

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ (*Part 2*)

Romans 6:1-14

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

How can we overcome the tyranny of sin in our daily lives? What must we know and understand? What mindset and mental perspective must we adopt? What must we do? In Romans 6, Paul answers these questions and tells us how we can appropriate the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in our daily battle against sin.

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

- God's grace, mercy and forgiveness do not give us a "license to sin."
 - When we presume upon the grace of God, we are deceiving ourselves and showing contempt for Christ's sacrifice for our sins.
 - The grace of God brings freedom *from* sin, not freedom *to* sin.
 - 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 Realm of Adam where Sin and Death reigns, to the Realm of Christ where Grace and Eternal Life reigns. (Cf. Romans 5:12-21; John 5:24)
- The moment of our transition from spiritual death to spiritual life, from being ruled by sin to being ruled by grace, is pictured in biblical baptism, verses 3-4.
 - In baptism we were united to and identified with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.
 - Consequently, we are positionally 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*) We need to bring our Practice into agreement with our Position.
- "Baptism pictures [symbolizes] 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*)
- "In NT times baptism so closely followed conversion that the two were considered part of one event (see Acts 2:38...). So although baptism is not a means by which we enter into a vital faith relationship with Jesus Christ, it is closely associated with faith. Baptism depicts graphically what happens as a result of the Christian's union with Christ, which comes with [by] faith—through faith we are united with Christ, just as through our natural birth we are united with Adam. As we fell into sin and became subject to death in father Adam, so we

now have died [to sin] and been raised again with Christ—which baptism symbolizes.” (*NIV Study Bible, p. 1713*)

- 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)
- “Through the glory of the Father” – Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God.
 - His glory speaks of His divine excellence, the perfections of His character and nature.
 - Thus, His power is a manifestation of His glory. (*The NIV Study Bible, p. 1713*)
- Verse 1-4 are an introduction and overview of what follows in verses 5-14.
 - “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death” – our spiritual union with Christ in His death is explained in verses 5-7.
 - “We too may live a new life” – our spiritual union with Christ in His resurrection is explained in verses 8-10.
 - And then, the application of these two concepts is explained in verses 11-14.

5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

- Just as we have been spiritually united with Christ in His death, so we have been spiritually united with Him in His resurrection.
- Our “old self”, “all that a person is before salvation (“the entire inner person before conversion”, *NKJV Study Bible, p. 1888*) which is made ‘old’ by reason of the presence of the new life in Christ”, “was crucified with him” when we received Jesus Christ as our Savior. (*Ryrie Study Bible, p. 1710*)
 - Consequently, “a believer is not the same person he or she was before conversion; a believer is a new creation in Christ (see 2 Cor. 5:17).” (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 1888*)
 - The “body of sin”, our old fallen sinful nature, has been “made [potentially] ineffective or impotent”. (*Ryrie Study Bible, p. 1710*)
 - It has been nailed to the cross and will ultimately pass away but, in the mean time, it continues to try to exert its evil influence upon us.
 - Cf. Colossians 2:11 – the “putting off of the sinful nature” means a “total breaking away from”, a “complete break from the old sinful life”—“the spiritual work of Christ done in the hearts of believers...Christ sets people free from their evil desires by a spiritual operation...” (*Life Application Bible Commentary*)
 - “The ‘body of sin’ is not the human body, but our rebellious sin-loving nature inherited from Adam...Here Paul emphasizes that we need no longer live under sin’s power. God does not take us out of the world or make us robots—we will still feel like sinning, and sometimes we will sin. The difference is that before we were saved we were slaves to our sinful nature, but now we can choose to live for Christ.”
 - Prior to our salvation we had no other choice, but now we no longer have to give in to the evil desires and influences of our crucified sinful nature. (Cf. Eph. 4:17-24; Col. 3:1-14). We are no longer enslaved to sin; we have no obligation to follow its dictates. Now we have a new Master—the Lord Jesus Christ—and we are free to choose to submit to His will.

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ <i>Romans 6:1-14</i>			
1-2	Shall we go on sinning so that [God's] grace [to us] may increase? By no means! [Why not? Because we have been...]		
Vs.	United with Christ in His Death to Sin	Vs.	United with Christ in His Resurrection to Life
2	We died to sin.	2	We can no longer live in sin.
3	We were baptized into Christ's death.	3	
4	We were buried with Christ through baptism into death.	4	We were raised with Christ through the glory of the Father to live a new life.
5	We have been united with Christ in His death.	5	We will certainly be united with Christ in His resurrection.
6	Our old self was crucified with Christ so that the body of sin might be done away with.	6	We should no longer be slaves to sin.
7	We have died to sin.	7	We have been freed from sin.
8	We died with Christ.	8	We will also live with Christ.
9		9	Christ was (we were) raised from the dead; He (we) cannot die again [we cannot go back to dwell in the realm of sin and death again]. Death no longer has mastery over Him (us).
10	The death He (we) died, He died (we died) to sin once for all.	10	The life He (we) lives, He (we) live to God.
Therefore, we are to be...			
	Dead to Sin		Alive to God in Christ
11	Count yourselves dead to sin.	11	Count yourselves alive to God in Christ Jesus.
12	Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.	12	
13	Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness.	13	Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life. Offer the parts of your body to God as instruments of righteousness.
14	For sin shall not be your master because you are not under law, but under grace.		