

Romans

PART 09

DEAD TO SIN,
ALIVE IN CHRIST

A New Identity

We have seen from Romans that before we believed in Christ we were dead in sin, enslaved to the passions of our flesh. Now in Christ we are dead **to** sin, made alive unto God with peace and freedom. The grace of God has abounded beyond our sinfulness, and we have been forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ. Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life. So what do we do about sin now that we have believed? Chapter 6 addresses how we deal with sin by discussing how Christ conquered over it through his death and resurrection. It explains how our new identity in him affects everything we do. We have been given a new kind of life through the holy spirit. Slavery to sin is abolished, and through Christ's victory the Christian overcomes sinfulness and worldliness. Sin can feel complicated, but really the solution is simple. It's a matter of being dead or alive. If we are dead to sin, we can act according to who we are and put on the righteousness of God in our lives.

Chapter Highlights

VS 1-2

Jesus has reversed the curse of sin, becoming a curse for us. However, this doesn't give us license to use grace for our own sinful desires. **We shouldn't keep doing whatever we want just because Jesus paid our debt.** Rather, grace should cause our hearts to want to turn from sin, giving us the ability to love and serve God the way we were always intended to.

PEOPLE ARE EITHER DEAD IN SIN OR DEAD TO SIN:

1. DEAD IN SIN

Not having believed in Jesus, those who are dead in sin are trapped in trespasses and can only live out their spiritual deadness. Sin dresses itself like freedom, but in reality it is bondage. You can't even live outside your own fleshly cravings.

2. DEAD TO SIN

By dying, we've been made free from sin, because sin can't rule over a dead person.

VS 1-2 CONT.

Seeing ourselves in this new way is more than just a list of do's and don'ts. The call is not, "don't do that because it's bad," but instead, "you're now dead to that sin; that's not who you are anymore." Those things which used to enslave us can't make a dead person show up for work. We can't avoid the temptations and trials of sin because of the corrupt world in which we live, but we can recognize we don't belong to it anymore. If we try to address sin by willpower and works alone, or if we continue in sin ignoring the grace that has freed us, we will feel empty and powerless.

VS 3-5

BAPTISM INTO DEATH: This means we are immersed into Christ's accomplishments for us through the holy spirit. We go in as one thing and come out something different. We submerge into his death and burial as if we were there doing it all with him, and we emerge united and identified with him in resurrection. He shares his life with us as our new and better master.

Jesus rose with endless life to God's glory in a new spiritual body. Something new came out of the grave. So we too should walk in newness of life; new spiritual life. Our feelings may not match who we are, but we are new despite any deadness we may feel inside. We have a new heart, new thoughts, and new desires through the transformative work of the holy spirit. This is another way we can answer the question: "**HOW DOES THE DYING AND RISING OF JESUS AFFECT EVERYTHING I DO?**"

"EVEN SO WE SHOULD WALK" - we must choose to walk this way, putting away the old hurtful ways of sin. But first it speaks to our identity, showing us that this choice isn't a self-willed striving but a grace-enabled, spirit-filled life and walk. By our own merit, we were never worthy to live in God's presence, but dying and rising with Christ makes us worthy to live with God because we have Jesus' resurrection life. Our walk in response to the grace of God is accounting what is already true of ourselves.

*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

COLOSSIANS 3:2-3

VS 6-7

THE OLD MAN: The old man is our former self, dead in sin, associated with Adam, and without spirit life. It is who I was before I died with Christ.

VS 6-7 CONT.

The old sinful-self is now dead, crucified with Christ like the evildoers who were literally crucified alongside him. The old man was crucified so that the body of sin (the flesh) would be made inactive, and therefore we would no longer serve sin. The person created for God's glory was hijacked by sin and got used for corrupt purposes, but our bodies are no longer enslaved. Fallen flesh is governed by sin, but we don't have to obey its deception anymore because we have a new master. This is why it's a simple matter of being dead or alive. To escape the bondage of sin you have to be made something new. A dead person is free from the grasp of sin. We don't overcome through the willpower of self, but through grace in Christ.

VS 8-10

Being alive with Christ now is a foretaste of what resurrection life will be like in the future. Looking through that eternal lens, we can see the corruption of this age and our true purpose. Jesus will never die again, and because he lives, we live. How does he live? Unto God! This is the purpose of life: being with God and living for him. Anything not "unto God" is deadness. As Christ shares his riches with us we should make his purposes our own as well.

VS 11

The "how" of doing this is recognizing that we ARE dead to sin and alive unto God. Therefore everything should be aimed at the glory of God. Our right response to the gospel is accounting the truth of who we are in Christ.

Conclusion

Jesus is the one who accomplished all of this on our behalf. Let us not reject what he did for us by saying regarding our fleshly desires: "this is just who I am." It's only who we are if we haven't died to self yet. Christ is now lord over our lives, and reckoning ourselves dead to sin and alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord helps us to get on board with grace and allow it to transform our lives.

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