

## Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

### *Romans 6:1-4*

**Sermon-in-a-Sentence:** Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we have died to our old life of disobedience and sin and we are now set free to live a new life of obedience and holiness by means of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

In Romans chapters 3, 4 and 5, Paul has explained how we can be Justified and declared Righteous in God's sight. His focus has been on Positional Righteousness—our Position *in* Christ. Now, in chapters 6, 7 and 8, he explains how we can be Sanctified and become Holy in God's sight. His focus is on Practical Righteousness—our Practice *for* Christ.

<b>Romans 3:21-5:21</b>	<b>Romans 6 – 8</b>
Substitution: Christ died for me	Identification: I died with Christ
Christ died for my sins	Christ died unto sin (we died with Him)
Christ paid the penalty of sin	Christ broke the power of sin
Justification: righteousness was imputed to me (deposited to my account)	Sanctification: righteousness is imparted to me (made a part of my daily life)
I am saved by Christ's death	I am saved by Christ's life

*(Adapted from Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, comment on Romans 6:1)*

Romans 6, 7 & 8 – Theme: Sanctification – the changes that God brings about in every area of our lives as we grow in our relationship with Him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and as we submit to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Key Question: How can we experience, in our daily life, the spiritual freedom that Christ has won for us in His sacrifice on the cross?

- Chapt. 6 – Believers have Freedom from sin's tyranny (Key Concept: Victory)
- Chapt. 7 – Believers have Freedom from the law's condemnation (Key Concept: Liberty)
- Chapt. 8 – Believers have Freedom to live in the Spirit's power (Key Concept: Security)

### **1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?**

- This question naturally arises in view of Romans 5:20 – an increase in Man's sin brought an even greater increase in God's grace.
  - Does God's grace, mercy and forgiveness give us a license to remain in sin?
  - Can we use an evil means [indulging our evil sinful desires] in order to achieve a good result [experiencing God's grace and forgiveness]?
  - Can we, should we, presume upon the grace of God?
    - To presume on God's grace means that we knowingly, willfully sin, believing that God will readily and easily extend His grace and forgiveness to us.
    - And so, really, what difference does it make if I sin?
    - But in that moment of self-deception and self-indulgence, we spit on the cross of Christ and show contempt for His sacrifice for our sins!

- "If God loves to forgive, why not give him more to forgive? If forgiveness is guaranteed, do we have the freedom to sin as much as we want?" (*Life Application Study Bible, p. 2037*)
  - This is the deceptive nature of Sin, Self and Satan; the collaborative nature of our sin-filled world with its temptations, our fallen sinful nature that loves the pleasures of sin and the devil who seeks to destroy us.
  - These three enemies of our soul work together to convince us that it's okay to sin because, after all, God will gladly and graciously forgive us!
  - The grace of God brings freedom but it is freedom *from* sin, not freedom *to* sin.

## **2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?**

- "Paul's forceful answer [to this bit of Satanic logic] is *By no means!* [*May it never be!*] Such an attitude—deciding ahead of time to take advantage of God[']s grace—shows that a person does not understand the seriousness of sin. God's forgiveness does not make sin less serious; his Son's death for sin shows us the dreadful seriousness of sin. Jesus paid with his life so we could be forgiven. The availability of God's mercy must not become an excuse for careless living and moral laxness." (*Life Application Study Bible, p. 2037*)
- Dying to sin and living in sin are mutually exclusive!
- "We died to sin" speaks of a decisive, once-for-all event in the past when we crossed over from the stream of Adam, the realm of Sin and the reign of Death to the stream of Christ, the realm of Grace and the reign of Eternal Life. (Cf. Romans 5:12-21)
- Sin is no longer our slave master; now we have a new Master—the Lord Jesus Christ!
- The moment of that transition from death to life, from being ruled by sin to being ruled by grace, is pictured in biblical baptism, verses 3-4.

## **3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?**

- In baptism we were united to and identified with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.
  - Consequently, we are dead to sin and alive unto righteousness.
  - A Christian who continues to live in sin is denying his or her union and identification with Jesus Christ. (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 1888*)
- "Water baptism is a symbol of the spiritual union of Christ and the believer. When a person trusts Christ, he or she is... united to Jesus Christ, which includes being united to His death. Jesus' death becomes our death [to sin]." (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 1888*)

## **4 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.**

- "Baptism pictures a person being buried with Christ (submersion under water) and being raised to new life with Christ (emergence from water). This symbolizes the person's union with, and incorporation into, Christ by the action of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they now have the power to live in newness of life." (*ESV Study Bible, p. 2167*)
- Just as we were united and identified with Adam in Sin, Judgment, Condemnation and Death, so now we are united and identified with Christ in Grace, Justification, Righteousness and Eternal Life. (Cf. Romans 5:12-21)