

“Let Not Sin Reign”
Romans 6:11-14
(Preached at Trinity, July 20, 2008)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Paul has been describing our unique and mystical union with Christ since the end of **Chapter 5**. We participated in His death and resurrection. Because of our union with Christ we died to the realm of sin. His death has become our death.
Romans 6:3 – “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
2. Paul’s point in these opening verses is that any abuse of grace as a license to sin is to fail to recognize the position of the believer.
 - A. Sin no longer reigns over us. We have died to the rule of sin.
Romans 6:4 – “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.”
 - B. How can someone who has died to the reign of sin continue to live in sin?
3. In **Verse 6** Paul states that the “old man” is dead. It has died and has been buried and is no more. By the “old man” Paul is talking about our old life. God has taken us out of the life in Adam and has placed us into a life in Christ.
4. We have died to our old life “that the body of sin might be destroyed”
Literally, that it might be deactivated, rendered powerless.
 - A. Our sins are committed in the flesh “the body of sin.” Because we are new creatures in Christ sin no longer has absolute power.
 - B. In Adam we could not but sin
In Christ we are able not to sin.
5. Paul is writing this to believers that they might not forget their position in Christ.
Romans 6:3 – “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
6. As I’ve stated in the past, in these opening verses Paul is setting up the nature of our position in Christ. Paul is describing our position—that which is ours. In Christ we have died to the realm of sin and death. After laying the foundation of our position in Christ Paul is now going to describe the application, how it applies to us in our Christian experience.
7. In **Verse 11** Paul links our experience to Christ.
“Likewise” – Just as Christ died and was taken out of the realm of sin and raised unto God we too have died to sin and have risen to life in God.
8. In **Verse 12** we find the helpful and revealing word, “Therefore.”
Romans 6:12 – “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”
 - A. Since you are united to Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Since the “old man” is dead and the “body of sin” has been deactivated and since you are dead to sin and alive to Christ.

- B. “Therefore” let not sin reign in your mortal body.
Verse 13 – neither give your body over as an instrument of sin
Verse 14 – “For sin shall not have dominion over you.”
9. Paul’s overwhelmingly dominate subject in this part of the epistle has been the subject of sin. The word “sin” is found 41 times in **Chapters 5-8** of Romans. The word sin is only found 112 times in all the New Testament. Over one third of the times the word “sin” is found in the NT are in these four chapters of Romans.
10. In the first five chapters of Romans Paul has not charged us to do anything. It has all been teaching. Paul has been setting forth truths about sin. He has taught us the sinfulness of sin and the wrath of God upon sin. He’s described it’s origin and he’s described the only way of reconciliation – justification through Christ alone.
11. Now for the first time in the book Paul is charging us with an exhortation. **Verse 11** is in the imperative. But there’s more. **Verses 12-13** are also in the imperative. In these verses Paul is giving us four commands in a row.
 This morning I want us to look at these exhortations from Paul – commands from God.
- I. **Verse 11** – Recon yourselves dead to sin and alive to God
- A. Up to now Paul has been teaching of our position in Christ –laying the foundation
1. Paul knew that there was no use in telling Christians *how* to live until the foundation had been laid as to the work of Christ and our position in Christ.
 2. Paul has been describing our union with Christ. He uses expressions like “in Christ” or “in Him” or “in Jesus Christ.”
 He does this 164 times in his writings.
 Now he does it again to remind us of our union with Christ
 “through Christ Jesus our Lord” – literally “in Christ Jesus”
 3. Paul is giving his final statement of practical importance before moving to applying it to our experience.
 But now he is giving it in the form of a command.
“Consider this. This is what you are in Christ – now apply it to yourself.”
- B. Paul issues the command: **V. 11** – “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
1. The word for recon is λογίζομαι – it is an accounting term – “recon, account, calculate.”
 We’ve already seen the word many times in the Book of Romans
Romans 4:3 – “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”
 2. Here it means to recognize something as factual – something as a reality
 3. Paul is commanding us to engage our reason and our will based upon these realities.
- C. First, Paul commands us to embrace the reality – “we are dead to sin.”
1. The old life is gone – we saw this in **Verses 3-6**
Romans 6:3 baptized into his death
Romans 6:4 buried with him by baptism into death
Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified
 2. We need to keep this constantly in our thinking
 We are no longer in Adam – we are no longer bound by sin. We are no longer controlled by our corrupt nature. We are now able “not to sin.”

- D. Second, Paul commands us to embrace the reality – “we are alive unto God.”
Romans 6:5 – “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection.”
1. This isn’t just talking about a future resurrection. We are alive in Christ now – **See Verses 7-11**
 2. We now have a new life – a life of holiness in Christ. We are born again. We are new creatures. We love Christ, his Word, His people, His worship, His work. This world is no longer our home.
- E. Do you consider this about yourself? Do you count this as true?
 Paul has been building his case. He is telling you that if you are in Christ these things ARE true about you. Believe them. Embrace them. You are dead to sin and alive to Christ.

Finally Paul gives us the conclusion. Everything else has been up to this - THEREFORE Paul gives us some principles of sanctification.

