

“United With Christ”
Romans 6:1-5

Introduction:

1. One Of The Great Things About:
 - Living In America:
 - Is Its Great Diversity!
 - Not Just Diversity:
 - In Geography:
 - As My Wife And I Were Able To See On Our Vacation A Couple Of Weeks Ago!
 - But The Diversity:
 - In People!
 - The United States Of America Is Truly A “Melting Pot!”
 - Wherever You Go:
 - In Our Country:
 - You Are Confronted With The Reality:
 - That There Not One, Single, Physical Description:
 - That Can Be Used To Describe Americans!
 - And - One Of The Main Reasons For This:
 - Is Because - America:
 - Is A Nation Of Immigrants!
 - Even In My Own Family Tree:
 - As Far As I Know, Not A Single One Of My Ancestors:
 - Would Be Considered A Native American!
 - They Came From:
 - England & Scotland & Ireland:
 - As Well As From:
 - The Netherlands & Even Germany!
2. And - What Is True:
 - About My Family Tree:
 - Is Likely True:
 - About Your Family Tree!
 - At One Time Or Another:
 - Someone In Your Family:
 - Left ***One*** Country:
 - To Begin A New Life:
 - In ***This*** Country!
 - And - They Left:
 - ***One*** Home:
 - For ***Another!***
 - And - In Many Cases:
 - If This Transition Was Voluntary:
 - And, Of Course, We Know That, Sadly & Tragically - In The History Of Our Country:
 - It Was Not Always Voluntary!
 - But - When It ***Was*** Voluntary:
 - It Was Because There Was Some Hope:
 - In The Promise Of:
 - A Better & A Brighter Future:
 - In This New World!
3. Well - In A Similar Way:
 - This Is One Of The Main Reasons Why:
 - A Person Will Put Their Faith & Trust:
 - In Jesus Christ To Save Them From Their Sins!
 - It Is Because:
 - They Have Become Weary:
 - Living Under The Tyranny:
 - And The Reign Of Sin:

- Which We Were All Born Under:
- Since We All Are Descendants Of Adam And Eve!

- And - In A Sense:
 - When You Become A Christian:
 - You Immigrate:
 - From One Kingdom:
 - Ruled By Sin:
 - And Controlled By Death!
 - To Another Kingdom:
 - Ruled By God & His Grace:
 - Unto Eternal Life!

4. And - This Is Where We Ended Up:

- Last Sunday - In The Last Part:
 - Of Romans 5 - So - Please Turn There With Me In Your Bibles - If You Are Not There Already:
 - To - 5:20b-21 - “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: / That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord!”
 - The Difference Between:
 - Living Under The Reign Of Sin:
 - Versus - Living Under The Reign Of Grace:
 - Is The Difference Between:
 - Slavery And Freedom!
 - And - True Freedom:
 - Is What Jesus Christ Came To Bring!
 - As Jesus Himself Said In John 8:36 - “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed!”

5. Well - When We Come To Romans 6:

- Paul Wants To Address A Concern:
 - That Some People Might Have:
 - With What This New Spiritual Freedom:
 - Could Look Like!
 - And So - In 6:1-5 - He Adds:
 - “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? / God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? / Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? / 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. / For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection!”
 - Pray!

6. - So - After Telling Us About:

- The Great Blessing & Benefit:
 - Of Living Under The Reign Of God’s Grace:
 - Through “Jesus Christ Our Lord” - Paul Then:
 - Wants To Deal With:

1. *A Temptation In Life!*

- A Temptation That Some:
 - Might Fall Into - In Spite Of:
 - The Wonderful Reign Of God’s Grace!
 - And - This Is What We Find In 6:1-2 - Beginning:
 - With An Argument!
 - 6:1 - “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?”
 - Here - Paul Is Anticipating An Objection:
 - That Some Might Have About:
 - Living Under The Reign Of God’s Grace!
 - The Argument Is Tied To:
 - The Statement We Read Back In 5:20:
 - “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound!”

