

## Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

### 18 - Are Christians Really Dead to Sin?

#### Romans 6:1-14

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney

#### I. You Better Know What God Says is True about You Whether You Feel Anything or Not

When Christ died, you died.

**Romans 6:6** "Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with..."

**Romans 6:8** "Now if we died with Christ . . ."

The "old man" is the **me** that was rebellious to God, blind to God's glory, and unbelieving toward his promises.

Without the Bible most of us just tend to **feel** our way through life instead of thinking. And feelings are too often our closest counselor deciding for us what we can and can't do.

We need to **know** truth about ourselves now in Christ.

**Romans 6:3** "Or do you not **know** that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

**Romans 6:6-7** "**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. For he who has died has been freed from sin."

**Romans 6:9** "**Knowing** that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him."

We're set free from sin first and foremost by the once and for all removal of our **guilt** and **condemnation** the moment you put your trust in Christ and were justified.

**Literally v. 7** says, "For he who has died is **justified** from sin." (Greek word 'diakao' is better translated 'justified' instead of 'freed')

There's a deeper way that sin enslaves us, and that's the way it keeps us in the grip of GUILT and makes you feel hopeless... thinking you can never be forgiven!

So many people can't get any traction or progress going in their fight against the attractive LIE of sin because they still don't have a settled sense that they've escaped the GUILT of that sin. Guilt keeps you re-circulating back through the same sin over and over again. It's one of Satan's favorite weapons to keep us from ever really getting free and moving forward in holiness.

"As long as I am stricken with the guilt of my sins, I will be captive to them, and will often find myself re-committing the very sins about which I feel most guilty. The Devil is well aware of this fact; he knows that if he can keep me tormented by sins guilt, he can dominate me with sin's power. The gospel, however, stays sin at this root point and thereby nullifies sin's power over me. The forgiveness of God, made known to me through the gospel, liberates me from sins power because it liberates me first from its guilt; and preaching such forgiveness to myself is a practical way of putting the gospel into operation as a nullifier of sin's power in my life." *The Gospel Primer*, Milton Vincent, pg. 19

- Do you KNOW that you've been justified from sin? That the guilt and condemnation of sin has been removed once and for all?

Verse 7 goes right to the deepest root of our slavery to sin and says, "He who has died is justified from sin." The guilt is taken away first, so that the lure and deception can be broken.

## II. You Better Choose to Start Believing What God Says about You and Stepping Out to Live by Faith instead of Feelings

What you believe determines how you behave!

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

This applies to every Christian, but you have to believe it and apply it to your own life. "Likewise **you also!**"

Satan knows He can't wipe out God's word, so he works to put space between you and the *reality* of that Word.

## III. You'll Need to Work Hard to Shake Off and Shift Out of Auto-Pilot and Go in a New Direction with Your Thinking and Choices

You'll have to be willing to ACT on the truth of who God says you are every moment of every day – instead of just going with the flow. God's real purpose and plan for us is **transformation**, not just **information**.

It's in those moments when your own sinful desires, and what God is saying, and what Satan is lying to you about all converge that you have to make decisions. That's where the battle is won or lost.

**Rom. 6:12-13** "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

Even though we've died to sin and cannot "live in" or "continue in" sin, we **can** still sin, and we **do** still sin, but when we do it's our **own choice** now.

## IV. You'll Never Just Muscle Your Way Theologically Out of Sin – without the Grace of God!

**Romans 5:1-2** "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into **this grace** in which we stand."

It's the grace of God in conjunction with the truth of God that enables you to say 'No' to sin!

**Titus 2:11-14** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

**The Bible never expects us to try to obey God's commands  
in ISOLATION apart from the serious CONTEMPLATION  
of God's work for us in Christ.**