II. Verse 12 – Let not sin reign in your mortal body

A. Sin is not dead

1. We are dead to sin, to the realm of sin
 We have died to our old life
2. But sin is still alive and well. Our flesh is still very much hungry for sin.
3. Our life is a life of competing desires.
 - a. On the one hand our new nature desires God
 - b. On the other hand our flesh desires sin and all its pleasures
 - c. Paul says, “**Romans 6:12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”
 (its lusts, its passions, its desires)
4. It is possible for us to be plagued by the cravings of the flesh
 A Christian can give in to gluttony, sloth, lust. We can give into anger, jealousy, covetousness.
5. If this were not true this verse would have no meaning
Romans 6:12 – “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

B. We must not allow sin to reign in our body

1. Sin’s hold on us is through our body, not as something external to us but as something that is a part of us.
2. As Christians we have been taken out of Adam – our minds have been transformed. We desire holiness.
3. We can choose not to sin but even the most mature Christian struggles with sin.
4. We must not give sin an inch. This may sound trite but in essence Paul is telling us, “Just say no.” (Paul says in 1Co 9:27 – “I keep under my body” buffet discipline
1 Thessalonians 5:22 – “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”)
5. We must deny ourselves
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.”
1 Peter 2:11 – “Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”

2 Timothy 2:22 – “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

6. Paul commands us, ‘Do not let sin reign over you.’”

III. **Verse 13** – Do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness

A. By members, Paul is speaking of parts of the body.

What are some of the parts included here?

1. Our tongue

James 3:5 – “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!”

a. The tongue is unruly – the tongue is the hardest part of the human being to control.

James 3:7-8 – “For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: ⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

b. We can use our tongue to build up or to tear down. We can assassinate the character of a man with our tongue. We can bear false witness and have a man executed. We can sow discord and divide brothers. Or we can use that cunning humor that’s designed to cut and wound.

c. Paul says, “Do not let sin reign in your tongue’

d. Controlling the tongue is a giant step towards perfection

James 3:2 – “For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.”

2. Our eyes – our eyes can be a great source of sin

a. This was one of the causes of the first sin

Genesis 3:6 – “And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

b. Covetousness usually begins with the eye. We look upon things and then desire them.

1 John 2:16 – “For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

c. We can use our eyes to lust upon other women or men

Matthew 5:28 – “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.”

2 Samuel 11:2 – “And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.”

Job 31:1 – “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”

d. Paul says, “Do not let sin dwell in your eyes.”

3. Our ears

a. We can choose what we listen to
Eve could have refused to listen to the temptations of the serpent
We can choose what we listen to

b. We can choose not to listen to gossip
What kind of music we listen to, how we redeem the time while we are in our car.

c. Paul says, “Do not let sin dwell in your ears.”

4. Our mind

a. Perhaps the greatest member of our body is our mind.

b. Our mind is governed by our heart but our mind also governs our heart.

Proverbs 23:7 – “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he”

c. What do you put into your mind? What do you think about?
Do you ponder jealousy, envy, bitterness, hatred?

d. Do you put images of sin in your mind through TV or movies?

e. What do you read on the internet – things edifying?

f. Do you allow covetousness to fill your mind?

g. Do you allow yourself to be swept up in doubts and fears?

h. Paul says, “Do not let sin dwell in your mind.”

IV. **Verse 13** – Yield your members unto God as instruments of righteousness

A. As Christians we must offer up our parts to God as instruments of righteousness

1. Our tongue

Ephesians 4:29 - “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

a. Our language must have the effect of building up rather than tearing down

b. We must look for ways to encourage each other

Hebrews 10:24 – “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:”

c. We must use our tongue to witness of the grace of God in the Gospel

d. Paul says, “Use your tongue as an instrument of righteousness”

2. Our eyes

a. We must gain control over our eyes

Job 31:1 – “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”

- b. How you use your eyes says everything about what you are
Matthew 6:22-23 – “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!”
- c. Learn to use your eyes to appreciate beauty to God’s glory
- d. Paul says, “Use your eyes as an instrument of righteousness”
- 3. Our ears
 - a. We can listen to those things that are edifying
 We have been richly blessed with technology – mp3 sermons, Bible
 - b. We can prepare our ears to heart the preaching of God’s Word
 - c. Paul says, “Use your ears as an instrument of righteousness”
- 4. Our mind
 - a. We are continually admonished in Scripture concerning our mind
1 Peter 1:13 – “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”
 (i.e. prepare your minds for action)
Romans 12:2 – “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 - b. The mind is a wonderful storehouse. What we put into it will affect what comes out in our words and deeds.
Philippians 4:8 – “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.”
 - c. Paul says, “Use your mind as an instrument of righteousness”

Conclusion:

1. Do you realize you are in Christ? You are united to Him. You have died with Him. You have been taken out of the realm of sin
 Do you understand this about yourself?
2. Have you been taken out of the life of Adam? Are you now in Christ?
 Do you understand that your old man has been crucified with Christ so that your body of sin might be disabled?
3. Then don’t let sin dwell in your mortal body. Do not yield your parts as instruments of unrighteousness.
 Instead offer up your all for righteousness unto Christ. He is our motive. He is our King. He is our all in all.