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Sanctification Part 2 - The Ability to Achieve Holiness
Romans 6:1-11

Romans 6:1-11- "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become [a]united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be [b]in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old [c]self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be [d]done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is [e]freed from sin.8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, [f]is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Introduction

WE CONTINUE OUR 5 PART SERIES ON SANCTIFICATION....WHICH BY WAY OF REMINDER WHEN I USE THE TERM SANCTIFICATION THROUGHOUT THIS SERIES, I AM REFERRING TO WHAT THE SCRIPTURES MEAN IN MOST INSTANCES WHEN THAT WORD (OR FORMS OF IT) IS USED.

MOST TIMES SANCTIFICATION IS USED TO REFER TO THE PROCESS OF A BELIEVER, MORE AND MORE IN THEIR LIFE AFTER CONVERSION, LIVING IN CONFORMITY TO THE LIFE AND COMMANDS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (SET APART AND HOLY MORE AND MORE)

AND LAST WEEK IN MY INTRODUCTION I TRUST I SUFFICIENTLY PROVED THAT POINT, WHERE I ALSO ATTEMPTED TO PROVE THAT IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT EVERY BELIEVER GROW AND INCREASE IN THEIR SANCTIFICATION (I THES 4:2-3, MATT 28:19-20).

AND WHEN JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES TO TEACH CHRISTIANS TO OBSERVE ALL THAT HE HAD COMMANDED, I WOULD ARGUE IT WAS MORE THAN SIMPLY PASSING ON THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST....AND THE FACT

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THAT CHRISTIANS ARE SUPPOSED TO OBEY THEM (WHICH THOSE THINGS IS KEY...WE SHOULD NEVER MINIMIZE THEM AS WE HAVE THE EASY BELIEVISM GOSPEL OF OUR DAY THAT DOWNPLAYS SUBMITTING TO CHRIST AS LORD).

BUT I AM CONVINCED FROM MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (AND THAT OF OTHERS), AS WELL AS THE WRITINGS OF THE GREAT CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIANS OVER THE CENTURIES, AND MOST OF ALL FROM READING MY BIBLE THAT SANCTIFICATION IS A MULTIFACETED THEOLOGICAL SUBJECT.

IN OTHER WORDS....THERE ARE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF IT, AND DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS FOR IT THAT GOD HIGHLIGHTS AND EMPHASIZED IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO GET US AS BELIEVERS DOWN THE LINE FURTHER AND FURTHER TOWARD CONFORMITY TO CHRIST.

LAST WEEK I LIKENED THE SUBJECT OF SANCTIFICATION TO A MACHINE THAT HAS VARIOUS LEVERS...WHERE EACH ASPECT OF SANCTIFICATION IS A DIFFERENT LEVER THAT NEEDS TO BE PULLED DEPENDING ON WHERE I AM AT IN MY DAY, MY WEEK, OR MY LIFE WITH THE LORD.

AND LAST WEEK WE STARTED WITH WHAT I BELIEVE IS TO BE THE FOUNDATIONAL LEVER...WHICH IS THE REALITY THAT OUR ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD IS BASED SIMPLY ON THE FACT THAT WE HAVE BELIEVED THE GOSPEL...AND THAT CHRIST'S WORK ON THE CROSS HAS CAUSED HIS ANGER WITH TOWARDS MY SIN TO CEASE...AND I CAN APPROACH GOD

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CONFIDENTLY WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE BECAUSE OF BELIEF IN CHRIST THROUGH THE GOSPEL (AND MY FAILINGS OR SUCCESSES DON'T IMPACT THAT STATUS).

HOWEVER...THERE ARE OTHER THINGS I MUST BE THINKING OF IF I WANT TO ACHIEVE VICTORY OVER SIN IN THIS LIFE...OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT I AM LEGALLY RIGHT WITH GOD.

