



Christians as Conduits

By Dan Camp

In Latin:

duco - to lead, guide, draw, or pull

seduco - to lead, guide, draw, or pull astray by use of temptation

induco - to lead guide, draw, or pull into by use of influence

conduco - to lead, guide, draw, or pull **with** or **together**

CONDUIT is a TRULY brilliant Latin word that very accurately describes believers in Christ and Christ in us. Notice that *seduco* and *induco* are derivations occurring when something SEPARATE leads, guides, pulls, or draws. But, CONDUCO - CONDUIT occurs WITH or TOGETHER WITH.

A conduit for water or other liquids leads, guides, draws, or pulls with the flow and directs it to a destination. The conduit and the water work together in substance as ONE. It is very interesting that a conduit, which is gradually reduced in size, proportionately and dramatically **increases** the power of the release at its destination.

"He must increase, but I must decrease!" (John 3:30). John the Baptist was not resigned, but rejoicing! His little bit WITH GOD would be multiplied beyond his wildest imagination!

A music conductor leads, guides, draws, and pulls together musical instruments and voices to produce beautiful music and harmonies. The conductor, choir, and orchestra work together in unison as ONE. Handel's "*Messiah*" is arguably the most famous of all Christ-centered works. The stories of how Handel, who was suffering from the effects of a stroke, was able to accomplish it vary. But while he was writing the "*Hallelujah Chorus*," we know that he told his assistant, "I did think I saw Heaven open, and saw the very face of God!" ¹

A locomotive conductor was at the top of the food chain of the original American transport system. The local train track is still a CONDUIT for all kinds of goods that people need across our country. My great-grandfather, Andrew Kelley (whose 1930's Official Railroad watch I now have and treasure), lost a leg just above the knee when a boxcar on which he was working was bumped and rolled over him. He was the unfortunate recipient of one of the first prosthetics with a working mechanical knee with which he cracked walnuts and pinched his great-grandsons' fingers!

My dad's first cousin, whom I always knew as Uncle Ralph, became the Mayor of Chattanooga in 1963. He stole "The General" Locomotive from Georgia, hiding it in a remote warehouse while he argued, rather famously, in court that the train rightfully belonged to Tennessee. The controversy received national media attention, and though Uncle Ralph eventually returned "The General" to Georgia, he was a conduit to making Chattanooga a very popular vacation destination.

The locomotive conductor, like Mayor Kelley, did only a tiny fraction of everything necessary to orchestrate the daily workings of the American railway system, or of stealing a locomotive (like my dad's mayor cousin). They worked WITH many others toward their goals, destinations, and purposes. They worked AS ONE. They worked TOGETHER. CON- with- duit! Just "Duit" together!

One of the most admirable managers I ever had was a man who led by example, worked harder than any other employee, and would not do anything without involving others. In more than five years of exposure to him, I do not recall ever seeing him alone. Everywhere he went, he made a point to go there WITH someone else. He was a lot like Jesus.

Wherever you see Jesus, you see the disciples, other followers, or seekers. Do **not** make the mistake of viewing this as the result of Jesus' "magnetic personality." Jesus was the Conductor and Mayor, Engineer and Symphony Director. He put Himself out there with people **intentionally**. He loved people, and people loved him. Fact is - Jesus loves our company. He chose to come and to be Emmanuel, GOD WITH US, to LIVE WITH US, IN US.

The disciples were understandably discouraged at the thought of losing their Lord, but Jesus told them, "IT IS TO YOUR **ADVANTAGE** THAT I RETURN TO THE FATHER" (John 16:7-10). Fortunately, He did not stop there! "I am going to send **HIM**" - the wonderful Helper (**parakletos**), Counselor, Advocate, Intercessor, Aide, Comforter - The Holy Spirit of Jesus! At the moment He taught them - BEFORE THE CROSS - the Law still ruled, but Grace was COMING. The "things to come" the Holy Spirit would explain to them (AND US!) are "more than you can NOW bear," BEFORE THE CROSS - (John 16:12-14). Why? Because they are the wonderful INCREDIBLE NEW things of HIS DIVINE GRACE, just around the corner! These are the inexpressible and unheard of heavenly things of 2 Corinthians 12 that Paul got permission to bring back to earth to teach his fellow apostles and the early churches!

I do not believe for a moment that Jesus was referring to some far-off prophetic end-times mysteries! The Grace of Jesus is what ALL need, NOW, everyday, and the Spirit of Christ is constantly explaining it in new ways that transform us "by the renewing of our minds" (Rom. 12:2). The Old system (Law) was going out, and the New system (Grace) was coming by its conduit, Jesus! (John 1:17). And after the Cross, believers were able to understand and experience His Life and Grace!

And the Spirit DID COME, and He daily reveals His New Way (the PERSON and GRACE of Jesus Christ IN US as we abide and believe!). Grace is all-sufficient and the THINGS OF Grace are equally unlimited, unceasing, and always flowing to us and through us. We are CONDUITS OF Grace, CONDUITS OF Christ, CONDUITS OF HIS LIFE, and He is our EVER-PRESENT Conductor!

There are many wonderful people in the world, many gifted, many brilliant, many generous. It has been argued by theologians that before The Fall, Adam and Eve had 100% use of the grey matter between their ears (modern scientists estimate that we have retained less than 20% of the brain power they had!). They were 8 or 10 times smarter than the smartest of us. And, using the same comparison, they were good, really good folks, 8 to 10 times better than the best of us! The more I learn of them, the more I can see how easy it would have been for them to become convinced they had much to offer God, that maybe they didn't need to "bother God" with their needs. At any rate, they believed The Lie they could do life without God. And the spiritual Life (God's Life), which they had experienced, of which they were conduits, exited. Poof! The Life was NOT SEALED in their bodies. Just as quickly as they had become God-conscious Life-conduits, they became self-conscious death-conduits. His Life no longer in them, they were aware...and afraid...and they hid themselves.

