

Gospel Therefore

Gospel Fight

Choosing to Live Like You're Alive

Romans 5:1-11; 20-6:14

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, July 29, 2012

Rom. 1-3:20 – SIN

Rom. 3:21-5:21 – SALVATION – justification by faith in Christ's finished work on the cross.

Rom. 6-8 – SANCTIFICATION – the ongoing process of breaking the POWER of sin that still remains in your life.

As a Christian you LIVE with one foot in two different worlds. You live in the tension between the 'Already' and the 'Not yet.' We're already justified, redeemed, ransomed, forgiven, adopted, accepted... BUT we're not yet home... we're not yet completely removed from the presence and power of sin in our lives.

Romans 5:1-11; 20 - 6:14

Two Choices you'll have to make to consistently live out the truth these verses.

I. Stop Being Such a Sloppy Thinker & a Lazy Theologian

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

It matters what you think about yourself. Your theology matters - both what you think about God and what you think about yourself and what He's done for you.

The word *reckon* is the translation of a Greek word that's used **41x** in the New Testament—**19x** in the book of Romans alone. And it means "to take into account, to calculate, to estimate."

God says, 'I want you to take into account that you are dead to sin now!' There's been a radical change that you won't necessarily FEEL. So you better know it, mark it down, factor it into your life and calculate this into the equation of your thinking.

A. It Matters What You Think as You Head into this Battle Everyday – and you are heading into a battle!

So you cannot be a sloppy thinker or an IGNORANT Christian because ignorant Christians quickly become casualties! You better know what God says about you, or you won't make it.

B. You Better Know What God Says about You – Who You are and Where you Stand in the Battle - or you won't last

Wars are won or lost with sharp minds that are clear on WHO we are and WHERE we are.

You better know who you are in Christ, and what God has done for you before you step onto the battlefield.

When the battle heats up and things are intense, your flesh will scream at you that you can't do it; and your enemy, Satan, will lie to you that you can't do it. So you better have the words of God reverberating in your head and heart – 'Reckon yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God!'

1. **You've had a Funeral** –
"reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin"
2. **You've had a Birth** –
"but alive to God"

II. Stop Living like You're Still Ruled by Sin & Can't Say 'No'

Romans 6:12 "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts."

Lit. in the Greek it says, 'Stop allowing sin to reign in your mortal body.'

This is what's been going on in your life from birth and there was nothing you could do about it because you were slaves to sin... BUT now you don't have to keep living that way.

But now, when you put your faith in the finished work of Christ – 'King Sin' was toppled and dethroned in your life. Now it's your responsibility to keep it from mounting the throne of your heart again because it will if you'll let it.

Romans 6:12 "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts."

The word "**Lust**" in v. 12 is *epithumia*; it's not always a bad word. It just means 'to long for' or to have a 'strong desire for something.'

So here's what you're really up against after you get saved:

You still have sinful rebel desires that are skirting around in the shadows of your heart that you were born with, that you've coddled and trained for years depending on how long you lived before becoming a Christian.

And Satan will keep calling to those sinful rebel desires to see if they'll respond like they used to. And you COULD... but you don't HAVE to anymore... because you have a new King – Jesus!

Romans 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Being under the reign of Grace now means that you have PARDON and POWER to say 'No' to sin.

John Owen, "Be killing sin or it will be killing you."

Questions for Small Group

- Do you know who you are in Christ?
- Are you actively engaged in hand-to-hand combat with your rebel desires before they get entrenched again on the throne of your life?
- Are you killing sin... or is it killing you?