- So - The Argument Goes This Way:
 - If **Grace** Abounds:
 - When & Where **Sin** Abounds:
 - Wouldn't It Make Sense:
 - To Sin More So That We Might Experience More Of God's Grace?
- Now - Lest We Think That This Is:
 - Some Silly & Frivolous Argument:
 - We Need To Remember That There Were Some Who Made This Accusation:
 - Even About The Early Church!
 - Remember Back In:
 - 3:8 - Where Paul Said That They Were "Slanderosly reported, and as some affirm that we say – Let us do evil, that good may come!"
 - Also - In Jude - We Find:
 - The Same Problem - 1:4 - Because He Wrote That - "There are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness!"
 - A License To Sin!
- So - This Was - And In Many Ways:
 - Still Is - A Serious Argument:
 - And A Serious Problem!
 - Even Some Professing Believers Might Say:
 - "I Can Live Any Way I Want! All I Have To Do Is Confess My Sin And Receive God's Grace And Forgiveness!"
 - "So - The More I Sin – The More Grace I Receive!"
 - Sometimes You Might Be Tempted:
 - To Think The Same Way!
 - **IE**: As If The Gospel Is A Passport Of Some Kind! It Allows You To Visit The Realm Of Sin From Time-To-Time, Even Though You Are A Citizen Of The Realm Of Grace!
- Well - Paul Want's To Correct:
 - This Kind Of Thinking!
 - And He Does So:
- With An Answer!
 - A Clear & Compelling Answer!
 - In 6:2 - He Says - Translated In The King James:
 - "God Forbid!"
 - It Means - "May It Never Be!"
 - He Wants You:
 - To **Never Think** This Way!
 - To **Never Say** This!
 - Let Alone **Live** This Way!
 - In Chapter 3:3-8:
 - Paul Uses The Same Strong Answer:
 - To Questions That Struck:
 - At The Very Heart Of The Gospel!
 - Questions About:
 - Faith & Righteousness:
 - Glory & Truth!
 - And Now - The Question About Grace!
 - We Need To Think Right:
 - About The Gospel!
 - And So - Paul Goes On To Deal With This Question:
- With An Appeal!
 - In The Rest Of 6:2:
 - "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"
 - Here - Paul Wants You To Know:
 - That When You Became A Christian - When You "Believed On The Lord Jesus Christ" And "Called Upon His Name" To Be Saved:

- Something Happened To You And The Relationship You Had With Your Former Country & Your Former Home!
 - You Died!
 - You Died To The Rule & Reign Of Sin That You Had Been Under Your Whole Life!
- **IE:** Now - When You Die As A Citizen Of The United States - You Are No Longer Personally Responsible To Follow The Rules & Regulations Of This Country! Thank Goodness - Right? When You Die - You No Longer Have To Follow The Speed Limit! When You Die - You Now Longer Have To Pay Your Taxes! When You Die - You No Longer Have To Even Wear A Mask! Because You Are Dead To This World & You Are Dead To This Country!
 - Well - When You Turn To & Trust In Jesus Christ:
 - You Immediately Die To The Rule & Reign Of Sin Over You!
 - Paul Will Explain More Of What This Means In The Next Verse!
 - But - Then - Based On This Assumption - He Answers This Question **With A Question!**
 - “How Shall We, That Are Dead To Sin, Live Any Longer Therein?”
 - If You Are Already Dead:
 - To One World:
 - How Can You:
 - Live In It Any More?
 - In Colossians 1:13 - Paul Explains How Jesus:
 - “Hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son!”
- So - As A Christian:
 - You Are No Longer A Subject:
 - To This Old Realm Of Sin!
 - You Died To It!
 - So - How **Can** You - And Why **Would** You Even Want To:
 - Live Like You Still Are?
 - So - The Argument Of Verse 1:
 - Is Preposterous:
 - For A Christian!
 - Especially When You See Further:

2. ***A Truth About Life!***

- A Truth That Is Introduced To Us:
 - In 6:3 - With The Words:
 - “Know Ye Not!”
 - Or - “Don’t You Know This Already?”
 - The Truth Is This:
 - Every Christian Is United With Christ!
 - Every Christian Is United With Christ!
 - Look Again At:
 - 6:3-4 - “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? / 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!”
 - The Reason Why You:
 - As A Christian - Cannot “Continue In Sin” - That Is - “Abide In Sin” - Is Because Of:
 - The New Relationship You Have With Your Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - You Are United With Him! And In 6:3 We See:
 - The Expression Of This Truth!
 - Which Is - “Baptism!”
 - 6:3 - “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
 - Here - Paul Makes The Assumption That Every Believer In The Church Of Rome Had Already Been Baptized:
 - According To The Commission Of Jesus Himself In The Gospels!
 - Christian “Baptism” Has Always Been:

- A Special Ritual:
 - Associated With Water!
 - The Primary Meaning Of The Word Is To Dip Or To Immerse!
- And - At First - It Seems Like Paul Wants Christians:
 - To Think About Their Own Baptism!
 - When - After They Believed In & Made Their Profession Of Faith In Jesus - They Were Taken Down Into Some Water By Another Believer:
 - And Were Dipped / Immersed / Baptized In The Water:
 - And Were Identified Before All The World As A Christian!
 - As Paul Said - “Know Ye Not, That So Many Of Us As Were Baptized Into Jesus Christ!”
 - Do You Remember Your Baptism?
 - I Sure Do! It Is Always A Special Event In The Life Of A Believer!
- But - Paul Also Wants You To See:
 - That Behind The *Special Ritual* Of Baptism:
 - There Is A:
 - *Spiritual Reality* - Of Which Baptism Is Just A Symbol!
- And So - He Goes On To Share:
 - The Experience Of This Truth!
 - According To 6:3 - When You Were Baptized:
 - In Water - It Was A Symbol / A Picture:
 - Of Another Baptism - Another Immersion:
 - That Is Spiritual In Nature!
 - You Were Baptized / Placed Into A New Relationship With Jesus Christ!
 - Now - This Is Not Unprecedented In Scripture!
 - In 1 Corinthians 10:2 - We Are Told That:
 - The Children Of Israel - “Were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea!”
 - So - When They Passed Through The Red Sea - They Experienced A New Relationship With Moses!
 - He Became Their Leader!
 - And So It Is With You!
 - Your Baptism Is A Living Illustration:
 - Of Your New And Special Relationship:
 - With Jesus! (Doesn't Save)
 - You Are United With Him!
 - You Are United With Christ:
 - In His Death!
 - 6:3 - “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
 - This Means That You Are Now:
 - Fully Connected To:
 - All That The Death Of Christ Means And Accomplished!
 - The Satisfaction Of Christ's Death!
 - The Redemption Through Christ's Death!
 - The Pardon In Christ's Death!
 - Are Now All Yours!
 - But - Also:
 - You Are United With Christ:
 - In His Burial!
 - 6:4a - “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death!”
 - This Means That You Are Now:
 - Fully Connected To:
 - All That The Burial Of Christ Means And Accomplished!
 - Jesus' Burial In The Tomb Displays What God Does With The Sin That Was Paid For!
 - The Sin Of Those Who Believe In Jesus:
 - Has Been Buried Out Of God's Sight – Forever!
 - Which Is Why God Can Say In:
 - Hebrews 10:17 - “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more!”

- When You Come To Jesus:
 - Not Only Are Your Sins Paid For In Full!
 - But They Have Been Buried With Jesus, Out Of God's Sight Forever!
 - But Even More:
- You Are United With Christ:
 - In His Resurrection!
 - 6:4b - "That like as Christ was raised up from the dead!"
 - This Means That You Are Now:
 - Fully Connected To:
 - All That The Resurrection Of Christ Means And Accomplished!
 - As Jesus Himself Said:
 - In John 14:19 - "Because I live, ye shall live also!"
- And If You Are A Christian Today:
 - This Experience Is Already Yours!
 - With And In Christ:
 - You Died & Were Buried:
 - To The Realm Of Sin!
 - And Now:
 - You Rose With Christ:
 - And Became A Full-Fledged Citizen In The Kingdom Of God!
- And - All This Happened Through:
 - What We Find Next In 6:4 - And That Is:
- The Enablement Of This Truth!
 - How Was Jesus "Raised Up From The Dead?"
 - "By The Glory Of The Father!" (6:4)
 - The Word "Glory" Is A Glorious Word!
 - It Is Often Used To Describe The Sum Of All Of God's Perfections!
 - And So - When It Came To The Resurrection Of Jesus:
 - *All* Of The Perfections Of God:
 - Were Involved - Weren't They?
 - God's Omnipotent Power:
 - Was Used To:
 - Roll Back Death Itself!
 - God's Infinite Love:
 - Was Shown To:
 - His Only Begotten Son!
 - God's Holiness And Justice:
 - Was Accomplished:
 - When Jesus Died For - Not His Own Sin - But The Sins Of Others!
 - God's Eternal Nature:
 - Was Displayed - Since It Was All:
 - According To His Divine, Eternal Plan!
 - And All Of This Is Wrapped Up Together:
 - As The Father's Glory!
- So - You See:
 - The Resurrection Of Jesus:
 - Was As "Natural" To God:
 - As Death Has Been To Us!
 - This Is Why, In Acts 2:24, Peter Says This About Jesus:
 - "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it!"
 - And The Same Glory:
 - That Raised Jesus From The Dead:
 - At The Same Time - Raised You Up:
 - Out Of Your Horrible Pit & Out Of Your Miry Clay:
 - And Set Your Feet Upon The Rock Of Christ! (Psalm 40:2)
 - And - All This Was Done:
 - So That There Can Be:

- The Evidence Of This Truth!
 - You Were United With Christ:
 - In His Death, His Burial, And His Resurrection:
 - So That - Look At Last Part Of:
 - 6:4 - “Even so we also should walk in newness of life!”
 - **IE:** Imagine What It Must Feel Like For An Immigrant From Another Country - Having Been Oppressed For Their Religious Or Even Their Political Beliefs - To Set Foot In Their New Country For The Very First Time! Everything Is New!
 - So It Is With You, Christian!
 - Remember 2 Corinthians 5:17 - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
 - You Were United With Christ:
 - So That You:
 - Can Enjoy The Freedom Of Righteousness:
 - Instead Of Languishing In The Bondage Of Sin!
 - No More Do You:
 - Have To Experience The Fear Of Death!
 - Instead - You Can Enjoy:
 - The Peace Of Life!
 - And - Instead Of Living:
 - In Disobedience To God:
 - Now - You Can And Will:
 - Live In Obedience To Him!
- This Is The “New And Living Way” Opened Up To You:
 - Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Jesus Died, Was Buried, And Rose Again:
 - So That You Might Now:
 - Walk In His Steps!
 - So That You Might Now:
 - Live As He Did & Live As He Does!
 - Not Only In This World:
 - But, One Day, Soon:
 - In Heaven Itself!
 - Remember This Truth!
 - Christians Are United With Christ!
 - And This Also Leads To:

4. *A Taste Of Life!*

- A Taste Of True Life - Which We Find:
 - In 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!”
 - The Word Translated Here “Planted Together” Was Often Used In Agriculture!
 - But Its Not Talking About:
 - Different Seeds Being Sown Together In The Same Field!
 - Its Referring To A Branch That Has Been Grafted And Fused Into Another Plant - And Grows Together With It!
 - This Is Why In Other Translations:
 - The Word “United” Is Used!
 - It Brings To Mind What Jesus Said:
 - In John 15:5 - “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing!”
 - This Is:
- The Condition For Life!
 - In Order To Reap All Of The Blessings:
 - That Were Sown By Jesus:
 - In His Life, Death, And Resurrection:
 - You Must Be United With Him!
 - You Must Be Grafted Into Him!

- And This Is Why Paul Says:
 - In 6:5 - “For If We Have Been Planted Together In The Likeness Of His Death!”
- When You Turn To Jesus - It Begins:
 - With A Renunciation Of And A Repentance For Your Sin!
 - You Don’t Want Anything More To Do With It!
 - You Are Weary And Tired Of It:
 - And So - You Run To And Trust In Jesus!
- And - At That Moment:
 - You Are Fused To Christ:
 - And His Death For You!
 - His Death Becomes Your Death!
 - But Also - His Life Becomes Your Life!
- And - This Is:
 - The Certainty Of Life:
 - That We Find In The Rest Of 6:5:
 - “We Shall Be Also In The Likeness Of His Resurrection!”
 - Charles Hodge - “United In Death, We Shall Be United In Life! If We Die With Him, We Shall Live In Him!”
 - The Inevitable Result:
 - Of Being United With Christ:
 - Is Resurrection!
 - Right Now:
 - There Has Already Taken Place:
 - A Spiritual Resurrection:
 - In Your Life!
 - You Were “Born Again” Into:
 - A New Kingdom:
 - Where Jesus And His Grace Reigns!
 - You Were “Born Again” Into:
 - A New Family:
 - With God As Your Father!
 - You Were “Born Again” And Given:
 - A New Life:
 - Where All Of The “Old Things Are Passed Away: [And] Behold All Things Are Become New!”
 - But - This Is Just A Taste:
 - Of The Life To Come! Because:
 - Someday:
 - You Will Experience:
 - A Final Resurrection:
 - That Is Physical And Eternal!
 - When You Are United With Christ:
 - You Have This Hope!
 - So - “Just Think Of Stepping On Shore, And Finding It Heaven! Of Touching A Hand, And Finding It God’s! Of Breathing New Air, And Finding It Celestial! Of Waking Up In Glory, And Finding It Home!”

Conclusion:

1. So - If You Are United With Christ This Morning:
 - Walk In The “Newness Of Life” That You Have:
 - In Christ!
 - The Resurrected Life:
 - That Jesus Came To Give!
2. Remember:
 - 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!”

* What Reign Are You Living Under? Reign Of Sin / Reign Of Grace?

- * Have You Died To The Reign Of Sin – Through The Gospel?
- * Do You Understand The Spiritual Reality Behind The Symbol Of Baptism?
- * Are You Walking In The Newness Of Life That Comes Through Jesus' Life?

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