FOR WHEN GOD SAVED US...HE DID NOT SIMPLY DECLARE US TO BE RIGHTEOUS IN HIS COURTROOM (BASED ON THE DEATH OF CHRIST) AND THEN SEND US ON OUR MERRY WAY (WHICH IF GOD HAD SO DESIRED TO DO NOTHING MORE THAN THAT IT WOULD STILL BE A GLORIOUS GOSPEL...ONE THAT WOULD DESERVE PRAISES FOR ALL ETERNITY....EVEN IF WE HAD NO CLUE WHAT GOD HAD DONE FOR US UNTIL WE REACHED THE NEXT LIFE...HOW AMAZING GOD'S GRACE WOULD BE TO LET US INTO HEAVEN ON THE BASIS OF OUR SINS BEING FORGIVEN IN CHRIST...BECAUSE OF THE LEGAL SUBSTITUTION HE WAS ON THE CROSS).

BUT GOD DID NOT DO JUST THAT! THE SCRIPTURES ARE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF JESUS DYING ON THE CROSS WAS NOT JUST TO BRING LEGAL TRIUMPH OVER OUR SINS SO THAT WE CAN NO LONGER BE PUNISHED FOR THEM (BUT ALSO **TO BRING PRACTICAL, ACTUAL DEFEAT OVER SIN IN OUR LIFE....RIGHT NOW**).

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

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YOU SEE, WHEN JESUS DIED, WAS BURIED, AND WAS RAISED, WE WERE JOINED TO HIM IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE POWER OF HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION WERE APPLIED TO US IN A REAL, VITAL, PRACTICAL WAY.

YES, THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST HAS BEEN APPLIED TO CHRISTIANS IN A LEGAL/FORENSIC WAY THROUGH FAITH...SO THAT OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN.

BUT THROUGH WHAT THEOLOGIANS CALL REAL, VITAL **UNION WITH CHRIST**, THE POWER OF CHRIST'S WORK ON THE CROSS HAS EFFECTED US IN A TRANSFORMING WAY....SO THAT AS A RESULT OF THE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE A NEW PERSON COMES FORTH (NOT JUST A FORGIVEN PERSON) BUT A PERSON WITH NEW ABILITIES....BECAUSE OF THEIR UNION WITH CHRIST.

THE PERSON WHO YOU WERE IS GONE....THEY DON'T EXIST ANYMORE...THE PERSON WHO HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BE A SLAVE TO SIN...IS NOW A NEW PERSON WHO HAS THE ABILITY EXPERIENCE CONSISTENT VICTORY OVER SIN DESPITE STILL HAVE REMAINING FALSENESS.

AND SO CERTAIN AND PERMANENT IS THIS CHANGE IT WAS THEOLOGIANS REFER TO AS **DEFINITIVE SANCTIFICATION**....WHICH SPEAKS OF A COMPLETED CHANGE WHERE GOD HAS TAKEN US FROM ONE STATE OF EXISTENCE TO ANOTHER...WHICH WILL GUARANTEE PROGRESSIVE OR ACTUAL SANCTIFICATION IN OUR ACTIONS.

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BUT IT IS THIS LEVER (THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NEW ABILITIES IN CHRIST) THAT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE ON HAND (AND I WOULD SAY WE NEED TO PULL THIS EVERY DAY AS WELL).

AND THE PASSAGE WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THIS MORNING HIGHLIGHTS THIS AMAZING UNION WITH CHRIST..IN PROBABLY THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND CLEAR WAY THAT WE HAVE IN THE NT.

A Question About Sin Asked and Answered (Verse 1-2a)

Romans 6:1-2a - "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?
2 May it never be!"

NOW ALL THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF ROMANS, PAUL HAS BEEN LAYING OUT TRUTHS ABOUT THE GOSPEL FOR HIS AUDIENCE, MAKING ABSOLUTELY SURE THEY ARE CLEAR ON WHAT THE GOSPEL IS...AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THEIR LIVES (THAT IS BASICALLY THE POINT OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS AS HE IS WRITING TO BELIEVERS WHO NEED STRENGTHENED AND ESTABLISHED IN THE GOSPEL).

