

Romans 6

Romans 6:1-14 - The Gospel of Newness!

Scriptures:

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue

G1961 – keep on,
persevere.

Notes:

Paul is going to address a danger that comes from teaching that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone and not of works. Some might interpret this doctrine to mean that sin doesn't matter. When he said in Romans 5:20, ... where sin abounded, grace abounded much more... he knew some would twist that to allow them to justify living any way they wanted to.

~~xxx~~ in sin that ~~xxx~~ grace may abound?

G4121 – become
more and more.

Scriptures:

² Certainly not! How shall we who ~~xxx~~ died to ~~xxx~~ sin

G599 – “to be apathetic ⇔ be
dead v. — to be completely
indifferent toward (in feeling,
reaction, or response);
conceived of as being dead
with respect to something.”

Notes:

Nowhere in the Bible are we encouraged to sin.

Paul is concerned about the teaching going on in the Roman churches. Good doctrine is necessary for good living. Good doctrine is the result of faithfully learning about God, His Word, and His will for the world.

~~xxx~~ live any longer in it? ~~xxx~~

G2198 – behave.

“Paul was convinced that Christian living depends on Christian learning, that duty follows doctrine.” (Hughes, 1991) page 122

Three times in verses 2 to 10 Paul uses the word ‘know.’

Paul asks a rhetorical question here. If we died to sin upon putting our faith in Christ, then we cannot live in sin any longer. To live in sin is to continue in habitual sin. Even as believers, we continue to sin. If our faith is real, it bothers us when we sin and we are quick to repent and try not to sin. Those who know what sin is and choose to live in sin, they may not be saved.

To help us understand this, Paul uses baptism as a metaphor.

³ Or do you not know that as many of us as

were baptized into Christ  Jesus were

baptized into His  death? 

Notes:

[Verses 3 to 5]

Baptism is one of the two sacraments that Jesus left us. Communion is the other. A sacrament is a sacred or holy act or rite. We believe every believer should regularly partake of Communion, that is why we do it once a month here at the church. Baptism is something a believer only needs to do once. Neither Communion nor baptism saves anyone. Both are practiced after someone has come to faith in Christ.

What Paul is saying here is that baptism is a shadow of a spiritual truth. My hand is casting a shadow. The shadow is not my hand but it a representation of my hand. The shadow proves the reality of my hand. Baptism is a representation of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

When we are baptized, we are making a public confession of our association with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. The spiritual imagery is powerful here. When we were baptized, we are saying that Christ's death was in our place. When we go down into the water, we are telling the world that Jesus died for my sins.

Scriptures:
2 Corinthians 5:17 -
Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, he is a new creation;
old things have passed
away; behold, all things
have become new.

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through

Notes:
'buried with Him' – says that we are
no longer slaves of sin. Death breaks
the bonds of slavery to sin. Faith in
Christ Jesus makes us free to walk in
righteousness rather than in sin.

baptism into death, that just as Christ was

When we are raised out of the water
in baptism we are proclaiming our
faith in the promise of eternal life
with Christ. All Christ-followers will
be resurrected in bodies that cannot
be touched by sin.

raised from the dead by the glory of the

Paul then exhorts us what we should
do with this knowledge, walk in the
newness of life.' There is a verse we
quote during baptism that points to
this newness of life (2 Corinthians
5:17). This newness of life begins at
salvation, and is proclaimed through
baptism. For many people salvation
came with radical changes, like
quitting drugs or leaving immoral
relationships. For others newness of
life is more subtle, maybe they
aren't as angry or they worry less.
When God the Holy Spirit comes into
your life at salvation, He comes to
change you, to make you holy, to
make you better. In fact, if
someone's life doesn't start
changing after they say they are
saved, they might not actually be
saved. God loves you exactly the
way you are right now, but He loves
you too much to leave you that way.
God's goal for your life is to be like
Christ – to be perfect!

Father, even so we also should walk in

newness of life.

G2538 – "newness n.
— the quality of
being original and of
a kind not seen
before."

Paul says we 'should walk in the
newness of life' which means we
must choose that. Newness of life is
walking in the power of the Holy
Spirit as He leads, guides, and
directs. It means we have turned
away from past sins and ungodly
lifestyles and habits.

Scriptures:

⁵ For if we have been united together in the

G4854 – made
one with. Planted
together.

Notes:

By faith, we have been joined to Christ. Because we are one with Christ, we are joined to His death and therefore joined to His resurrection. That means we will be raised from the dead to eternal life.

likeness of His death, certainly we also shall

G4854 – be one
with.

be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

Scriptures:

Romans 7:22-24 - For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified

Notes:

'our old man' was our life before Christ. This was us while we were still slaves to sin.

with Him, that the body of sin

One of the ways we should see our old man, if we are Christ-followers, is as crucified with Christ. Every time we sin; we should remind ourselves that that part of our life died with Christ on the cross. If we sin, we are picking up the corpse of our old man and carrying it around with us. That is the sense of Paul's cry of desperation ([Romans 7:22-24](#)). Paul answers his own question – it is Christ who delivers us.

might be done away with, that we should no

G2673 – put an
end to.

longer be slaves of sin.

Scriptures:

⁷ For he who has died ^Δ has been freed from

G1344 –
vindicated,
declared
righteous.

~~xxx~~
sin.

