

Your Severed Relationship to Sin

Living the Christian Life, Lesson 1

Living the Christian Life is a Bible study series that explores Paul's teaching about Christian growth and sanctification in Romans 6:1–8:17.

Introductory Thoughts

After a lengthy discussion of the need for and basis of justification by grace through faith in Christ (i.e., salvation or conversion), Paul now explains how this same truth should transform our mindset and lifestyle as Christians (i.e., sanctification or Christian growth). The believer's close identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection places him or her in a new position. He is no longer a slave to sin but serves Jesus Christ instead.

Passage: Romans 6:1-4

In English (NKJV)

- v.1 **What** shall we say **then**? Shall we **continue** in **sin** that **grace** may **abound**?
- v.2 **Certainly not!** How shall we who **died** to sin live any longer in it?
- v.3 Or **do you not know** that as many of us as were **baptized** into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into His death?
- v.4 Therefore we were **buried** with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the **glory** of the Father, even so we also should **walk** in **newness** of life.

In Greek

- v.1 **ΤΙ ΟΥΝ** εροουμεν **επιμενουμεν** τη **αμαρτια** ινα η **χαρις** **πλεοναση**
- v.2 **μη γενοιτο** οιτινες **απεθανομεν** τη **αμαρτια** πως **ετι** **ζησομεν** **εν αυτη**
- v.3 η **αγνοειτε** οτι οσοι **εβαπτισθημεν** εις **χριστον** **ιησουν** εις **τον θανατον** **αυτου** **εβαπτισθημεν**
- v.4 **συνεταφημεν** ουν **αυτω** **δια του βαπτισματος** εις **τον θανατον** ινα **ωσπερ** **ηγερθη** **χριστος** **εκ νεκρων** **δια της** **δοξης** **του πατρος** **ουτως** **και ημεις** **εν** **καινοτητι** **ζωης** **περιπατησωμεν**

Key Words and Insights

Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006) together with an interlinear Bible, like *The NKJV Greek English Interlinear New Testament* (Thomas Nelson, 1994) is an excellent way to get accurate definitions for your Bible study based upon Greek and Hebrew meanings.

- *What then* (τι ουν):

- *Continue in* (ἐπιμένω):
- *Sin* (ἁμαρτία):
- *Abound* (πλεονάζω):
- *Grace* (χάρις):
- *Certainly not!* (μη γενοίτο):
- *Died* (ἀποθνήσκω):
- *Do you not know* (ἀγνοέω):
- *Baptized* (βαπτίζω):
- *Buried with* (συνθάπτω):
- *Glory* (δόξα):
- *Walk* (περιπατέω):
- *Newness* (καινότης):

Questions for Meditation and Reflection

1. What does Paul talk about in Rom 5:20-21 that prompts him to ask the opening question of Rom 6:1?
2. What is the first doctrinal reason Paul offers for rejecting this logical accusation?
3. What does it mean to “die to sin” (v.2)?
4. Since sin is no longer an authority over us, why is the question of Romans 6:1 appealing to us?
5. What Christian ritual (or ordinance) does Paul use to illustrate how this happened?
6. What is the second doctrinal reason Paul offers for rejecting the opening question of Rom 6:1?

Questions for Personal Application

1. In what way(s) do you (or are you tempted) to excuse your sin on the basis of God's grace?
2. Do you have any recurring sins or strong desires in your life that feel like you have to give in and do them?
3. Give two reasons (according to Paul) that you should not succumb to these temptations.
4. Is this theological, doctrinal perspective a core influence in your mindset and approach to life?
5. Have you been baptized by immersion following your conversion?
6. What does that ceremony symbolize or represent?