AND IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, PAUL HAS BEEN USING A STYLE CALLED **DIATRIBE** (WHERE A WRITER OR AN ORATOR SPARRS WITH AN IMAGINARY PARTNER WHO IS BRINGING UP OBJECTIONS/QUESTIONS IN LIGHT OF WHAT IS BEING SAID).

SO IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS (SEVERL TIMES) PAUL ANTICIPATES OBJECTIONS AND QUESTIONS, HE BRINGS THEM UP, AND HE THEN ADDRESSES THEM (HE HAD BEEN AROUND THE BLOCK A FEW TIMES...HE HAD HEARD THEM ALL).

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AND CHAPTER 6 JUST HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THOSE PLACES WHERE HE BRINGS ONE UP.

FOR IN CHAPTER 5 PAUL HAD JUST FINISHED LAYING OUT HOW AMAZING AND POWERFUL GOD'S GRACE IS IN OVERCOMING THE GUILT OF SIN....SO MUCH TO THE DEGREE THAT PAUL WOULD SAY THAT THE GREATER THE SIN, THE GREATER GOD'S GRACE IS ON DISPLAY IN SALVATION.

Romans 5:20-21 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BUT PAUL KNEW THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME THAT WOULD TWIST THAT USE IT AS AN EXCUSE TO LIVE HOW THEY WANTED EVEN AFTER PROFESSING CONVERSION..."IF GOD IS JUST GOING TO FORGIVE ME.... AND IF IT ONLY SERVES TO PUT THE GRACE OF GOD ON DISPLAY ALL OVER AGAIN ANYWAY AND BRING GOD MORE GLORY....WHY NOT JUST CONTINUE SINNING SO GRACE MAY ABOUND OR INCREASE" (SEE THAT IN **VERSE 1**).

WELL, PAUL WASTES NO TIME IN ANSWER THAT QUESTION. FOR IN THE BEGINNING OF **VERSE 2** HE ANSWERS WITH AN EMPHATIC NO!!!

"MAY IT NEVER BE!" "PERISH THE THOUGHT!!!"

"THAT IS NOT WHAT I AM SAYING AND THAT IS NOT WHAT WE (WHO PROFESS TO HAVE BEEN SAVED BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST) SHOULD BE DOING."

WHY? WELL, PAUL WILL PROCEED TO SHOW US WHY WITH WITH SUPPORTING PROOF....USING MULTIPLE ILLUSTRATIONS ALL CENTERING

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AROUND ONE BASIC TRUTH (OUR VITAL UNION WITH CHRIST IN HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION) WHICH HAS ALREADY BROUGHT ABOUT VITAL PERMANENT CHANGE IN US.

THOSE THREE ILLUSTRATION BEING FIRST: DEATH/RESURRECTION, SECOND: CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP (SLAVERY) THIRD: ACCOUNTING.

Support 1: New Existence Through Death and Life with Christ (Verse 2b-4)

Romans 6:2b-4 - How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. "

SO THE FIRST ILLUSTRATION STARTS RIGHT AWAY IN THE 2ND PART OF VERSE 2 SPEAKING OF HOW WE HAVE DIED WHEN IT COMES TO THE STATE WE WERE IN PREVIOUSLY (WE HAVE DIED TO SIN).

THE PERSON YOU WERE BEFORE CHRIST BE (WHO HAD NO ABILITY EXCEPT TO SIN WILLFULLY AND OBEY THEIR MASTER SATAN IS GONE).

Ephesians 2:1-3 - "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."

WELL, THAT PERSON (WHO COULD DO NOTHING BUT SIN) IS GONE. (THAT IS WHAT PAUL MEANS HERE BY HAVING DIED TO SIN)

PAUL IS NOT SAYING CHRISTIANS NEVER SIN, OR CAN'T SIN, BUT THAT CHRISTIANS ARE DEAD TO SIN'S DOMINION OVER US...WHERE IT JUST RULES US TO THE POINT THAT WE HAVE NO STRENGTH TO COMBAT IT (THOSE DAYS ARE GONE).

THE REASON BEING (AS WE CONTINUE) IS THAT WE WERE BAPTIZED INTO THE DEATH OF JESUS (VERSE 3).

