

Romans Chapter 6

In (chapters 6-8), Paul begins to demonstrate the practical ramifications of salvation on those who have been justified. He specifically discusses the doctrine of sanctification, which is God's producing actual righteousness in the believer. He begins by arguing that, in spite of their past, all whom God has justified will experience personal holiness.

Romans 6:1 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?"

Paul anticipated the major objections of his critics, that by preaching a justification based solely on the free grace of God, he was encouraging people to sin.

This still is an ongoing discussion in the church today. Many believe that it is not necessary to live above sin. They feel that it is a natural thing to sin, and God will overlook sin. He surely knows their weakness. The flesh will sin, but we found in the previous lesson that our flesh must be dead so that our spirit can live. There are two forces in our body today, our flesh nature and our spirit nature.

Romans 6:2 "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

"God forbid" or "may it never be!" This expression is the strongest Greek idiom for repudiating a statement and it contains a sense of outrage that anyone would ever think the statement was true.

Galatians 2:19-20 "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God." "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."

You see, if Christ truly lives in us, we have *no desire* to sin any more. We no longer serve the lust of the flesh, but we follow the Spirit of God.

Romans 6:3 " Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"

This isn't referring to water baptism, but is a metaphorical way of saying of someone who was immersed in his work, or underwent his baptism of fire when experiencing trouble.

Christians have, by placing saving faith in Him, been spiritually immersed into the person of Christ. That is, united and identified with Him.

Romans 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."

We are buried a natural man and we are raised a spiritual man. We are a new creature in Christ. Old things have passed away, behold all things are made new. We are born again and not of corruptible flesh but of the Spirit of God. We walk no longer in the lust of the flesh, but with the guidance of the Spirit of God within us.

Since we have been united by faith with Him, as baptism symbolizes, His death and burial become ours.

“Walk in the newest of life” simply means that in Christ, we died and were buried with Him, and then we also have been united with Him in His resurrection. There is a new quality and character to our lives. This speaks of the believer’s regeneration, whereas sin describe the old life, righteousness describes the new.

Romans 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:"

Colossians 3:1-4 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." "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." "When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

We Christians live or die in Jesus. We are believers in and followers of Him. In fact, He has taken up His abode in us. As we read above, Christ in us.

Romans 6:6 "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

“Our old man” speaks of the believer’s unregenerate self. Not old in number of years, but something which is worn out and useless. Our old self died with Christ, and the life we now enjoy is a new divinely given life that is the life of Christ Himself.

Paul uses the terms “body” and “flesh” to refer to sinful propensities that are intertwined with physical weaknesses and pleasures. Although the old self is dead, sin retains a foothold in our temporal flesh or our unredeemed humanness, with its corrupted desires. The believer does not have two competing natures, the old and the new; but one new nature that is still incarcerated in unredeemed flesh.

We see a parallel Scripture to this (in Colossians 3).

Colossians 3:5 "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:"

Mortify means to deaden. We are to do away with all sin in the flesh and live to the Spirit of God.

“Might be destroyed” meaning rendered powerless or inoperative.

Romans 6:7 "For he that is dead is freed from sin."

“Is dead”: through his union with Christ, when our body dies, it no longer longs for things of the flesh. Sin is dead in us.

We have subdued the flesh man and become spirit.

Romans 6:8 "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:"

Our new life is in Christ, not in the flesh.

The context suggests that Paul means not only that believers will live in the presence of Christ for eternity, but also that all who have died with Christ, which is true of all believers, will live a life here that is fully consistent with His holiness.

Romans 6:9 "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him."

Jesus has won the victory over sin and death and for all of those who will follow him, He offers life everlasting.

2 Timothy 1:10 "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:"

1 Corinthians 15:26 "The last enemy [that] shall be destroyed [is] death."

1 Corinthians 15:54 "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

“No more dominion over him” meaning mastery, control or domination.

Romans 6:10 "For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God."

Jesus gave His body on the cross to pay the debts for the sins of all the world.

Hebrews 10:10 "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all]".

John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Christ died to sin in two senses:

1. In regard to sin's penalty, He met its legal demands upon the sinner; and

2. In regard to sin's power, forever breaking its power over those who belong to Him.

And His death will never need repeating.

Paul's point is that believers have died to sin in the same way.

"Liveth unto God" means for God's glory.

Verses 11-14: Paul addresses the logical conclusion of his readers: If the old self is dead, why is there continually a struggle with sin and how can the new self become dominant? His exhortation is contained in 2 key words: "reckon" and "present".

Romans 6:11 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"Likewise" implies the importance of his readers' knowing what he just explained. Without that foundation, what he is about to teach will not make sense. Scripture always identifies knowledge as the foundation for one's practice.

"Reckon": While it simply means to count or number something, it was often used metaphorically to refer to having an absolute, unreserved confidence in what one's mind knows to be true. The kind of heartfelt confidence that affects his actions and decisions.

Paul is not referring to mind games in which we trick ourselves into thinking a certain way. Rather he is urging us to embrace by faith what God has revealed to be true.

2 Corinthians 4:11 "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

"Through Christ or in Christ" is Paul's favorite expression of our union with Christ. This is its first occurrence in Romans.

Romans 6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

This is plainly saying that we must get the flesh under the control of the spirit.

Our mortal body is the only remaining repository where sin finds the believer vulnerable. The brain and its thinking processes are part of the body and thus tempt our souls with its sinful lusts.

As I said before, our will, will be controlled by the spirit or the flesh. If the lusts of the flesh control you, then you do not belong to God.

Romans 6:13 "Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God."

Yield or present refers to a decision of the will. Before sin can have power over a believer, it must first pass through his will. Our members are the parts of our physical body, the headquarters from which sin operates in the believer.

Notice here, that it is in our power to control this. There is a war constantly between the flesh and the spirit. We must not yield to temptation. One of the easiest ways to not be tempted is to be reading and studying God's word every day and stay busy.

(Ephesians chapter 6), is a good Scripture to study to learn how to battle for the Lord (verse 10), is good place to begin.

Instruments of righteousness are tools for overcoming that which violates God's holy will and law.

Roman Chapter 6 Questions

1. What foolish question is in verse 1?
2. Our flesh must be dead that our _____ may live
3. What are the two forces in our body?
4. In verse 2, we find that Christians should be dead to_____.
5. In Galatians chapter 2:20, we find that we must be _____ with Christ.
6. I live, yet not I, but _____ liveth with me.
7. If we be Christ's we no longer serve the _____ but we follow the _____ of God.
8. When we were baptized, we were baptized into Jesus _____.
9. Verse 4 tells us after we are baptized we should walk in _____.
10. We are buried a _____ man and we are raised a _____ man.

11. If we are planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of what?
12. Where does Christ sit?
13. What should we set our affections on?
14. When Christ shall appear, where will we be?
15. Our old man is crucified with him, that the body of _____ might be destroyed.
16. What are we told to do in Colossians 3:5?
17. What does Mortify mean?
18. Verse 7 says, he that is dead is _____ _____ _____.
19. Our new life is in whom?
20. What proved that death had no dominion over Christ?
21. 2 Timothy 1:10, Jesus abolished death and brought two things to light through the gospel; what were they?
22. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is what?
23. How are we Christians sanctified?
24. Who called Jesus the Lamb of God?
25. How can we be alive to God?
26. We must be born of two things other than flesh, what are they?
27. In verse 12, what two words indicate that we have the power not to sin?
28. What is the war that is constantly going on within us?
29. What Scripture tells us how to fight the spiritual war?