

## **DEAD TO SIN!** (Romans 6:1-11)

### **INTRODUCTION:**

With chapter 6 we begin a new section in the book of Romans. Recall my simple outline of the book of Romans? The theme is the book is the Gospel, which means “Good News.” The first section is the bad news, chapters 1, 2 and first half of 3. The next section is the good news for sinners. Sinners can be justified by faith in the death of Christ on their behalf and receive God’s gift of righteousness. Now in chapters 6 through 8 is the good news for saints or sanctification through faith. We can be delivered from the power of sin in our daily lives through what Christ did for us and what the Holy Spirit will do in us.

We ended chapter 5 with the statement, “grace is greater than sin.” Although grace is greater than sin, sin is still a problem for the Christian. It is a destructive power in our lives and around us. How are we to deal the power of sin within us? This is what chapters 6-8 is about.

*A young girl was being examined for membership in a local church. This church closely scrutinized its candidates about their living a Christ-like life. "Has Christ made a difference in your life?" One leader asked. She replied that he certainly had. Trying to draw her out more, he asked, "Well, then do you sin any more?" The girl admitted that she did.*

*"Well, if you sinned before you were a Christian and you sin since you became a Christian, how has Christ made a difference in your life?"*

*The girl thought a moment, "Sir, I think it is this: before I was a Christian, I ran after sin. Now I run from it though sometimes I am still overtaken by it."*

What do we need to know to keep sin from “overtaking” us? There are three basic things to know that Paul mentions in 6:1-11. Let’s look at them.

### **KNOW THAT GRACE CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVE ON HOW TO LIVE**

The first thing to keep sin from overtaking us is to know that grace changes our perspective on how to live, it doesn’t give us license to sin! Verses 1-2:

**(Rom 6:1-2 NKJV) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? {2} Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

Where sin abounds grace much more abounds, but that doesn't mean that we have a free license to sin. This is a great misunderstanding of what grace does in our lives. We are not the same person once we have been saved by grace. Once we are justified by Christ, declared righteous, and have the gift of eternal life, we are to look at the world differently. But sometimes we get confused about the nature of grace and God's forgiveness.

*In his book "What's So Amazing About Grace," Christian author Philip Yancey writes about a friend who invited him out for a cup of coffee one night (Yancey 179-80). This friend, it turns out, is contemplating leaving his wife after 15 years of marriage because he's found someone younger and prettier, someone he says makes him feel alive. As a Christian, Yancey's friend knows his decision will devastate his wife and permanently damage his three kids. He also knows that his relationship with God will never be the same again. Even so, the force pulling him toward this other woman was like a powerful magnet. So finally he asks Philip Yancey, "Do you think God can forgive something as awful as I'm about to do?"*

Because of a misunderstanding of grace, many people through the years have felt that grace actually encourages people to live sinful, immoral lives because forgiveness is so easy. That's exactly what Philip Yancey's friend was looking for. The reasoning goes like this: Why try to be good if you already know in advance you will be forgiven? Why not live like the devil, enjoying every minute of it, and then ask for forgiveness in the eleventh hour? The French philosopher Voltaire captured this idea when he said, "God will always forgive...that's his job." But is this what grace teaches us? Paul in no uncertain terms says, **"God forbid, How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"**

Grace changes things in our life. Grace overcomes our sins. God can forgive the darkest sins in our lives. But when we come into God's grace it does change how we view sin.

## **KNOW THAT YOU ARE DEAD TO SIN**

What perspective on our relationship to sin does grace show us? We need to know that we have died to sin or we are "dead to sin!" Dead to sin!!!!

How can this be? When I was a younger Christian I puzzled over this statement. How could I be dead to sin when I seem to be drawn to sin at times? Sin, like a magnet, pulls me in it direction. How could Paul say that we are dead to sin?

Paul will explain how this can be in verses 2-11. He concludes in verse 11 by stating again:

**(Rom 6:11 NKJV) Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The key phrase is we are dead to sin “in Christ Jesus our Lord.” When a person is ‘in Christ Jesus’ his relationship to sin changes as well as his relationship to God. Let’s look at Paul’s argument.

Paul starts by reminding us of the our baptism.

**(Rom 6:3-4 NKJV) Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

What baptism is Paul referring to? Is he speaking of water baptism or another? Notice that it says that we were baptized INTO CHRIST. It does not say baptized into water. Baptism does not always have to do with water in the NT. John the Baptist talked about being baptized with fire. (I believe he was referring to the Holy Spirit). Jesus spoke of being baptized with a baptism the disciples were not able to be baptized with. He was probably speaking of being overwhelmed by the cross to death. I Cor. 10:2 Paul says that OT Israel was baptized into Moses. They were united to Moses as their leader.