Notes:

Sin is what we do in these bodies that is contrary to the Word of God and His will. Once our body dies we are freed from sin. Once you die, your spirit/soul lives on. It is the body that is infected with sin. Once dead, we become sinless.

That applies to unbelievers too. Once an unbeliever dies, they are sinless. Unfortunately, if they died with their sins unforgiven, they must still experience the punishment for their sins because they rejected the only remedy – faith in Christ.

Scriptures:

⁸ Now if we died ^Δ with Christ [✝], we believe that

Notes:

we shall also live [✝] with Him [✝],

Scriptures:

⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised

Notes:

from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer

has dominion over Him.

G2961 – rules,
has authority
over.

Scriptures:

¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin

Notes:

'He died to sin once for all' – has the sense of once and never again. The book of Hebrews spends a lot of time on this concept. The sacrificial system of the Jews required sacrifices to be made repeatedly to satisfy God's wrath over sin. Jesus' death satisfied God's holy requirement for sin so completely that it never has to be repeated.

once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives

G2178 – once and
never again.

to God.

Scriptures:

¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be

G3049 - Consider.

Notes:

The word 'reckon' or 'consider' NASB is used 19 times in Romans. It means to impute or credit to one's account. This is meant to keep us from sinning. I am so thankful that we have repentance and forgiveness to deal with our sin when we blow it. Paul is telling us it would be so much better if we didn't sin in the first place.

dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ

When someone dies they become incapable of interacting with the world around them – they are dead. There wouldn't be temptation. The flesh would not cry out to be satisfied. One of the ways we sin less in this world is to learn to say no to our flesh. It is moment by moment letting the Spirit of God guide you in your choices.

Jesus our Lord.

Scriptures:

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal

G2349 – being subject to death.

Notes:

Notice, Paul says, 'do not let...' It is a choice. It is a choice to be angry when someone does or says something that offends or bothers you. It is a choice to be worried or afraid by the things you hear on the news. It is a choice to cheat on your spouse in your heart or in reality. It is choice to say something hurtful or mean. Every sin, small or great is a choice. And all big sins usually start off in small sinful choices.

body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

G1939 – deep desires.

All sin is a choice. Because we have the Holy Spirit living in us, we have the power to choose not to sin.

¹³ And do not present your members *as*

G3936 – be in
front of, stand
before.

Notes:

As important as it is to choose not to sin is the choice of presenting yourself to God for righteousness. One of the reasons some people struggle in their faith is because they are focused on not sinning thinking that will make them righteous. A more successful strategy is to focus on righteousness – being righteous and growing in righteousness – while at the same time saying no to sin. Righteousness is our highest goal, not sinning less.

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 [△].

Scriptures:

John 10:10b - I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

14 For ~~sin~~ shall not have dominion over you,

for you are not under law but under grace.

sin. If you can tolerate any sin in your life, it is because you don't love God enough. I am guessing that might feel a little offensive to you. Good. I should!

Love what God loves as much as God loves it or them and hate what God hates and much as God hates it. The main thing is loving God with all of your being. If you do that and allow the Holy Spirit to help you grow in righteousness, you will understand more clearly what it means to be dead to sin.

The main thing: Love God! Love God with your whole being! Every day, tell God how much you love Him. Every day, open this book and learn how to love Him more. Every day ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to love God more. And yes, loving God means hating sin, especially your own. Let loving God be your greatest desire.

When you received Christ as your Savior, you were given a new life. Choose today to walk in the newness of that life – walking with God – basking in the glory of His love every day.

Notes:

As a young man I served in the Navy. At one point, my immediate supervisor was a particularly unpleasant Chief Petty Officer. He seemed to take a perverse pleasure in making my life difficult. Admittedly, I was not the most respectful guy in the department. This Chief had dominion over me and there was nothing I could do about it. When I got out of the Navy, his rule over me ended. In a way, he was dead to me. He could no longer affect my life. If I had run into him again after I got out, he could attempt to rattle my cage, but he would have no authority, and I could just turn my back to him and walk away.

When we receive Christ, we died with Christ to sin. Sin will try to come up and mess with you. When it does, you have a choice. You can let it harm your life or you can remind yourself that you are dead to sin and turn your back to it and walk with Jesus in the Power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God the Father in righteousness.

In verse four, we were encouraged to walk in the newness of life. This is the life Jesus died to give us ([John 10:10b](#)). How it must break God's heart when His children fall short of the abundant life Jesus died to give us.

Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was. The sense of the question was, 'What one thing can I do that will please God?' Jesus responded with ([Matthew 22:37-40](#)). Jesus is saying that loving God is more important than anything else you can do with your life. But He also said that loving God includes keeping all the rest of His commandments.

Paul told us in this text that we must consider ourselves dead to sin but alive to God. One of the traits of a Christ-follower ought to be loving what God loves and hating what God hates. God loves every person He ever created, and so, as one of His children, I am called to love people – all of them.

God hates sin because sin separates Him from those He loves. Paul says we should reckon ourselves dead to sin. One of the ways we do that is to learn to hate sin as much as God hates it. And before we turn our eyes to the fallen world around us we must at our own heart and learn to be absolutely disgusted by any sin we might find there. There is a direct correlation between your love for God and your hatred of your own

[Top of Section](#)

[Top of Chapter](#)