly, the phrase, “The just shall live by faith”, was first found in Habakkuk. Habakkuk was bemoaning that life was going to be horribly difficult when the Chaldeans came against Israel. **As Habakkuk poured out his heart to God about his struggle, God spoke to him and called him to *live by faith*.** Upon receiving that call on his life, Habakkuk made the decision to trust God in the midst of the horrible circumstances that were coming his way. He further declared, *“Though the fig tree does not blossom, and there be nor*

fruit on the vine, yet will I trust in Thee. I will rejoice in the Lord!"
Habakkuk 3:17-19 (paraphrased). In obedience to God, Habakkuk was *living* by faith in God.

One of the most neglected verses in the New Testament is found in Colossians, "*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him*" Colossians 2:6 (NASB)

**How did we receive Him? By faith.
How then do we walk (live) in Him?
In the same way; we walk by faith.**

My point in all of this is that, in contradiction to what my friend said to me years ago, it is anything but passivity to walk by faith. To take one's eyes off of their circumstances — off of their own personal resources which are very large in their own eyes, and place them instead on a God that they cannot see and trust Him and His resources instead — requires an enormous act of the will. **Put simply, there is nothing "easy" about living by faith, and it is certainly not a life of passivity!**

This has been Janet's and my personal experience in walking through circumstances with our children. We faced horrible events in their lives that were beyond our ability to endure, but He proved His ability in and through us as we trusted Him by faith. Is that not exactly what Paul was explaining in 2 Corinthians 12 with his own thorn in the flesh? **It was his weakness, caused by the thorn, that drew him — maybe even forced him — to put faith in God's strength instead of his own.** This is what Paul was heralding in Romans

5:8-10 — we were justified by His death, but we are “being saved” by His life.

We are to live our lives by faith in Him Who is greater than we are, in the One Who offers His “greatness” to us as we do so. Isaiah said much the same thing in Isaiah 40; we exchange (literal Hebrew) our strength, and that is why we mount up with wings like eagles and do not grow weary. This verse has been translated to say, “renew our strength”, but a concordance will tell you the word can also be translated “exchange”. **What a glorious declaration that is! If we trust in Him, we can exchange our strength for His!** I have come to the firm conclusion that I will choose to live by faith in God and His ability, rather than trying to imitate God with my inability. If that is called “passivity”, so be it.

I need to add one more thought about living by faith before we move on. Paul told Timothy to “*fight the good fight of faith.*” 1 Timothy 6:12a (NASB) The original Greek translation of these words is very enlightening. **The word “fight” is actually “agonize”.** I would translate it, “**Agonize in the good agony of faith.**” (literal Greek) Again, I see *nothing* passive in this economy God has called us to.

Dead to the Law, Alive to Christ

Finally, the biggest issue people will contend with in *Stunned By Grace* concerns our being dead to the Law. **If they are honest with the text of Romans 7:1-4 and Galatians 2:19-20, they have to admit that we died to the Law.** That reality is simply stated too definitively for anyone to deny. Sadly though, the refutation that many “theologians” will argue, is that we died only to the ceremonial law,

not to the moral law. Even a cursory reading of the above passage will readily herald that there is no distinction in those passages between moral and ceremonial law. These dear Saints need to practice what they learned in Hermeneutics class and apply the #1 rule of interpreting the Bible – *context!* In Romans 7, the mountaintop passage concerning our now being dead to the Law, Paul is very explicit in his language. **After calling us to know that we died to the Law so that we could be married to Jesus (Romans 7:4), the illustration Paul uses to affirm this glorious reality is from the “Big Ten” – the moral Law of God, the Ten Commandments.** In Romans 7:7, Paul quotes from the tenth commandment, “*Thou shalt not covet.*” There is nothing ceremonial about that, and in reality, it is the worst of the ten because it takes the Law from external to internal and basically says, “Do not even want to do the first nine.” This is the Law we died to – the Law in its entirety, both ceremonial and moral.

When we as Christians cling to the Law, including the “Big Ten” – we are, in reality, being no better than the Jews. In the Mishnah, the ancient rabbis taught, “There is life in the Law.” No, there is not! They were grossly mistaken. Though God said, “*Do this and live*” – no man can do so. There is death in the Law, it kills and it condemns (2 Corinthians 3:6-7, 9). It was given to keep us from any false hope of finding life in anything other than God and to lead us to Jesus (Galatians 3:24).