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JUST AS JESUS DIED ONCE TIME AT A POINT IN HISTORY, WE TOO HAVE A DATE OF DEATH ALREADY (IN A SENSE) AS THIS PHENOMENON OCCURRED TO US ONE TIME IN THE PAST WHERE GOD (AT CONVERSION) NOT ONLY FORGAVE US OF OUR SINS...BUT TOOK THE POWER OF JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS AND APPLIED IT TO US SO THAT IT KILLED THE OLD PERSON...YOU WERE **ENVELOPED** (BAPTIZED AS IT WERE) INTO JESUS' DEATH...OR THE POWER OF HIS DEATH (**SPIRIT BAPTISM**).

I Corinthians 12:13 - "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

(THIS IS NEVER TO BE REPEATED AGAIN...AND IT WAS DONE TO US...WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT...WE WERE PASSIVE)

AND SO PAUL IS SAYING HERE...DON'T YOU KNOW THAT? ISN'T THAT ON YOUR MIND? HOW COULD YOU ASK THIS QUESTION ABOUT CONTINUING IN SIN IF THE PERSON WHO HAD NO ABILITY EXCEPT TO LIVE THAT WAY WAS KILLED WITH JESUS?

AND FURTHER, IF A PERSON WAS JOINED TO JESUS IN HIS DEATH THIS WAY...WOULDN'T THAT MEAN THEY WERE CARRIED ALONG IN HIS BURIAL AND RESURRECTION (SO TO SPEAK), SO THAT NOT ONLY IS THE OLD PERSON GONE, BUT A NEW PERSON ARISES WITH THE ABILITY NOW TO LIVE IN A NEW WAY (READ **VERSE 4**).

IN SENSE WE WERE CARRIED ALONG WITH CHRIST AT EVERY POINT OF HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT BECOMING A NEW CREATION (**II COR 5:17**).

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AND THIS NEW STATE IS SO POWERFUL AND CERTAIN...IT IS LIKE A SLAVE CHANGING MASTERS.

Support 2: New Existence Means New Ownership (Verses 5-7)

Romans 6:5-7 - "5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

SO IN VERSE 5 AND THE BEGINNING OF VERSE 6 PAUL BASICALLY REPEATS THE SAME TRUTHS AS BEFORE (MOST LIKELY SO HE CAN CLEARLY CONNECT THOSE TRUTHS OF LIVE AND DEATH WITH CHRIST TO THE SECOND ILLUSTRATION HE IS GOING TO USE TO DESCRIBE OUR NEW ABILITIES IN CHRIST.)

BUT BEFORE WE SEE MOVE TO THE NEW ILLUSTRATION OF SLAVERY AT THE END OF VERSE 6, FIRST NOTICE IN **VERSE 5** THE PHRASE "**UNITED WITH**" OR "**PLANTED INTO**" CHRIST (A NEW LITTLE WRINKLE ADDED FROM WHAT HE HAS SAID).

UNION WITH CHRIST IS A BIG DEAL TO PAUL..NOT JUST IN THIS PASSAGE BUT IN MANY OF HIS LETTERS WHERE HE SPEAKS OF US BEING IN CHRIST, WITH CHRIST, CHRIST IN US..

ACCORDING TO PAUL, WHEN YOU THINK OF THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION EVENTS OF CHRIST (AND HS INTERCESSION EVEN NOW IN HEAVEN [**COL 3:1-3**])..YOU ARE TO THINK OF YOURSELF AS BEING THERE (AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU...BOTH LEGALLY IN TERMS OF FORGIVENESS...BUT FOR YOUR NEW ABILITIES).

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AND SO CERTAIN IS THIS UNION WITH CHRIST, THAT PAUL IN VERSE 5 ACTUALLY USES THE WORD RESURRECTION TO SPEAK OF THE STATUS OF BELIEVERS RIGHT NOW.

PAUL SAYS IN VERSE 5 THAT IF A CRUCIFIXION HAPPENED...THEN THAT LED TO A FUTURE RESURRECTION (BUT WHICH RESURRECTION).