As Australia's Professor Graeme Goldsworthy has taught for decades, "History is HIS Story." Everything that happened between the Garden and the Empty Tomb of Jesus Christ the Messiah was Father God working out His marvelous plan to restore Life to His Creation. The sin problem was dealt with by the Blood of Jesus, and the LIFE PROBLEM was dealt with by the Body of Jesus. Did His Body remain in the tomb? Heavens, NO!

*"Up from the grave He arose; with a mighty triumph o'er His foes; He arose the Victor from the dark domain, and He lives FOREVER with His SAINTS (the children of God) to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"*² (parentheses added)

Today, because of Grace, we are conduits of the Resurrection Life of Jesus. To be a conduit, God made us **containers** first. Out with the old, in with the new (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1-3; Ezek. 36:26-27; 2 Cor. 5:17; etc.)! Paul's words to the Church at Corinth echo up the centuries with increasing volume: "Don't you know? Don't you know? Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Spirit of Christ, Who lives WITH-IN you?!" (1 Cor. 6:15-20).

The modern church is filled with corruption, which the apostles in the Spirit of Jesus warned against. The result of wrong teachings has been devastating, and there is no excuse! There are fundamental things all believers everywhere should know that they do not know.

After the Lord Jesus revealed Himself and His Grace to me, my heart's cry with many tears was, "Oh, Father, I didn't know." I should have been a Berean! I should have followed His promptings, I should have said something when I was uneasy with a teaching, I should have studied to rightly divide, I should have asked good questions until I heard His voice.

There is only one deceiver, one liar, one who the Bible calls various names which we know all too well. He is to blame, and happily, "He will get his," as we say here in the South! We need not blame ourselves or anyone else in the church. We just need to switch gears and let Jesus live His Life in, for, and through us! Sounds simple, right? And it is.

A dear brother in the Lord confronted me and said, "It can't be. It can't be as easy as deciding to live from the Life of Christ in us and not to live after our flesh (*sarx* in Greek)." Actually, several brothers have said and written such things to me since I began walking with the full understanding of Jesus' Grace by the Spirit in me, walking consistently, walking successfully as the world would say. It is as easy as Gal. 5:16-17, and the good news is that our flesh is NOT on a par with Jesus in us! Do not make the mistake of reading this passage and assuming that because we see the Spirit and flesh/*sarx* pitted against one another that they are equals. Our flesh and the Spirit of Christ are not in the same league, exactly like Satan and our Savior (King of kings and Lord of lords) are not in the same league. Abba is merely tolerating the devil. Jesus has already sat down on His throne, and all things have been placed under His feet. Lucifer is already defeated. He is scary and loud in 1 Peter 5:8 - he has to present himself like the worst of "*Monsters, Inc.*,"³ because he is a defanged, toothless lion! And your flesh/*sarx* does not hold a candle to Who lives in you.

I had tried every Christian way. Grace was the only one that was not waiting on me to provide some missing ingredient. In fact, I had the missing ingredient all along! It – He was not missing at all! I was missing Him (Heb.12:15a)!

I was trying to do for God, rather than letting Him do for me. I was striving to do, rather than resting in my new identity. Believers everywhere are being taught to DO, DO, DO. Of course, there is nothing wrong with doing, as James says (2:17-26), "As long as it is by grace through

faith.” But doing is getting the cart before the horse! The horse is BEING, not doing. **“Not by might, nor by power, but by MY SPIRIT,’ says the LORD of hosts”** (Zech. 4:6, emphasis added)!

Right on the heels of that statement (verse 7, AMP), what did the people cry at the bringing forth of the finishing gable stone? What are starving, battered believers crying for today? What do we all need to function in the victorious Christian Life? What is the only thing we need? Hear Paul’s incredulous question – “Don’t you know?”

“Grace, Grace!” Grace is what the people cried, and Grace needs no help from the Law or from self or from works! Jeff VanVonderen came to that place of being *“Tired of Trying to Measure Up”*⁴ and wrote a phenomenal book about it! Get it today, stop trying, and start believing!

You don’t need to hit the wall. You can accept the truth about Grace, about HOW The Life of Christ in you works for you, about BEING a container and a conduit filled with Him, and letting Jesus’ Resurrection Life overflow through you! You may not get the Latin lesson, or the Greek, but it’s not rocket science. “Abide, live in, dwell in, stay in Me, and you will bear much fruit!” (John 15:4-5).

Dan Camp (Georgia, USA) is a contributing writer, editor, and member of the Board of Directors/Advisory Board for IOM America - Transformational Biblical Worldview & Exchange Life Development. He is a Colson Center CENTURION; a Grace lay-counselor; and business manager and chaplain of the Veritas Classical Schools in south-metro Atlanta.

Dan gives his permission to all to share, use, and/or forward any portion of his articles. He would love to hear from you via email at eEncourager@aol.com

¹ Wikipedia contributors, "Messiah Part II," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Messiah_Part_II&oldid=572520428 (accessed October 15, 2013).

² Robert W. Lowry (1826-1899), *Christ Arose*, 1874, public domain.

³ “*Monsters, Inc.*” Pete Docter (director), Pixar Animation Studios & Walt Disney Pictures, 2001.

⁴ Jeff VanVonderen, *Tired of Trying to Measure Up*, (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House), reprinted 2008.

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