**Once the Law has led us to Jesus
as our source of Life, we are done
with it.**

It accomplished its purpose and now we are married to Jesus as our Life source (Romans 7:1-4, Colossians 3:3-4).

Galatians 2 is so clear: “For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.” Galatians 2:19 (NASB) Isn't that an amazing declaration that we never hear in church? The purpose of the Law was to lead us away from the Law so that we could finally live unto God! Adam plunged us all into Law, something God never intended for us. He told Adam to stay away from that tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or right and wrong. Isn't that amazing? We were never even supposed to know right and wrong, let alone try to live by it! **Jesus redeemed us from the Law and brought us back to Grace in God as not only our source, but also our way of life.**

For many years now, my ministry email has been graceisaperson@aol.com. I chose it to communicate that “Grace” is not a doctrine, nor is it even an economy for living. Titus 2 tells us that Grace is actually the Person of Jesus — *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.”* Titus 2:11 (NASB) Who appeared and brought salvation to us? Jesus.

**Jesus is the Grace of God, and
relationship with Him empowers us
to experience Him Who is Grace.**

Incredibly, people will try to refute our death to the Law by saying that we are against the Law. Nothing could be further from the truth. **We who are recipients of the New Covenant love the Law. The Holy Spirit used it on our behalf to expose that we were dead, and lead**

us to Jesus. It is our mission to use the Law the same way it was used in our own lives. We want to beat the daylights out of the unbeliever with it, so they too can be led to Jesus and find life in Him just as we did. I would put it this way: **when we find Jesus, we gain the glorious privilege of exchanging the Law for something far better, the Person of Jesus as experienced in us and expressed through us by the Person of the Holy Spirit Who takes up residence within us.** Now that is glory! I offer you this motto , “We are not *against* the Law, but we are certainly *instead* of the Law. We now have God Himself living *in* and *through* us.” WOW!

Because this truth is so attacked by people locked into religion, I am working hard on two new books. One will be titled, Stunned Even More, and in it, we will delve deeply into the glory of Grace. The second book that I am diligently writing is a book about Galatians entitled, Stunned By Freedom. In the introduction of what will be a very powerful book, I prompt an enormous thought – Paul said he was shocked that believers were turning away from Him Who called them. We dare not read that casually – this is one of the most important phrases in the entire Bible and I pray you would understand what I am about to share with you. The believers in Galatia were adding to the Gospel with their demands for the Law, specifically circumcision. Paul told them in doing so, they were “perverting” the Gospel. The word “perverting” literally means “reversing”. This is huge!

The entire Bible is about the concept of reversing. God set us up in an economy of directly receiving all that we need for life from Him and His resources. Adam “reversed” that economy by a full 180 degrees, plunging us into an economy of “achieving” through the Law – an economy of seeking to do good and not evil through our

own resources. In Adam, our life source was “reversed” away from God to the Law and how well we performed.

Jesus lifted us out of the economy of “achieving” through rules, principles, and standards, and “reversed” us 180 degrees back into a relationship with God and receiving Him once again as our life source. That is glory, and at this point in redemptive history, the “reversing” needs to cease once and for all.

The Galatians however, and hordes of believers down through the ages, failed to see Jesus as sufficient and continued to add things for themselves to do. In doing so, they have put their lives in “reverse” once again by placing the focus back onto themselves and their performance of whatever they have added to Jesus. In doing so, they are turning not just one degree away from Jesus, but 180 degrees away from Him. **Jesus, as Paul said, is to be “our one thing.” We are to press on to know Him and the power of His resurrection life experienced in us and expressed through us.** Anytime we add one thing, even if it is a good thing, we are “reversing” the Gospel and leaving Him. Oh, if only the church could understand this destructively powerful reversal of the Gospel.

My friend, if I can be bold here I would dare say that if we as believers, who have died to Law SO THAT (purpose clause) we could be married to Jesus, make the choice to go back to the Law as a means of acquiring or experiencing life, then we are committing spiritual adultery – married to Jesus, but having an affair with the Law.