THIS IS NOT TALKING ABOUT FUTURE BODILY RESURRECTION...BUT THE RESURRECTION THAT HAS ALREADY OCCURRED (WHICH PAUL WILL MAKE CHRYSTAL CLEAR IN **VERSE 13**).

AND HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THIS (**VERSE 6**)...IT SHOULD TAKE US TO THE LOGIC DEDUCTION THAT THE OLD PERSON IS DEAD (YOU CAN ONLY HAVE A RESURRECTION IF SOMEONE DIES).

(VERSE 6)...ALL OF THIS SHOULD BE LEADING US TO REALIZE THAT THE THE "OLD SELF" (OLD MAN) IS GONE (HE WAS CRUCIFIED).

AND "**OLD MAN**" OR "**OLD SELF**" HERE DOES NOT MEAN OUR OLD NATURE (LIKE OUR SIN NATURE BEING DONE AWAY WITH) OR EVEN OUR BODIES (THAT IS ALL FUTURE), RATHER IT IS THE OLD PERSON WE WERE THAT WAS IN ADAM...WITH NO ABILITY TO CONQUER SIN...THAT OLD STATE OF EXISTENCE IS GONE (PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT BEING TAKE FROM ONE REALM TO ANOTHER REALM).

THIS IS WHAT PAUL MEANS IN THE MIDDLE OF VERSE 6 BY THE "**BODY OF SIN**" BEING DONE AWAY WITH.

DOUG MOO WRITES: "Paul also uses the word *soma* (body) to refer to the whole person, with an emphasis on the persons' interaction with the world." (page 375)

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YOU SEE, WE STILL HAVE A SIN NATURE AND WE STILL HAVE THE SAME PHYSICAL BODY...BUT THE DIFFERENCE NOW IS THAT I HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT...I AM FREE TO CONQUER ACTUAL SINFUL ACTIVITY IN MY LIFE...THE PERSON WHO COULD ONLY SIN HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED (THAT OLD MAN).

AND THE WHOLE POINT OF PAUL SOMEWHAT REPEATING ALL OF THIS IS SO HE CAN CONNECT IT TO THE 2ND ILLUSTRATION THAT HE IS GOING TO USE TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO US AS BELIEVERS....WHICH IS THE **CHANGING OF MASTERS (SLAVERY IMAGERY)**.

...WHERE BEFORE YOU WERE A SLAVE TO SIN...BUT NOW YOU ARE FREE FROM IT (READ **VERSES 6-7**).

SLAVERY WAS COMMON IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE (ONE ESTIMATE I SAW HAD UPWARDS OF 5 MILLION PEOPLE BEING SLAVES [15% OF THE POPULATION] (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_ancient_Rome)...IT IS CLEAR FROM THE NT THAT AT LEAST SOME BELIEVERS WERE STILL SLAVES OR WERE FORMER SLAVES (SO THIS WAS AN ILLUSTRATION THAT WOULD CATCH THEIR ATTENTION). (AND IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR SLAVES TO HAVE CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP).

AND PAUL STATES AT THE END OF VERSE 6 AND IN VERSE 7 THAT IN ESSENCE (BECAUSE THE OLD MAN IS DEAD) YOU ARE NOW FREE FROM SIN...THE SLAVERY IS OVER (TO SIN).

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OH CERTAINLY YOU HAVE A NEW MASTER (THAT COMES LATER IN THE CHAPTER...RIGHTEOUSNESS)...BUT NO LONGER MUST YOU ANSWER THE EVERY COMMAND, BECKON AND CALL OF YOUR OLD MASTER, SIN.

YOU CAN JUST SEE IT IN THEIR MINDS, THEY WOULD IMAGINE A SLAVE WHO HAS CHANGED HANDS...POSSIBLY TO A MUCH KINDER AND AMIABLE AND LOVING MASTER...THIS SLAVE IS WALKING DOWN THE STREET ON AN ERRAND SERVING THE NEW MASTER...AN ALL OF A SUDDEN THE OLD MASTER CALLS OUT, "SLAVE!"

