

## **Pt 17 Romans 6:1-14, Dead From Sin, Alive in Him**

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### **Romans 6:1-14**

- 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
- 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
- 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection*:
- 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
- 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.
- 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:
- 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
- 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
- 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
- 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Here in Chapter 6, Paul switches gears. He has already covered the fact that we are saved by grace through faith and not of works. He has already covered the fact that God saves us from the curse of the sin of Adam through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. Now he directs his attention to how a Christian should be living now that he has been saved.

So, he begins by using his usual method of asking a rhetorical question. A question that any new Christian would naturally be asking after being saved:

- 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

We've already talked about this in great length, but it is a natural concern to anyone – if God gets glory by exhibiting his grace by saving wretched sinners, should we just continue sinning to bring more glory to God and showcasing His grace?

Of course, Paul's answer is the same: **2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

"God forbid" "may it not be so" "don't think such a thing!"

Then he brings up that word "death" again. It is a prevalent word in Paul's preaching.

In these short 14 verses, Paul uses a form of the word dead 14-times:

- "dead" 7-times
- "death" 4-times
- "died" 2-times
- "dieth" 1-time

Over and over and over in the Bible we find that sin is connected with death.

Down in the last verse of this chapter Paul writes: **Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death;...**

He writes this to the Church at Corinth: **1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.**

Paul isn't the only one that understands the connection of sin and death. The Lord's brother writes this in **James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**

If you think about it, it really is a running theme throughout the entire Bible starting all the way back to the very first time it is mentioned by God in **Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

So, Paul asks; **2b...How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

**3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?**

A person that is truly saved, truly converted, truly justified will be a different person than they were before because something inside of them died – their old spirit. We now have a new Spirit that is no longer the spirit of Adam but the Spirit of Christ.

Yes, we are still the same person physically and we will still have impure thoughts and an inclination to sin, but there is a difference within us. We are indwelt with the Holy Spirit Who now becomes our compass. That is why whenever a Christian sins, he is racked with guilt and shame.

Someone that is lost will not have this guilt and shame. They may be afraid of being found out or caught but that is not the same as guilt over the sin they committed or shame because of what they did. If they get by with their sin, they fully intend to do it again with no remorse because they still possess the old dead spirit of sin that was inherited from Adam.

But Christians become a new man. I like the way Paul explained it to the Church at Corinth:

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-17**

**14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:**

**15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

**16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.**

**17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he* is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

When Paul talks about the "new creature" he is referring to the new Spirit. A man that has been "regenerated" "transformed." The old spirit has passed away.

**4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection*:**

Here Paul says that now we are saved we "should walk in newness of life." This is another way of saying "living a life of sanctification."

There are 4-**“ations”** in the Bible that are very important to a Christian:

1. Salvation
2. Justification
3. Sanctification
4. Glorification

All these build off each other. **Salvation** and **Justification** are a one-time thing and happen simultaneously upon receiving Christ as Savior and **Glorification** is a one-time thing and happens when we reach Heaven and are redeemed by the One Who purchased us with His blood.

But **Sanctification** (even though we are immediately declared holy) is also an ongoing process. In the previous chapters we've already looked at Salvation and Justification, and now in this chapter Paul begins discussing Sanctification.

**Sanctification**, in technical terms, means **“purification.”** In layman's terms it means **“the process of being made pure and holy.”** In an even larger definition, it **means the act of God's grace by which the affections of men are purified or alienated from sin and the world and exalted to a supreme love to God.**

In Bro. Byron's terms it simply means **“trying to be more like Christ.”**

It is a 24/7 daily, weekly, monthly, yearly walk with the Lord. As you grow in Christ you should sin less. For some it takes much longer than others. Everyone's sanctification process is unique only to them.

**6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. **7** For he that is dead is freed from sin. **8** Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Again, the heavy usage of that word “death.” Dead things are not alive. If you go deer hunting and you shoot a deer, that deer dies. It can no longer run through the fields and eat leaves and twigs.

The same with sin. If we are dead to sin then it should no longer drive us. Before we were saved, we lived in sin but after we are saved, we should be living for Christ. **“Dead from Sin, Alive in Him.”**

**While we are on the subject of living for Christ:**

Yesterday a local pastor posted a message on Facebook that was advertising a sermon that he preached and used a headline that said something along the lines of **“Jesus was not looking for decisions but for disciples.”** Someone took offense to the headline thinking he was teaching a works-based salvation instead of making a decision to trust Jesus as Savior.

However, the person that took offense had not listened to the message but only read the headline and made a judgment on the premise behind it. Fortunately, I had listened to the message that the Pastor preached, and I fully agreed with him. Everything he said was biblical and true. He was making the point that too many people have based their salvation on some decision they made but they were never followers of Christ.

I have seen that happen many, many times and have heard testimonies from many people, a few that I personally know, who made some kind of “decision” a long time ago to be saved. They walked an aisle, made a profession, was declared saved by the preacher, baptized, given the right hand of church fellowship and sent on their way - but their life never changed. It wasn't until years later they realized they were never truly saved and had never known Christ but were just going through motions or emotions. Fortunately, they understood it in time and truly trusted Christ as Savior and begin following Him. There was a change that took place. That old spirit died and the new Spirit became alive.

All through the Bible we are taught true believers in Christ will follow Him, and that is what he asks us to do. Listen to the words of Jesus:

1. Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, **Follow me**, and I will make you fishers of men.
2. Matthew 8:22 But Jesus said unto him, **Follow me**; and let the dead bury their dead.
3. Matthew 9:9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, **Follow me**. And he arose, and followed him.
4. Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me**.
5. Matthew 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and **follow me**.
6. John 1:43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, **Follow me**.
7. John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they **follow me**:
8. John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him **follow me**; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.
9. John 13:36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not **follow me** now; but thou shalt **follow me** afterwards.

That's only 9 instances, I'm sure there are many more. It is very clear that a relationship with Christ requires following Christ – not making some kind of “decision.” Sadly, decisions are what most preachers are looking for. It looks good on their resume. It reminds me of something else Jesus said: **Matthew 23:15** **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.**

But, getting back to our text in Romans 6, Paul is emphasizing the sanctification process that we all are to be going through. **9** **Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.**

**10** **For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.**

**11** **Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**12** **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.**

**13** **Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.**

**14** **For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

This is the same message he taught the Church at Thessalonica: **1 Thessalonians 4:1-3** **Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. 2** **For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. 3** **For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:**

Listen, I know none of us are perfect. We all sin and will continue to sin but as Christians it is our duty to walk in a way pleasing to the Lord. To have a daily sanctification process. To be more like Christ. **Dead from Sin, Alive in Him.**