Living by Faith in the Spirit

There is one final issue I need to warn you about. **If you proclaim, as the New Testament teaches, that we are dead to the Law, people will accuse you of teaching a license to sin.** I have heard it so many times, “Frank, if you don’t teach the Law, people will walk through life believing they have a license to sin.” NO, THEY WON’T. My reply to them is to read their Bibles – to read the whole counsel of God. Romans 8:3-4 tells us that it is in living “by” the Spirit, that we will fulfill the righteousness of the Law. This is radical! We can fulfill the righteousness of the Law, but not by following the Law. We fulfill the righteousness of the law when we live by faith in the Spirit. The life the Spirit expresses through us naturally fulfills the righteousness of the Law because only the Spirit can live a righteous life.

To put it simply: We fulfill the righteousness of the Law, not by following the Law, but by following the Spirit in faith.

By the way, during WWII in England, the great preacher Martyn Lloyd-Jones said on many occasions that if a pastor is not being accused of teaching license, he is most likely perverting the Gospel. Being accused of teaching license comes with the territory of teaching that we have been set free from the Law. When I am faced with this accusation, I take it as encouragement that they are at least partially hearing what I am teaching and that there is hope for them. **The New Covenant replaced the Law, with the very life of God**

placed inside of mankind. Paul never got over that incredible reality, and that is why he fought so hard in Galatians against adding “anything” to the message that would take our eyes off of Jesus. He is not only the Author but also the Perfecter of our faith, something the Law can never do.

The Holy Spirit sought to make this very clear in the book of John. The Law came through Moses, but Grace and truth through Jesus (John 1:17). This provides us with the question we must ask of those who want to pursue the Law as a means of salvation or sanctification. “Do you want to be a disciple of Moses or a disciple of Jesus?” You cannot be a disciple of both because they are diametrically opposed systems. **Sadly, I fear that the church is using Jesus as a means of trying to keep the Law, instead of simply experiencing and expressing the incredible union we have with Him** (1 Corinthians 6:17).

This issue is so important, and it is misunderstood by so many people that the record needs to be clarified. It is an uphill battle, but it is one worth fighting. Romans heralded the issue of *salvation* by Grace through faith apart from the Law, but Galatians defended the issue of *living* by Grace through faith in the Spirit apart from the Law. If Paul did not win that battle in Galatians, we would all be attending Messianic Jewish assemblies. Unfortunately, most modern Protestantism, in my humble opinion, has failed to understand these issues and instead function largely according to the Law with the name of Jesus tacked on. Sadly, they are trying to live life according to a standard instead of experiencing the reality of His life being expressed in and through them (Colossians 3:3-4).

I apologize that this letter has almost turned into a book. I just want you to be prepared for what might come your way if you share my

book, *Stunned By Grace*, with pastors, friends, or family. I have been called a false teacher, a hyper-gracist, and everything in between, all in an attempt by those who listen to disqualify what I am teaching. It is so sad, but I think people are just not dealing honestly with the Scriptures because of their preconceived mindsets based on their unique theological backgrounds. They are allowing their “Reformed” or “Presbyterian” or “Baptist” teachings to interfere with their exegesis (critical explanation or interpretation). In doing so, **they have a life, the glorious life of Jesus Himself in them, but they never experience it nor express it, because they are looking on the outside for what they already have on the inside. Tragic!**

So, my friend, do you still want to read *Stunned By Grace*? **Are you ready for the battle?** It is a very necessary and very worthy fight and if you join the ranks, know that I will be proud to be fighting it with you!

I love you, my friend.

Bless you, in His wonderful name,
Frank

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Frank". The script is cursive and fluid, with the word "Pastor" written above "Frank".

P.S.

As you join with me, I want to share one final thought with you.

It is ironic how I was sovereignly named by my parents...

Frank = Free Man

Charles (my middle name) = Free

Friedmann = Freed man

I am "FREE" to the third power! Isn't that incredible?! With all my heart I want to live up to my name, and my goal in life is to be used to set others free as well.

**"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."
Galatians 5:1 (NIV)**

Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and financial support. Bless you, for your partnership with me. We at *Our Resolute Hope* are working hard to produce some exciting new resources that will equip the Saints for the work of the ministry, and hopefully, be used to open the eyes of those locked in bondage to the freedom they can have in Jesus Christ.

JOIN THE MISSION