What does it mean to be baptized into Christ? It means that we are united to him in a way that what He went through you went through. Did he die on the cross? Yes. Did you die with Him? Yes. Did he rise from the dead? Yes. Did you rise from the dead? Yes. What Jesus did for you in his death and resurrection, you were there in Him.

Having died to sin is not an inward experience that I have today. It is the objective relationship based on what Christ experienced. Just think about it. When did Christ die to sin? On the cross 2,000 years ago. If my old man was crucified with Christ when did I died to sin?

*The famous Baptist preacher, Robert G. Lee, was visiting Gordon's Calvary at Jerusalem several years ago. By the way, I heard Robert G. Lee speak one time. He came to the college I attended and preached his famous sermon, "Pay Day, Someday!" He was every bit as powerful as his reputation made him out to be.*

*Well, Lee was visiting Jerusalem at the place where Jesus was crucified. The tour guide asked, "Have you ever been here before?" To which Lee replied, "Yes, 2,000 years ago!"*

We have all been there before, because we were "in Christ" when He died on the Cross. Therefore we all died to sin.

You have a special relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship is called "in union with Christ," or you have been "united with Christ." Look at verse 5.

**(Rom 6:5 NKJV) For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,**

Understanding how we are dead to sin is connected to understanding how we are "united" with Christ.

We saw in Romans 5 where Adam and Christ are compared. Because Adam was the Head of the human race man's union with Adam meant that in Adam all are sinners, all are judged, all are condemned. But Christ becomes our second Adam and those in union with Christ are made righteous, are justified, and reign in eternal life. This is the objective side of "union with Christ."

God sees you, as a believer, in terms of what your Representative, Jesus Christ, is and did. This means that what Christ experienced you have already experienced in God's sight. What the Father has bestowed upon Christ, He has bestowed upon you.

In verses 6-7 Paul makes the ethical implications of our being united with Christ in his death clear.

**(Rom 6:6-7 NKJV) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. {7} For he who has died has been freed from sin.**

In verse 6 Paul says that "our 'old man' was crucified with Christ that the 'body of sin' may be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." This is a great truth. The 'body of sin' is the 'old man.' The 'old man' is the old person that was only in union with Adam. That old man was crucified.

To know that you have died to sin through your union with Christ should repel you from sin, not draw you to sin. When you were baptized you were giving testimony that you take Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You take Jesus as you own, you are taking his death to be your death. You are taking his life to be your life.

## KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALIVE TO GOD

This leads us to the next thing you are to know. We are to know that you are ALIVE TO GOD.

Grace teaches us to run from sin, because we are dead to sin and grace teaches us to run to God because we are alive to God in Christ Jesus. We are alive to God's presence. We are alive to God's purposes for us. We are alive to God's power.

Let me illustrate it this way.

*Imagine if you will two watermelon seeds lying side by side. One of those seeds is the real thing. The other is one that a scientist has created. It looks like a watermelon seed; it has the same texture and color. But there is one thing that is missing in the man-made seed -- it doesn't have life in it.*

*You put both seeds in the ground and give to them warmth and nourishment and one seed will sprout and bear a watermelon vine, but the other will just lie there and eventually rot in the ground.*

Because of your relationship with Jesus Christ, you are alive unto God. You are a living seed. You are a God-made seed. You have God's life in you and you can respond to the warmth of His love and the working of His Spirit. Your life can grow and bloom into beautiful fruit to the Lord -- and it is his fruit working in you.

Knowing that you are alive unto God and that His life is within you will empower you to not live according to your old man, which has been crucified with Christ. Knowing that you are alive unto God will cause you to run from sin to which you have died to. Knowing that you are alive unto God will make you live according to the new man, which you are in Christ, which is how Jesus lived.

## CONCLUSION

Can you see now why a person who has come into the grace of God cannot continue to live in sin? Can you see why Paul started this chapter with the question,

**What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? {2} Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

Grace changes our attitude towards sin, our relationship with God, and our goal in life.

To finish the true story shared by Phil Yancey:

*Philip Yancey says he sat across the table from his friend for quite a while before answering his friend's question. He says the question lay on the table like a live snake, and only after three cups of coffee did he dare answer it. His answer went something like this: "Can God forgive you? Of course. You know the Bible. Forgiveness is our problem, not God's. But what we have to go through to commit sin distances us from God...and there's no guarantee we will ever come back. You ask me about forgiveness now, but will you even want it later, especially if it involves repentance? Can God forgive? Yes. Will you be the kind of person who wants God's forgiveness? That's another question entirely."*

Paul finishes his argument by saying:

**(Rom 6:11 NKJV) Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Amen? Amen!