

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation
17 - Do Christians Have a License to Sin? Part 2
Romans 6:1-6
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney

There are Changes that take place in your life when you are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, plus nothing!

I. As a Christian You Have a Brand New Relationship to Sin Now – that Gives You a License to Kill It

Justification by faith is so much more than a legal transaction between you and God. It doesn't just clear your record in heaven and leave you living the same way you were before. Justification by faith is the start of some brand new relationships – starting with the way you relate to sin.

Romans 6:6 “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.”

The person who's alive in Christ doesn't want to go on in sin; when they do they're some of the most miserable people of all!

You're licensed to kill sin!

II. You Have a Brand New Relationship with a Risen Savior!

You've been UNITED together with Christ! He lives in you and through you, so it's no longer a question of what YOU can do. It's what Christ can do THROUGH you!

Romans 6:3-5 “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection”

#1 When Christ died on the cross, in some crucial, life-altering, theological, and practical sense believers died with Him.

#2 When Christ rose again from the grave, in some crucial, theological, and life-altering sense believers also rose with Him and were made alive together in Christ.

#3 Believers are commanded to become in PRACTICE what we ALREADY ARE in Christ: dead to sin and alive to God!

For the rest of our lives, by God's grace and for His glory, we're to work at closing this gap between the 'Already' and the 'Not yet.' Between what is already true about us, and how we actually live.

If you're a Christian, there's a UNION that's taken place. Whatever happened to Christ happened to you. When He died, you died. When He arose, you arose in Him. And you're now seated with Him in the heavenlies! That's your position, status and privilege now!

Ephesians 2:4-6 "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

The chains of sin have been broken so that you can be united to Christ.

Romans 7:4 "Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God."

Galatians 2:19-20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

The focus of Christianity is a relationship, and the center of that relationship is Christ.

III. Don't Rush Past these Foundational Truths of Identification with Christ in a Hurry to Jump into Battle with Sin

You need to know who Christ is and what He's done, as well as who you are now in Christ and what you're capable of doing. Or your flesh will try to define it for you.

Too often we expect the Bible to follow the marketing acrostic "KISS" – "Keep it Simple Stupid." But God's not marketing anything. He's REVEALING Himself, and His great work of salvation, and there's a mystery and complexity to some of it.

"They were giants whose roots were incredibly deep in the Bible, and whose branches reached to the heavens, and whose trunks were so strong and durable they could endure forest fires that scar them but don't kill them." And then Packer looked out over the pragmatic American landscape of our quick fixes for life's problems and our impatience with depth and complexity and pain, and he said, "Affluence seems for the past generation to have been making dwarfs and deadheads of us all."

J. I. Packer, *Quest for Godliness* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1990), p. 11-12

- Are you a spiritual dwarf or a Redwood?
- How deep are your roots?

Your roots are what will determine how much you'll endure in your fight against sin.