

Lesson 5: Romans 6-7

Union with Christ and Grace for Living

Review:

By believing the gospel one is declared righteous by God (1:16-17). This righteousness is a gift from God (5:17). It is the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to those who believe even as Abraham did (4:1-25; Phil. 3:9; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21).

Believers have been taken out of Adam (5:12) and put “into Christ” (5:15-18). Grace has triumphed over the sin of Adam.

Going Forward:

Because God justifies the believing sinner even while they are ungodly (4:5) does this mean we can go on sinning that grace may abound (6:1-2). Our new life in Christ and our deliverance from the power of sin is described in Romans 6-8.

Outline: Union with Christ (6:1-10)

- I. What God Wants Us to KNOW! (1-10)
- II. What God Commands us to Do! (11)
- III. Stop Letting Sin Rule You and Start Presenting Yourself to God! (12-13)

IV. We Live Under Grace not Law (6:14-15; 7:1-25).

How to live as a Christian begins with understanding and obeying the teachings of Romans 6. As we grasp and follow this way of thinking and doing we live out Jesus Christ as we walk by the Spirit.

Let us walk through the outline to see the kind of life God intends for His child to live.

I. What God Wants Us to Know!

What you do not know can kill you or ruin you. God wants us to know certain truths in 6:1-10. What is it He wants us to know?

1. You died with Christ. V. 3

2. You have been baptized into Christ. V. 3

1 Cor. 12:13; Galatians 3:27. This is not water baptism but a baptism into a new identity: 1 Cor. 10:1.

3. You have been Crucified with Christ. V. 6
Gal.2:20

4. You are Alive in Christ so that you may walk in newness of life. Vs. 4, 9

Over and over we are told “we died”.

- Immersed into death. 6:3
- Buried with him through the immersion into death 6:4
- Grafted into the likeness of his death. 6:5
- Our union with Adam (5:12) was crucified with him: 6:6
- We have died. 6:7
- We have died with him. 6:8

We are to be a corpse with regard to sin and the old life in Adam.

II. What God Commands Us to Do! 6:11

“Reckon” your self dead to sin but alive to God. This is the first command in the book. “Reckon” is a present imperative meaning “do this continually” or “continue doing this”: LKNT, 362).

1. “Reckon” or “Count” yourself dead to sin.

“Reckon” or logizomai means “to assume”, “to reckon”. Arndt-Gingrich define this word “as a result of calculation evaluate, estimate, look upon as, consider.” (Arndt and Gingrich Lexicon, p.477, b.)

NO longer are we seen as a part of the fallen race but are seen in Christ. No longer is our purpose to be instruments of sin but we have been saved to become instruments for God.

When sin knocks at your door your reply should be “I am unavailable”---I am dead to you---I died with Christ and I am dead to you.

2. Reckon yourself to be Alive to God the Father.

This is the positive mental perspective we are to live with. Dead to the appeals of sin, but alive to the Father. Sin brought physical and relational death between God and man. Relational death has ended for the believer now while we await our rapture or resurrection from physical death.

Adam and Eve began hiding and blaming when sin came. In Christ the believer is no longer to hide or withhold from the Father anything. We are to come boldly before God's throne with confidence because of the work of Christ for us (Hebrews 10:19-22; 4:14-16; we have permanent access Rom. 5:2).

Some of the Assumptions of Romans 6:11 are:

- We are to assume we are completely dead to union with Adam (5:12-18); it is gone.
- We are to assume that the relational and spiritual death that came with sin is over.
- We are to assume condemnation is gone and we are permanently justified.
- We are to assume we are not to stay within the status of sinners because that is nullified. We are viewed as sons.
- We are to assume we must abandon ourselves to a living relationship to the Father and ignore completely the call of sin within by focusing on the Father.

This is contrary to how we lived and thought before coming to Christ.

1. Previously we have never assumed we are alive continuously to the Father.
2. Previously we had never assumed our Union with Christ.
3. Previously we always listened to our appetites.
4. Previously we have never built our life around Holy Spirit promptings or leadings. The Holy Spirit was not in us.
5. Previously our perspective has been Earthly/Worldly and sensual.
6. Previously our mind has been a slave to the flesh.
7. Previously we have lived for ourselves and not for others.

III. Stop Obeying Sin and Start Presenting Your Life to God: 6:12-13, 16-23

1. Stop letting Sin Rule your life: 12

“Rule” like a “king”. It is a command to stop Continuously obeying this defeated foe.

“Lusts” is the word epithumia: strong desires. It is sometimes translated “covet” or “evil desires.” Desires for that which is forbidden.

Desires outside the will of God. The Sin of Adam and Eve is they wanted the one thing in all creation that God forbade.

2. Start Presenting yourself and the members of your body at God's disposal: 13

This is a call for immediate and decisive action (Aorist Imperative). Make your break from sinful living and being available to sin. Do it as an act or decisely and not just a gradually.

3. There are Two Masters: Sin or the God who Saves! 16-23

Sin Master Who Kills

Loving Father

You are a slave to whoever you obey

v. 16

Sin = death

Righteousness

Old life we served sin

serve God—be Holy

Sin brings shame

Holy-set apart for

Death

God

Wages of sin:death

Eternal Life
Gift of God: Life

Bob Dylan caught the message in “You Gotta Serve Somebody”, it may be the Lord or the Devil but you have to serve somebody.

Our sins are killing us, killing our families, killing our nation, and filling eternity with lost and unfulfilled people.

IV. We Live Under Grace and Not Law! 6:14-15; 7:1-25

1. Believers have died to the law and joined to Christ. Vs. 1-6

Question: Can the believer live the kind of life that is pleasing to God by the Spirit without law?

2. The law was good and intended to reveal sin: 7-13.

3. The testimony of a defeated believer under law: 14-25.

- A life of frustration and contradictions 14-20
- The law of sin in me defeated me even though I assent to the law as good: 21-23
- My mind is free and able to see the battle within me and the lack of power to overcome: 23
- Sin vs. law---sin always wins.
- He cries for help. Unsaved men do not delight in God's law (v.22) nor do they ask for God's help to overcome their sin (v.25). This is the cry of a defeated believer living under law.

There is no mention of the Spirit in this testimony. This man is looking to the law that has no POWER to deliver from the indwelling POWER OF SIN. HOW CAN GOD DELIVER US FROM THE INDWELLING POWER OF SIN?

A Christian feels wretched in defeat until they learn to rely on the gift of God's Spirit. The cry for help will be answered in 8:1-4.

We will look at Romans 8 next week.