

United with Christ in His Resurrection

Romans 6:1-10

Sermon-in-a-Sentence: We were raised from spiritual death through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ so that we might live a life that glorifies God and is pleasing to Him.

Romans 6:1-4

1. We must not presume upon the grace of God. (vss. 1-2a)

- Continuing in sin does not result in God pouring out more of His grace upon us; rather, it actually prevents us from experiencing God's grace and His blessing in our lives.
- It is a lie of the devil and spiritual self-deception on our part that we can live in sin and still experience the blessing of God in our lives.
- Continuing in sin separates us from God and destroys our fellowship with Him. (Isa. 59:1-2)

2. We must realize and constantly remember and live in light of the fact that, in Christ, we have died to sin. (vs. 2b)

- Sin is a prison cell and in Christ, the door has been unlocked and thrown open. Now, we can choose to remain inside but we can also choose to walk free. We are no longer slaves to sin!
- With the help of the Word of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we need to develop the mindset that we are dead to sin and alive unto righteousness.

3. Our baptism (and that of others) should serve as a constant reminder to us that we have been spiritually united with Christ in His death to sin. (vs. 3)

- We need to continually remember that we have died to our old life of sin, rebellion and disobedience to God.
- We must do away with the mindset that it's okay to sin; that there are no consequences; and that there is no real harm when we give in to sin and temptation.

4. Baptism should remind us that we are spiritually united with Christ in His resurrection to life. (vs. 4)

- In the Christian life, there is a "putting off" of the old life of sin but there must also be a "putting on" of the new life of holiness and righteousness.
- We can fall into the trap of focusing all of our attention and energy on what we're trying to get rid of but that is a very self-defeating strategy.
- What we need to do is focus on the Lord—the true God of the Bible!
- By pursuing intimate relationship with Him by feeding on His Word and devoting ourselves to prayer and yielding to the transformational work of the Holy Spirit, we will begin to experience the resurrection power and the abundant life that the Lord Jesus Christ came to give us.

Romans 6:5-7

5. In Christ we have died to and been set free from our old life of sin and rebellion. (vss. 5-7)

- Our “old self” refers to our fallen sinful nature, the nature that we inherited from Adam at birth.
 - It is our old self, our fallen sinful nature, that motivates us and empowers us to rebel against God and choose to sin.
 - It is our fallen sinful nature, the enemy within, that succumbs to the temptations of this world that Satan so skillfully dangles before our eyes. (James 1:13-15)
 - In Christ, our fallen sinful nature has been crucified so that our lifestyle of sin and disobedience to God might be done away with.
- The “body of sin” refers to the outward manifestation of our sin nature in sinful attitudes and actions—a sinful manner of living.
 - The body of sin refers to our physical body that is used by our sin nature as an instrument and vehicle of sin.
 - That body of sin can become a body of righteousness when we offer ourselves and the parts of our body as instruments of righteousness to God. (Romans 6:11-14)
- Our sinful nature was crucified with Christ; it is nailed to the cross and will ultimately perish at death or the Rapture.
 - In the meantime, it continues to exert its evil influence upon us, to motivate us to use our bodies as vehicles and instruments of sin, to submit to its evil demands and indulge its sinful desires.
 - The only remedy for dealing with our sinful nature is to re-crucify it on a daily basis. (Luke 9:23)
- When we understand and fully embrace the truth that we have been united with Christ in His death, we will be set free from the power of sin.

Romans 6:8-10

6. Because we rose with Christ from the dead, we never need to fear death again. (vss. 8-9)

- Here we have the biblical basis for not being afraid of death—as long as Christ is alive, we will live with Him.
- The fear of death robs us of the joy of life but in Christ, the fear of death is removed and we are free to live.
- “Because of Christ’s death and resurrection, his followers need never fear death. That assurance frees us to enjoy fellowship with him and to do his will. This will affect all our activities—work and worship, play, Bible study, quiet time, and times of caring for others. When you know that you don’t have to fear death, you will experience a new vigor in life.” (*Life Application Study Bible, p. 2038*)

7. Since we were raised with Christ from the dead, we cannot die again. (vs. 9a)

- The fact that Christ will not die again points to the effectiveness of His sacrifice for sin—His death was a once-for-all sacrifice for sin. (Hebrews 7:27; 9:26-28; 1 Peter 3:18)
- The fact that Christ will not die again is a great promise of the assurance of our own salvation.

- The life God gave to us is eternal life, a whole new quality of life, the very life of God, that will accompany us throughout this life and that will most assuredly escort us into the very presence of God.
- "As resurrection followed death in the experience of Christ, so the believer who dies with Christ is raised to a new quality of moral life here and now. Resurrection in the sense of a new birth is already a fact, and it increasingly exerts itself in the believer's life." (*The NIV Study Bible, p. 1714*)

8. Death no longer has mastery over us. (vs. 9b)

- "Sin wants to be our master. It finds a foothold in the old (sinful) nature, and through the old nature seeks to control the members of (our) body. But in Jesus Christ, we died to sin, and the old nature was crucified so that the old life (of sin) is rendered inoperative. Paul was not describing an experience; he was stating a fact. [He is further describing for us and reinforcing our Position in Christ]. The practical experience was to come later [in verses 11-14]. It is a fact of history that Jesus Christ died on the cross. It is also a fact of history that the believer died with Him, and 'he that is dead is freed from sin' (Rom. 6:7). Not 'free to sin' as Paul's accusers falsely stated, but 'freed from sin.'

"Sin and death have no dominion over Christ. We are 'in Christ'; therefore, sin and death have no dominion over us. Jesus Christ not only died 'for sin,' but He also died 'unto sin.' That is, He not only paid the penalty for sin, but He (also) broke the power of sin." (*Warren Wiersbe, Be Right, pp. 75-76*)

9. The death we died with Christ, we died to sin once for all. (vs. 10a)

- Christ died for sin once for all and He is now alive and seated at the right hand of God.
- We also died with Christ and we also have been raised with Him and are now seated with Him in heaven. (Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 3:1-3)
 - Because we have died to sin, we are to be dead to the things of this world.
 - We are to set our hearts and minds, not on earthly things, but on the things above, the things of God.
 - We are to make God and the things of His kingdom our first priority, and the necessary things of this world will be provided for us. (Matthew 6:33)
- In the death of Christ, the penalty of sin has been paid for, once and for all, and the power of sin has been broken, once and for all

10. The life we live, we live to God. (vs. 10b)

- "Having been raised from the dead, (Christ) now lives forever to glorify God." (*NIV Study Bible, p. 1714*) And in the same way, we are to live for the glory of God.
- The practical application of our resurrection with Christ is that we are to now live for the glory of God in obedience to His Word. (1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 5:15; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)