

## Turn to Romans 6

Next time – this study is all about *mindset*. Seeing who we are in Christ. Crucified and resurrected. The reason this is necessary, we will always live like how we think. If we still sense ourselves as that old, weak us who was Dominated by sin. We will live that out, and we will be victimized sin. But, if we see who we are in , That we have already won the victory over sin at the cross, we will live that out. The shows how essential a Biblical Mind set is.

Next time: Sin is always a choice to deny the truth. It is always a choice to deny who you have become in Christ to return to something you no longer are.

### 1. Continue our look at who we are in Christ

A. We've seen how we were represented by Adam but now we are represented by Christ

B. We've seen that God views us through his perfect obedience and sufficient death

1). Christ lived that life God required of me to get into heaven for me

And died that death that paid the debt I owed because I couldn't live that life

2). We saw how God looks at our sin now – blots it out – promises not to bring it up again

**Thought:** So, legally we're OK with God – His law has nothing against us – the threat of hell is over

A. But now we must move to the practical – God no longer holds sin against us – saved from its penalty

1). But we must also see that we have been freed from its power

B. IOW God doesn't rescue us from the penalty of sin but leave us to be victimized and bullied by it

**Col 1:13 (NIV)** For he has *rescued* us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

1). God's plan of salvation is a plan of rescue – rescue from what?

a). The dominion of darkness – that realm where sin and rebellion reigned

b). We've been brought into Christ's kingdom characterized by holiness

2). Jesus told Paul his mission would be this

**A lot, c 26:18 (ESV)** to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light *and from the power of Satan to God...*

**Point:** Salvation has a legal and a practical side

A. Legally we've been rescued from the penalty of sin – God declares us to be “Not guilty”

B. Practically we are rescued from the power of sin so we can serve God

**Ro 6:17–18 (ESV)** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>(18)</sup> *and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

### 2. In this study we want to explore the practical side of being in Christ

A. What has God done so that I can live in victory over sin

1). So that those who are “In Christ” can begin to live “For Christ” in a consistent manner

B. As usual - the power to do this is found in understanding and applying truth

1). We need to see how the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ affect us

### 3. Outline: How we are going to approach this

A. Understanding our union with Christ's death

B. Applying the truth of our union to Christ's death

C. The necessity of faith to grasp this truth

## I. UNDERSTANDING OUR UNION WITH CHRIST'S DEATH

### 1. The truth we must see

A. Just as we were linked to Adam before salvation – in a sense we were in that garden sinning with him

- B. We are now linked to Christ on that cross – we were on that cross crucified with him  
**Look at: Ro 6:6 (ESV)** We know that our *old self was crucified with him...*  
**Ro 6:8 (ESV)** ...we have died with Christ...  
 1). That old us – the sinful nature – that loved sin and was hostile towards God was put to death

## 2. Notice when this happened: Past tense

- A. I *have died* with Christ, my old self *was crucified* with him.  
 1). I'm not waiting for some second touch or deeper blessing to happen  
 a). I'm not searching for some new group and new spiritual technique to make this happen  
 b). If I am a believer this has happened  
 2). My old self's obituary has already been recorded on the pages of the Bible.  
 B. When Christ was crucified my old self was put to death with him  
 1). My death is just as much a fact as Christ's death is.  
**How Paul put it: Ga 2:20 (ESV)** *I have been crucified with Christ. (Past tense. Therefore, the results)* It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.  
 2). We have died with Christ – how does this affect us? Paul tells us  
**Ro 6:6–7 (ESV)** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would *no longer be enslaved to sin.* <sup>(7)</sup> *For one who has died has been set free from sin.*

