



# SIMPLEFOLK NETWORK

## 10 SCRIPTURES THAT PROTECT US FROM USING GRACE AS AN EXCUSE



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1. James 1:22 (NKJV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

**Pastor Damon:** I like this verse as my first reference. It lays a precedent that if someone thinks we are not supposed to point our lives toward living out scripture, then that person is allowing themselves to be deceived. This verse leaves our flesh little wiggle room regarding our understanding of God's expectations.

2. Luke 11:28 (NKJV) But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Greek Word Definition: Keep (phulassō G5442) 1) to guard 1a) to watch, keep watch 1b) to guard or watch, have an eye upon: lest he escape 1c) to guard a person (or thing) that he may remain safe 2) to observe for one's self something to escape 2a) to avoid, shun flee from 2b) to guard for one's self (i.e. for one's safety's sake) so as not to violate, i.e. to keep, observe (the precepts of the Mosaic law)

New Living Translation: Luke 11:28 Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."

**Pastor Damon:** The blessing becomes evident not because we participate in the formality of a worship service. The blessing settles on the person that surrenders their life and submits their heart to practice genuine worship of God; the person that participates in acts of faith that reflect the teachings of the word of God.

3. Titus 1:16 (NLT) Such people claim they know God, but they deny Him by the way they live. They are detestable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good.

**Pastor Damon:** There must be more evidence of our relationship with God beyond our mere words. Just as we expect to see more evidence than mere words from the people that proclaim their love for us, there should be more evidence of our commitment to God beyond our words. Our behavior tells more about the value of our proclamation than our remarks.

4. Matthew 28:20 (NKJV) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

**Pastor Damon:** It is amazing how cut and dry Jesus made the topic obeying and following the teaching and standards of scripture, yet somehow it has become a topic of debate for some. Here He clearly states that every follower is expected to know and observe ALL His commandments.



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5. Ephesians 5:3-5 (NKJV) But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; [4] neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. [5] For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

**Pastor Damon:** Everybody does it. We are all human. Nobody is perfect. Temptation is everywhere. These are all excuses we often give to rationalize our lack of resistance against temptations. If you are a part of a church where the pastor and a few older ladies are the only ones that even come close to living with integrity then likely you feel like none of this stuff can be lived out. You probably believe honoring this teaching is old fashioned and unrealistic. It is somewhat understandable because you haven't seen much evidence, but there is plenty of it out there. Many believers in healthy churches live with these standards. Not to say they never slip in different areas from time to time, but as a general practice they live free from the bondage of sin. It is possible for you too. God sets people free from more than drug addictions and alcoholism. He can even set us free from a foul mouth, a jealous heart, and immoral sexuality.

6. 1 John 2:4-5 (NLT) If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. [5] But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him.

**Pastor Damon:** I've learned that the worst lie we can tell is the one we tell ourselves. And the worst deception is self-deception because you can't punish the perpetrator without also penalizing the victim. This verse demands that we have a moment of honesty with ourselves, then God, and finally with others.

7. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

**Pastor Damon:** The Bible seems like too much when you have not been truly born-again and your nature has not been changed (John 3:3-8, 2 Cor. 5:17-18). After you have been truly saved by believing that Christ is Lord, by making the final decision to receive His forgiveness and follow His ways, then empowerment comes upon you. You are given a deep sense that God's word is a challenge, but a pleasurable one. It is not overbearing but very much possible through the leading, strengthening, and presence of the Holy Spirit.



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8. Philippians 1:27 (NKJV) Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

**Pastor Damon:** If there is conduct worthy of the gospel then there are conduct that is unworthy of the gospel. Please read this chapter in its entirety because it gives us specifics so that we have a healthy context of what should and should not be behaviors embraced in our lives.

9. 2 Peter 3:11 (NKJV) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

**Pastor Damon:** Every parent that ever put white on a child knows it is highly likely they are going to get dirty, but that does not mean the parent approves of the child jumping in the mud. Because the parent has made the child clean and blemish free, she expects the child to attempt to stay free of stains. When the smaller stains of soda, ice cream, dust from brushing against a car inevitably appear the parent takes time to remove each with complete understanding and care. The same is true of the Lord. He knows the stains of this world will inevitably come but that does not mean He permits us to jump in the mud. He expects us to do our best as we wear our “white clothes”.

10. Luke 6:46-47 (NKJV) "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? [47] Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

**Pastor Damon:** Calling Jesus Lord means you are aware that He makes the rules. His way is automatically your way. We cannot call Him Lord then ignore His every instruction to follow our own. That would indicate that we are lying to Him, and actually in our hearts we really believe we are our own lord.