

**#1** 

***Your Position, Part 1 -  
What is the Position of the Church?***

***The word "Position" means:***

- The particular place or space occupied
- A place occupied for tactical reasons (placement)
- A way of regarding situations or topics (view)
- A role or position assigned to an individual (office/job)
- A condition or position in which you find yourself (location/perspective/post)
- A rationalized mental or spiritual attitude (attitude)
- A point of view that opposes another
- An assumption
- Put into a certain place
- The relative position or standing in society
- The arrangement of the body and its limbs

***What is the position of the Church?***

***There are many different answers to this one question.***

***We are going to begin this series from the perspective of the grace that God has given us.***

**#2** 

***The grace of God has brought us into a New Position  
By His grace He has redeemed us from our sins.***

***Titus 3:7 NIV*** "so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

***Ephesians 2:8 NIV*** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God"

***Titus investigates what God's grace has done for us.  
He tells us that Grace has justified us so that we might become heirs of the hope of eternal life.***

This is the initiation of the New Position that grace brings us into.

***It is by grace you have been saved.***

The gift of grace is eternal life.

**#3**  ***This is a radically New Position for us.***


Ever since sin was introduced, man has lived in a position of death and the fear of death.

Most of us know that position very well.

This is why Jesus Christ came into this world.

***Hebrews 2:14-15 NIV*** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

***We are now in a Position of Life!!***

**#4**  ***What does it mean to be in a position of life?***  
***Everything that proceeds from the Grace of God and the work of Jesus Christ testifies of life.***

***2 Timothy 1:9-10 NIV*** This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

***The Gospel is all about bringing us out of darkness and death into life and light.***

***When Jesus Christ conquered death and the grave He defeated Satan as our Substitute.***

***Satan's defeat is an eternal reality.***

***By defeating Satan, Jesus made it possible for us to attain a new position.***

***We are now more than conquerors through Christ.***

***When Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven, all of Satan's power and ability was destroyed.***

**#5** 

***The Position of the Church is the position of the redeemed.***

***The Church does not stand in a different position from its Lord.***

***The redeemed of the Lord have been brought into the victory of Jesus Christ.***

***Grace has brought us into this new position.***

**2 Corinthians 6:1-2 NIV** As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

***Not everyone who has received grace is walking in the victory of Jesus Christ.***

It is possible to receive God's grace and favor, and not stand in the position of the redeemed.

***When Jesus Christ gives us God's favor and grace it should dramatically impact everything in our lives.***

It should change us from the inside out.

**#6** 

**Ezekiel 36:26 NIV** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

This indicates a total make over.

From the inside, everything has changed.

***If we don't change on the inside, we cannot change on the outside.***

***God starts with a new heart and a new spirit.***

**#7** 

***Through Christ Jesus our Lord, God has placed us in a position of success.***

***In this New Position, we are free to excel.***

**Philippians 1:6 NIV** being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

***Practically what does this mean?***

***God is not going to start something in you that He cannot finish.***

***God has intentions of bringing each of us into the position of success.***

***What is that position?***

***The position of success is the life and lifestyle of the redeemed.***

***There are no variables in this life or lifestyle.***

***What has been provided for one of us has been given to all of us.***

Each of us are partakers of the same grace and favor.

Each of us inherit the same blessing and richness.

Each of us are brought into the same position through Christ.

The same richness of grace is available to everyone.

**#8** 

**Ephesians 2:13 NIV** **But now in Christ Jesus** you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

*This means we are free to excel.*

**#9** 

**Everyone who has been redeemed is not living in a position of success**

*Many are walking defeated.*

*Many Christians are not living in excellence.*

*Many are falling below the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

You may be redeemed by the blood of Christ and live like you are still under the curse.

You may be an heir of the riches of heaven and fail to live in the grace and favor of God.

*It is a matter of choice and knowledge.*

*Many people don't know that they can live any differently.*

They may be free but they don't know they are free.

They are not aware that Christ has given them the ability to live above the things that are not like Christ.

**#10** 

**2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT** This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

*What does that really mean?*

*You need to see that the death of the Lord Jesus Christ has dealt with the old nature, attitudes, and activities.*

It is not enough to talk about newness of life.

We must live in the excellence of it.

We must come into the position of a Son of God.

We must arise from where we have been into new life in Christ.

**#11** 

***What should be under our feet is controlling many of us.***

***We should be a testimony of the excellence of Christ Jesus' victory.***

***Our lives should be marked with excellence of thought.***

***We must take responsibility for our thought life.***

The only way we can truly be successful in this is by developing the mind of Christ.

It is impossible for us to control all of our thoughts.

There are too many random thoughts that fly through the brain.

However, we can control thought processes in such a way that evil thoughts are instantly rejected.

***Jonathan Edwards said: "One that stands or walks in slippery places is always exposed to fall."***

This is very true about our thought life.

Irresponsible thinking has consequences.

"Slippery places" are not just a danger to others.

**#12** 

***Romans 12:2 (NLT)*** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

***An excellent thought life is sustained by overcoming evil with good.***

A healthy body is maintained in the same way as an excellent thought life.

It is foolish to blame unhealthy foods for bad eating habits. If you want an excellent mind, you must have a spiritually healthy diet.

**#13** 

***Since we have been redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ, our lives should be a testimony of His victory.***

***Excellence of thought must be followed by excellence of speech.***

***Excellence in speech and communication must not be reserved for fellowship with the church.***

What we say every day carries more weight than what we say in the company of believers.

***Proverbs 18:21*** The tongue has the power of life and death.

**#14** 

***Listen to what James says about what we say!***

***James 1:26 (NCV)*** People who think they are religious but say things they should not say are just fooling themselves. Their “religion” is worth nothing.

***We have the power of life and death in our speech.***

***If we are going to be successful in life, we must learn how to control our conversations.***

**#15** 

***Excellence is a habit which develops through discipline.***

***Excellence of thought and speech must be followed by Excellence in Action and Deed.***

***Since Jesus Christ has brought us into a New Life, we must develop actions and deeds that are worthy of this New Position.***

***We must guard our thoughts, speech, actions, and deeds.***

We are operating from a new position in life.

**1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)** “whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”

**#16** 

***Excellence is not a gift that is arbitrarily bestowed upon a unique group of people.***

***Excellence is a result of the Holy Spirit's being allowed to work in and through people.***

***We must deny some things access to our lives.***

***Don't forget what manner of person you are.***

We are not like the people of the world.

We are the redeemed of the Lord.

We have been brought out of the Kingdom of darkness.

We are children of the Light.

***This is the position of the Church.***