DOES HE HAVE TO OBEY, NO. HE IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION...AND HOW SILLY AND FOOLISH WOULD IT BE THEN FOR HIM TO OBEY THAT OLD MASTER. HE IS FREE, AND HAS ALL THE LEGAL AND ACTUAL ABILITY TO WALK AWAY.

NOW CERTAINLY WE CAN SEE HOW INITIALLY IT WOULD BE HARD FOR THAT SLAVE TO NOT OBEY THE OLD VOICE...BUT HE DOES NOT HAVE TO...AND THE MORE HE SAYS "YES" TO THE NEW MASTER AND "NO" TO THE OLD...IT BECOMES EASIER DOESN'T IT..LIKE 2ND NATURE.

AND THAT IS WHAT IT IS LIKE FOR US AS WE TRY TO BREAK AWAY FROM OLD SINS. IT DOES NOT HAPPEN AUTOMATICALLY...IT IS A PROCESS THAT WE WILL TALK ABOUT IN WEEKS TO COME.

BUT THE POINT THAT PAUL IS MAKING HERE IS SLAVERY IS OVER WHERE YOU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SERVE SIN.

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BUT NOW YOU SHOULD SEE YOURSELF AS BEING IN A WHOLE NEW CATEGORY OF EXISTENCE...ALMOST AS IF YOU HAVE CHANGED CATEGORIES OR COLUMNS ON AN ACCOUNTING LEDGER.

Support 3: New Existence Means New Accounting (Verses 8-11)

Romans 6:8-11 - "8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Even so consider (reckon) yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

NOW IF YOU ARE A FINANCE OR ACCOUNTING PERSON, THIS THIRD ILLUSTRATION THAT PAUL USES TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO US IN CHRIST IS FOR YOU.

FOR PAUL IN ESSENCE (ONCE AGAIN) REPEATS THE REALITY OF US BEING ALREADY DEAD AND ALIVE WITH CHRIST...ONLY THEN TO SHOW THAT IF THAT IS TRUE, IT MEANS SOMETHING ELSE.

EXCEPT THIS TIME IN VERSES 8-10 WHEN PAUL REPEATS THE TRUTHS OF OUR UNION WITH CHRIST IN HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION...THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE **PERMANENCY** OF THESE THINGS...THESE EVENTS NEVER HAVE TO BE REPEATED AGAIN.

IT IS NOT AN ISSUE OF THE OLD MAN BEING RESURRECTED AND HAVING TO BATTLE HIM OR KILL HIM ALL OVER (YOU MAY LIVE LIKE THE OLD MAN AT TIMES..AND WE ARE TO PUT OFF THE BEHAVIORS OF THE OLD MAN...HENCE THE COMMAND FROM PAUL

Ephesians 4:22-24 - "lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

BUT HERE PAUL IS NOT TELLING US TO CRUCIFY OURSELVES ALL OVER AGAIN...NO...HE IS TELLING US IN OUR MINDS WE HAVE TO RENEW

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OUR THINKING EVERY DAY TO REMEMBER WE ARE ALREADY CRUCIFIED AND CAN LIVE IN A NEW WAY..AND PUT ON THE NEW SELF BY LIVING THAT WAY.

IT IS OUR THINKING AND LIVING THAT IS CONFORMED MORE AND MORE TO CHRIST EVERY DAY.

BUT OUR NEW STATE OF EXISTENCE HAPPENED ONCE AND IT IS PERMANENT...JUST AS JESUS DIED ONLY ONCE AND IS RAISED ONLY ONCE, NEVER TO BE REPEATED AGAIN (READ VERSES 8-10).

THE CHANGE IS SO PERMANENT...THAT TO SAY WE MUST KILL THE OLD MAN OVER AND OVER IS TO SAY THAT JESUS HAS TO DIE OVER AND OVER.

WHICH IS WHY PAUL CAN BRING IN THIS THIRD ILLUSTRATION OF ACCOUNTING (READ **VERSE 11**).

