

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Romans 6:1-14

Sermon-in-a-Sentence: In order to live in victory over our sinful nature, we must stop offering the parts of our body to sin as instruments of wickedness and, instead, daily offer them to God as instruments of righteousness.

Verses 1-4 – An overview of our spiritual union with the Lord Jesus Christ: We have been joined together with Christ in His death and resurrection.

Verses 5-7 – Our union with Christ in His death: Through faith in Christ, we have died to our old life of disobedience and sin and are now set free from the power of sin to live a new life of obedience and holiness.

Verses 8-10 – Our union with Christ in His resurrection: We were raised from spiritual death through faith in Christ so that we might live a life that glorifies God and is pleasing to Him.

Verses 11-14 – Four practical steps that we need to take in order to apply these spiritual truths in our daily life:

1. We Must Count Ourselves Dead to Sin But Alive to God in Christ Jesus (vs. 11)

- “Count, reckon, consider” – an accounting term that means “to take inventory, to calculate, to decide.”
- “It simply means to believe that what God says in His Word is really true in your life [and then to act accordingly] ...Reckoning is a matter of faith that issues in action. It is like endorsing a check: If we really believe that the money is in the checking account, we will sign our name and collect the money. Reckoning is not claiming a promise but acting on a fact. God does not command us to become dead to sin. He tells us that we *are* dead to sin and alive unto God and then commands us to act on it. Even if we do not act on it, the facts are still true.” (*Warren Wiersbe, Be Right, p. 76*)
- Take an inventory of the facts presented in verses 1-10 and then decide to act in accordance with those facts. (*Ryrie Study Bible, p. 1710*)
 - 1) Vs. 1 – Continuing in sin does not result in God pouring out more of His grace upon me; it actually prevents me from experiencing His grace and blessing in my life.
 - 2) Vs. 2 – I died to the rule and reign of sin and therefore I should no longer continue to live in it.
 - 3) Vss. 3-5 – When I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I was spiritually united with Him in His death and resurrection.
 - 4) Vss. 6-7 – My old fallen sinful nature was crucified with Christ so that my lifestyle of habitual sin might be done away with; I no longer have to be enslaved to sin; in Christ I have been legally and positionally set free from sin.
 - 5) Vss. 8-9 – Now that I have been spiritually resurrected with Christ from the dead and given new life, I cannot die again spiritually; the rule and reign of sin and death no longer has mastery over me. I do not have to obey sin’s orders or respond to its demands.

6) Vs. 10 – I died to the rule and reign of sin once and for all; the life I now live, I live unto God.

- Therefore, we are dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (vs. 11)
 - “Count yourselves dead to sin’ means that we should regard our old sinful nature as dead and unresponsive to sin. Because of our union and identification with Christ, we are no longer obligated to carry out those old motives, desires, and goals. So let us consider ourselves to be what God has in fact made us. [Every day] We have a new start, and the Holy Spirit will help us become in our daily experience what Christ has declared us to be.” (*The Life Application Study Bible, p. 2038*)
 - This is “the first step toward victory over sin in the believer’s life.” And by faith we must live in the light of this truth [that we are dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus]. (*NIV Study Bible, p. 1714*)
 - The first step toward victory over sin in the believer’s life is a change of attitude, a change of mindset¹.
 - Spiritual transformation and growth in the Christian life comes through the process of having our minds renewed by a continual intake of the Word of God. (Cf. Romans 12:2)
 - We must meditate on these truths, pray about these truths, thank God by faith for the reality of these truths in our lives; we need to ask the Holy Spirit to reshape our thinking and to make these truths real in our lives until the truth controls the way we think, the decisions we make and the way we live. And we need to keep working at it, not giving up, persevering and persisting until it becomes a habit in our lives! (Galatians 6:7-9; John 8:31-32)

2. We Must Stop Letting Sin Reign in Our Mortal Bodies So That We Obey Its Evil Desires (vs. 12)

- This is a choice of the will.
- We must refuse to allow our sinful nature to rule over and control our lives.
- We must continually remember and constantly remind ourselves that our old sinful nature was crucified with Christ and that we no longer have to obey its evil desires and give in to its sinful demands. (Cf. vs. 6)
- On a daily basis, we must take our sinful nature off the throne of our life and put Christ on the throne and choose to submit to His commands and teachings.

3. We Must Stop Offering the Parts of Our Bodies to Sin, As Instruments of Wickedness (vs. 13a)

- “Offer” = to put at the service of, to place at one’s disposal.
- We must stop putting the parts of our body at the service of, at the disposal of, our sinful nature.
- The battle begins in the mind; if we lose the battle there, it quickly moves into the realm of our desires and wants; and when we lose the battle there, it very quickly

¹ Mindset - 1. A fixed mental attitude or disposition that predetermines a person's responses to and interpretations of situations. 2. An inclination or a habit. (*The American Heritage Dictionary*)

moves to the will where we choose to resist or to give in to the desires of the flesh. (Rom. 13:14; Phil. 4:8-9; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 10:5)

- The Principle of Substitution – If there is something in your life that you are trying to stop doing, then you need to replace it with something else. (Ephesians 5:8-11)
- We have to become intentional and deliberate; we don't accidentally become righteous or holy just like we don't accidentally get physically fit.

4. We Must Begin Offering Ourselves to God, As Those Who Have Been Brought From Death to Life and the Parts of Our Bodies to God as Instruments of Righteousness (vs. 13b-c)

- "Slaves do the bidding of their master. They are the master's instruments, utilized by him to accomplish his desires. Before emancipation, we could not refuse sin's authority; but now we do not have to obey its commands. Rather than allowing our physical bodies to be instruments of sin's desire, 'unrighteousness,' we must now present our bodies to our new Master, God, to accomplish His desire, 'righteousness.'" (*Charles Swindoll, Insights on Romans, pp. 136-37*)

5. Sin Shall Not Be Our Master, Because We Are Not Under Law, But Under Grace (vs. 14)

- "This is not a command but a promise that sin will not triumph in our lives." (*ESV Study Bible, p. 2167*)
- The law did not and does not have the power to set us free from bondage to sin and our sin nature. It can only serve to convict us and condemn us for our sin.
- But God's grace enables us, empowers us, to resist sin and overcome it.
- "God's grace places the believer in Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the believer. Therefore, a Christian does not have to sin, he or she can resist temptation and do what is right." (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 1889*)