## 3. This is the truth of the finished work of Calvary

- A. This is one of those great differences between Christianity and religion  
 1). Religion is man's attempt to overcome sin in their own power  
 a). Christianity is God hanging that old self that sin dominated – that was enslaved to sin on the cross with Christ and putting it to death  
**Question:** Do you see what this means? Why this is so important to grasp?  
 A. So many believers feel they can't walk in victory over sin because they feel so weak  
 1). They end up chasing the new fads and techniques that supposedly will strengthen them  
 a). Hoping they'll discover some new spiritual key that will give them greater victory over sin  
 2). They cry out for more strength and can't understand why they still fail  
 B. I believe the starting point is not needing more strength – not finding some new technique  
 The starting point is always understanding the old truth – this truth  
**Watchman Nee:** God sets us free from the dominion of sin, not by strengthening our old man, but by crucifying him; not by helping him to do anything, but by removing him from the scene of action.  
 C. This is where we must start – we must see that we stand against temptation in the victory Christ won  
 1). We must see that our old self that loved sin has been defeated by Christ's death

## 3. Internal summary: What do we have so far?

- A. The Bible clearly teaches that the believer is united to Christ in his death on the cross  
 1). That old self that was enslaved to sin has been put to death  
 Therefore we are now free from sin so we can serve God  
**Ro 6:18 (ESV)** and, having been set free from sin, *have become slaves of righteousness.*  
**Transition:** So the first step in living in more victory over sin *is knowing* this sin defeating truth  
 A. That brings us to the second point – you must apply this truth  
 1). Just knowing it won't do you any good if you don't apply it

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# II. APPLYING THE TRUTH OF OUR UNION WITH CHRIST'S DEATH

**Ro 6:11 (ESV)** So you also must consider (reckon) yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### 1. The context is so important here – must see v. 11 in the flow of the thought

A. Too often we jump to application before we see the truths that make that application possible

1). Struggling with sin brother? Just reckon yourself to be dead to it

a). The poor believer is left to apply this in their own power – and they fail miserably

b). They aren't told why applying this truth is reasonable - logical

**Look at: Ro 6:6 (ESV)** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

**Ro 6:11 (ESV)** So you also must consider yourselves (reckon yourselves) dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A. The order here is so important isn't it? – the Spirit is very accurate in how he puts things

1). V. 6 we are told that our old self was crucified with Christ – God put it to death

a). Therefore we are no longer enslaved by sin

2). V. 11 commands us to believe that is really true because God who cannot lie said it was

B. We are to consider – to reckon – ourselves to be who God said we are

1). “Reckon” Logizomai = used in bookkeeping – it refers to accurate fact

a). If you have \$25 in the account – you record \$25 not \$30 because \$25 is truth - fact

b). Here God is exhorting us to do some accurate accounting – when it comes to this truth

1a). Write down I have died with Christ therefore should live like that happened

Why? Because that is accurate – that is fact – that is Romans 6:6

C. So God has done something that makes holy living reasonable – logical

1). He has put our old self to death – so that we are freed from the power of sin

He has broken the stranglehold of sin upon our life

2). So consider that to be fact – and let that truth govern how you live

**Thought 2:** Think of how this helps – we are no longer than trying to defeat sin in our own strength

A. We approach sin through the truth that God has already defeated it at the cross

1). We are entering into that victory Christ won at the cross

We are facing a foe that has already been defeated

B. Have you ever watched a boxing match – when one of the boxers is exhausted

1). They swing but there is no power in their punches – that is sin now

**Transition:** Let's be honest – this is going to take faith isn't it – let's look at that

## III. THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

### 1. What is faith in this context? = The acceptance that God's word is fact – truth

A. Faith says: “God said it, therefore it cannot be a lie”

1). In this case it is to believe and apply the truth that we hung on that cross with our Savior

And the victory over sin has already been won at the cross

B. That just as I believe him daily for justification - to bring rest in times of weakness and failure

1). That he does see me through the perfect obedience of Christ

C. Just as I believe him daily for forgiveness

1). That my sins have been cleansed by the shed blood – every offense blotted out

Past – present and future

D. Now I must believe this truth of crucifixion daily – to empower me to live in victory over sin

1). He has already won the victory – I am not who I used to be – the cross changed all that

- a). Now I can walk in holiness – now I should walk in holiness – that is to be the norm

**Transition:** But why is faith so important in doing this?

## 2. Why is it necessary to grip this by faith? A couple of reasons

**First: Because my life won't always look like this is true.**

- A. I will still be tempted and I won't always win that battle for personal holiness. (Paul Romans 7)
- 1). Because my life at times doesn't look and feel like I'm dead to sin  
Therefore, I can doubt it is actually true
  - 2). I can allow my experience overwrite what the Bible clearly says
- B. But faith is a determination to believe that God's word is true even when our experience is contrary

