

**Subject: *Justified in Christ – What Now?***

**Scripture: *Romans 6:1-14***

In verse 1 Paul asks a question: “What shall we say then?” Based on the glorious fact that we have been justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, what now? This chapter marks a shift in the Book of Romans. Here is an overview of the main truths:

**Romans 3:21—5:21**

- ✓ Justification
- ✓ Christ died for us
- ✓ Saved from sin’s penalty
- ✓ Righteous standing

**Romans 6:1—8:17**

- ✓ Sanctification
- ✓ Christ lives in us
- ✓ Saved from sin’s power
- ✓ Righteous living

Our current section of Romans revolves around two questions found in verses 1 and 15. The first question (vs. 1) is answered in verses 2-14, and the second question (vs. 15) is answered in verses 6:16—8:17. Let’s look at Paul’s question in verse 1 and then examine his answer.

Since we are justified in Christ, and since we are justified by grace alone through faith, and since God’s grace is greater than our sins, then does that mean that we just keep on sinning? If abounding sin is always forgiven by abounding grace, then why not sin more so that God’s grace will abound more? Paul answers his own question: God forbid. Paul uses that expression several times in Romans, and it literally means “may it never be” or as we might say, “perish the thought, that’s impossible, or no way, man!” See verse 15.

**1. Believers are dead to sin (vs. 2)**

Paul answers his question with another question (vs. 2). Believers have died to sin so we can no longer live in sin. This is not talking about perfection or living without sin, but it does mean that we no longer practice sin as a way of life. Sin no longer has a power or influence over us like it once did.

There is something you should know about yourself when you were saved...you died. A dead person does not respond to temptation. You can’t influence, entice, persuade, threaten, or force a dead person to do something. You can talk to a dead person, but he can’t talk back.

**2. Believers are spiritually united with Christ in His death and resurrection (vs. 3-7)**

This is a spiritual reality pictured in water baptism. Spiritually we are baptized into Christ by Holy Spirit. This spiritual baptism is not something we feel when we are saved, but it does happen to every believer at the moment they repent of sin and trust Christ as Lord and Savior. And it is something we should know (vs. 3). Paul assumes that these believers at Rome have learned this truth.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

Since we are spiritually united with Christ, when He died we died with Him spiritually and when He arose we arose with Him spiritually. That changes everything. Our union with Christ is a personal union and it is an everlasting union. In verse 6, “our old man” refers to the person we were before we were saved. The old man is crucified with Christ.

**Galatians 2:20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Colossians 2:12** *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

See **Colossians 3:1-10**

### **3. Believers are raised to walk in a new spiritual life (vs. 4-11)**

When you were saved, you not only died spiritually, but you were also raised spiritually to a new life. A man’s name appeared by mistake in the obituary section of a local newspaper, and the man was highly upset and even called the paper, demanding that something be done about it. The lady at the paper apologized for the error. He kept on voicing his displeasure, so the woman said they would put his name in the birth section and give him a brand new start. That’s a picture of what happens in salvation. The old man is dead and a new man is alive in Christ.

Many people think that death and burial are negative because they mark the end of earthly life. But from a Christian standpoint, spiritual death and burial with Christ are positive because they mark the end of the old life of sin and the beginning of the new life of righteousness.

Can you imagine Lazarus wanting to go back to his tomb and staying there?  
Can you imagine a prisoner who has been set free wanting to go back to his jail cell?

### **4. Believers yield their bodies to God for righteous living (vs. 12-14)**

Though sin remains in us, it does not rule over us. Sin has been dethroned, but not destroyed. It resides, but it does not reign.

The Bible tells us three things we must do after we’ve been justified. Mark these words.

- **KNOW (vs. 3, 6, 9)**

First, you must know about your spiritual union with Christ in His death and resurrection. You are now dead to sin and alive to God. Second, you must know that your old man was crucified with Christ. Third, you must know that you are alive with Christ now and forever.

See **Ephesians 4:17-24**

So the first key to Christian living is Christian thinking.

**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.*

The key to overcoming sin is knowing the truth. The OT prophet said, *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*, not for lack of dedication, enthusiasm, or effort.

- **RECKON** (vs. 11)

Believe it to be true. To reckon is to have full confidence in something so that it affects what we do. Live as if this is true (because it is). Just imagine if somebody deposited a large amount of money in your bank account, and you knew it. In fact, you had a written receipt of the deposit, but you never spent any of that money. It is one thing to know it, but you have to act like it and write checks as if it is so. You reckon that money is in your account.

- **YIELD** (vs. 13)

Submit and present yourself to God. We must stop presenting or yielding ourselves for sin, and we must always present or yield ourselves for righteousness or doing what is right. In Psalm 23:3, the Bible says the Lord leads us in the path of righteousness for His name's sake, but we must yield ourselves to Him and let Him lead us.

**John 10:27** *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

The Good Shepherd leads His sheep; He doesn't drive them.

**Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

Sin has as much control over you as you let it have.  
God has as much control over you as you let Him have.

Can you imagine how Lazarus must have felt after Jesus raised him from the dead? He probably said: "I will use my hands for Jesus, my feet for Jesus, my eyes for Jesus, my ears for Jesus, my mouth for Jesus."

So let's remember this...God's grace in salvation does not give us permission to keep on sinning; grace gives us power to overcome sin and do what's right. If we are to live this way, we must know the truth, reckon it to be true and embrace it by faith, and then present our bodies daily to live for Christ.