NOW UNFORTUNATELY IF YOU HAVE A NASB OR ESV, THE SENSE OF THIS WORD DOES NOT COME THROUGH AS CLEARLY (AS YOUR TRANSLATIONS SAY TO "**CONSIDER**" YOURSELVES DEAD TO SIN).

WHERE THE NKJ OR KJV IT SAYS "**RECKON**" AND THE NIV SAYS "**COUNT**" YOURSELF DEAD TO SIN.

AND THAT IS EXACTLY THE SENSE...THE WORD HERE IN THE ORIGINAL IS AN ACCOUNTING TERM...WHERE SOME THING WAS EXAMINED OR EVALUATED (JUST LIKE IN A COMPANY TODAY), AND THE THEN THAT ASSET OR LIABILITY IS THEN ALLOCATED TO THE APPROPRIATE GL OR GENERAL LEDGER.

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WELL, PAUL HERE IS SAYING THAT BASED ON OUR UNION WITH CHRIST, WE ARE TO DO THE SAME WITH OURSELVES...WHERE AFTER EVALUATING ALL THAT PAUL HAS SAID HERE, WE ARE TO ALLOCATE OURSELVES NO LONGER ON THE "SIN" SIDE OF THE LEDGER WHERE WE COULD DO NOTHING BUT SIN, BUT IN "RIGHTEOUSNESS" SIDE THE LEDGER SIDE...RECON YOURSELF DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD.WE ARE IN AN ENTIRELY NEW CATEGORY.

AND SO WE OUGHT TO BE LIVING IN A NEW WAY (PAUL EXPECTS IT).

Romans 6:12-14 - "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

ALL OF THIS TO SAY THAT IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST...YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU WERE....DO YOU SEE THIS GREAT VICTORY THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN YOU.

DO YOU SEE THE GREAT ABILITY THAT WE HAVE FOR HOLINESS?

Conclusion

WELL, HOPEFULLY THIS HAS HELPED US ALL SEE WHO WE ARE...AND PERHAPS FOR YOU THIS IS ANOTHER SANCTIFICATION LEVER THAT NEEDS PULLED EVERY SINGLE DAY (REMINDING YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE NOT WHO YOU WERE...AND THAT CHRIST HAS DEFEATED EVERY SIN).

PERHAPS SOME OF YOU HAVE SINS IN YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU HAVE GIVEN UP...AND YOU HAVE GOTTEN TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU HAVE

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BELIEVED THE LIE THAT THERE ARE SINS IN YOUR LIFE ARE JUST TO STRONG, YOU WILL NEVER HAVE VICTORY AND YOU HAVE NO CHOICE TO LIVE WITH IT...I'M HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU THAT IS NOT TRUE.

NOW GRANTED...IT IS GOING TO TAKE WORK TO GET THERE...YOU MUST ENGAGE AND APPROPRIATE THE POWER YOU HAVE...YOU CAN BE DRIVING A 4-WHEEL DRIVE HUMVY BUT IF YOU JUST LET GO OF THE WHEEL THAT HUGE POWERFUL VEHICLE WILL JUST GO INTO THE SAME RUTS MADE BY A MUCH WEAKER VEHICLE (WE WILL ADDRESS HOW TO APPROPRIATE THE POWER IN TWO WEEKS).

BUT IT IS POSSIBLE...AND I WANT TO SIMPLY LEAVE YOU WITH TODAY...AND ADD TO THE PRAYER I PRAYED LAST WEEK AND STOP

SO IF YOU STRUGGLE IN THIS AREA I URGE YOU TO PRAY THIS WEEK WHEN YOU START YOUR DAY START WITH THE FACT THAT YOU ARE FORGIVEN IN CHRIST AND CAN NEVER EARN GOD'S FAVOR WITH YOUR WORKS (CLEAR YOUR CONSCIENCE)...BUT THEN THANK HIM FOR THE ABILITY YOU HAVE TO CONQUER SIN...AND THEN ASK HIM TO HELP YOU APPROPRIATE AND UNLEASH THE POWER HE HAS ALREADY GIVEN YOU. [PRAY]