**Matthew Henry:** It is the business of faith to resolve doubts.

- 1). IOW when my experience cast doubt upon truth – faith will choose to side with truth
  - a). He said I have been crucified with Christ – He said I am dead to sin  
Therefore I choose to believe that regardless of what I'm experiencing at the time

**Second: Because we have an enemy who works very hard to create doubt about God's word**

**Eph 6:12 (ESV)** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- A. We saw in our first study in this series how the devil works.
- 1). He works hard to convince us that God's word is not the truth  
**Ge 3:4 (ESV)** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.
- B. Listen - every time God opens our eyes to another joy producing, Christ exalting, sin defeating truth, you can expect resistance
- 1). Because we are learning this morning that we are dead to sin
    - a). You can bet you will be tempted (probably today) to convince you this is not true
    - b). The tempter will whisper  
"If you're dead to sin why do you still feel such a strong tug towards it?"  
"Why did your temper flare up?" "Why did that thought just flow through your mind?"  
"Dead to sin! I don't think so."
  - 2). He will do his best to convince you that you are very much alive to sin
    - a). He will do his best to take your eyes off the scripture and fix them on to you
- C. Now you have a choice. Who are you going to believe?
- 1). The truth of God who cannot lie or Satan who is the "Father of lies?"
    - b). Will you choose to believe the clear teaching of Scripture?  
or let a subjective feeling completely overwrite that?

**Transition:** But, if we have died to sin, why do we still feel that tug towards it?

- A. That's a great question – let's try to figure that out – important we are accurate here
- 1). We don't want to be reckoning something is true that isn't true
- B. So the question is – why do we still feel that tug towards sin if we are dead to sin?

## 3. Scripture never says sin as a principle is eliminated

- A. Scripture warns us that it is very much alive – it's danger is very real  
**1 Pe 2:11 (ESV)** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to *abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.*
- B. So we must be very careful here in what we are considering - what we are reckoning
- 1). We are not reckoning (considering) that sin itself has died – Bible doesn't teach that  
What it does teach is that the sinner has been changed

- 2). In other words, while temptation remains as alive as ever  
The old us that readily gave in has been put to death.  
**Ro 6:6 (ESV)** We know that *our old self was crucified* with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, *so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*
  - a). The master sin is still very much alive – but its servant has been put to death
- 3). The sinner who used to be enslaved to sin, is now mastered by another  
**Ro 6:13 (ESV)** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**Point:** So, we are delivered not from the presence of sin but from the power of sin.

- A. We have died to its ability to force us to go its way. The stranglehold has been broken.
- B. Therefore – this is important – listen up

We no longer sin because we have too, *now we sin because we choose too*

- 1). This is why it is so important to drill these truths deep down into our thinking
  - a). To grasp them so clearly that they become a natural part of our thinking.
  - b). Because, if sin now is always a choice, I need truth that assists me in choosing correctly.
    - 1a). I need a biblical mindset to face this foe victoriously
- 2). I want to get this truth so fixed in my mind  
I become like Paul, who thought choosing sin for somebody dead to sin is absurd  
**Ro 6:1–2 (ESV)** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>(2)</sup> By no means! *How can we who died to sin still live in it?*
  - a). How can I give in to something I'm dead too? How foolish!

- C. This thought influences Paul's thinking throughout his writings

**Turn: Col 3:1–2 (ESV)** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>(2)</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- 1). Why should I set my mind my on things above and not on the things of earth?
  - a). This would include sinful things  
**Col 3:3 (ESV)** For (or because) *you have died*, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- 2). The logic is fantastic isn't it?
  - a). Quit trying to wring satisfaction out of something you're dead too.
  - b). You are now wired to find your fulfillment in Christ
    - 1a). When temptation comes knocking think about who you are  
You're a new creation in Christ – you're alive to him now
- 3). Sin will always leave you empty  
**J. Vernon McGee:** Someone has said "Life is what you are alive to." A child may come alive when you talk about a baseball game or an ice-cream cone. A teenager may come alive when you mention cars or dates. Paul wrote, "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). Christ was Paul's life and he was alive to anything that related to the believer.  
Years ago I heard a story about two sisters who enjoyed attending dances and wild parties. Then they were converted and found new life in Christ. They received an invitation to a party and sent their RSVP in these words: "We regret that we cannot attend because we recently died."  
  - a). They were facing temptation according to who they were in Christ  
*We're not going to try to find satisfaction in what we're now dead too.*
  - b). Or as Paul would say "How can we continue in sin if we've died to it?"
    - 1a). Why would I choose sin when I don't have too!

- D. Let's see how John put it

**1 Jn 3:9 (ESV)** No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

- 1). John is not saying the believer will never sin
  - a). He's saying the believer's life won't be characterized by sin  
Why? Because we've been changed – God's seed remains in us
  - b). That is speaking of that new nature wired for holiness not sin, obedience, not disobedience
- 2). I'm no longer who I was – I am different – vastly different  
**2 Co 5:17 (ESV)** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
  - a). The old me has passed away – on the cross with Christ  
The new me has come – made alive with Christ

**Thought:** Do you see it? When we believed there was a death and there was a birth

- A. That old man was put to death – we were born again with that new holy nature
- B. What does that mean practically? Paul tells us in Romans 6 – just weaving scripture together  
 Ro 6:4 (ESV) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, *just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*
  - 1). We died with Christ – we came alive in Christ – and we rose with Christ
- C. You see this clearly in Ephesians 2
  - 1). Who we were – enslaved to sin  
**Eph 2:1-3 (NIV)** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, (2) in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. (3) All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.
    - 2). What God has done – made us alive in Christ – seated in the heavenlies  
**Eph 2:4-6 (NIV)** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, (5) *made us alive* with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. (6) And God *raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms* in Christ Jesus,
      - a). All this means we are to walk in a newness of life – because that is who we are now!

**Transition:** I'm just piling scripture on to show you the truth about who you are now

- A. I want you to think Biblically  
 Because how you think will affect how you live – will direct the choices you make
  - 1). If you think you're still the old you – you will live like the old you
    - a). You will think you can't overcome sin – you're too weak
  - 2). If you see who you are in Christ you will begin to live that out
    - a). You will see how foolish it is to choose sin  
You will see what he has done to make victory a possibility
    - b). You will see why holiness should characterize your life
  - 3). I love Christianity – I love how the Bible weaves together such powerful arguments
    - a). It doesn't just tell us to live a holy life
      - 1a). It explains why we can – why we should – why that is reasonable and logical
    - b). God has done something powerful - miraculous

#### 4. Back to our point of this section – this will take faith

- A. The devil is going to try to get your eyes off truth and onto yourself
  - 1). He wants to tempt you – then lie to you that you are still very alive to sin
- B. But we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor 5:7)

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- 1). When what I experience contradicts what God has clearly said my experience is a lie  
**CHS:** Faith is the reason at rest in God.
  - a). I see what God says and that settles it - Anything that contradicts it is false
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## CONCLUSION

### 1. So how do you face temptation?

- A. Still believing you are that old you – that person who is easily bullied by sin  
Or do you see yourself as that new you in Christ?
  - 1). The old is gone the new has come!
- B. Now listen – it doesn't matter what you feel – it only matters what God has said
  - 1). If you'll start believing that – applying that  
You'll find yourself getting stronger and stronger
    - a). You'll start to enjoy that victory that Christ has already won on the cross
- C. I love what Augustine said about faith  
**Augustine:** Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.
  - 1). Faith is to believe what we don't see – or what we don't feel
    - a). But God said it so that settles it – that is what is true
    - b). I'm not that old me that use to give in to this – that part of me died  
I am a new person – risen with Christ – empowered to live a new life
  - 2). The reward of this faith is to see what we believe
    - a). IOW you start walking in this truth - you'll start enjoying what this truth says
      - 1a). You'll start to experience that risen life – victory over sin
- D. That may seem difficult at first but it will get easier – and you will get stronger
  - 1). You will experience what it means to be delivered from the domain of darkness  
To walk in newness of life with your God!