

Romans Chapter 6

Subtitle: "Victory Over Sin."

1. From justification to sanctification. (*Positional to practical*)
 2. Moving from being dead in sin, to being dead to sin.
 3. Free from the penalty of sin, to being free from the power of sin.
- Before you can authoritatively say "no" to sin, you have to "know" who you are in Christ Jesus and you have to "know" that you've been free'd from sin and death.
 - Does the teaching of the gospel (salvation by grace through faith) permit or even encourage sinful living? The answer is an emphatic, "no", covered in chapters 6,7,8.

Chapter 6: Asks the question - Shall we continue in sin? 4 responses:

V: 1-11 Reasoning: We cannot, because you are united with Christ.

V: 1 Rhetorical question.

- Since grace overflows where sin abounds, should we live in sin so we might see more of the abounding, overflowing grace of God? – **NO!** God forbid!

Gnostic heresy: "secret knowledge"

1. Separation of the god of creation and the god of redemption. The god of creation being inferior due to his dominion over material things, only associated with material things. The god of redemption being a spirit, and only involved with spiritual things. Therefore what was done with the body / physical was of no importance – only the spiritual mattered.
 2. The division of believers into two groups, one being superior to the other.
 3. The stress on secret teachings which only divine persons could comprehend.
 4. The exaltation of knowledge over faith.
- Where we see God's grace as an aspect of His love for us, and a pardon for sin, the Gnostics taught that it was an excuse for sin, and that we could do whatever we wanted, in essence further proof that what was done physically did not matter in the spiritual realm.
 - Scripture at several points refute this heretical / blasphemous teaching:

2 Peter 2:20 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”

Hebrews 6:4-6 “⁴For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.”

Hebrews 10:26-27 “²⁶For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”

Proverbs 21:16 “The man who wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.”

Matthew 7:21-23 “²¹Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”

V: 2 Answer: “*God forbid.*” No! We’ve died to sin.

NKJV & AMP - “Certainly not!”

NIV - “By no means!”

NASB - “May it never be!”

CJB - “Heaven forbid!”

- Can a corpse be tempted with the things of this world? No.
- Paul gives us a fundamental principle about our walk with Christ.
- The new life in Christ has brought death to the old life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

- Our lives are to be different, we are changed, and changing – being conformed to the image of Christ Jesus.

V: 3-4 Using baptism as an illustration.

- Water baptism is representative of that salvation, an outward manifestation of an inward change, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.
- Baptism in and of itself doesn't save anyone, it's just an indicator.
- Kind of like a wedding ring. When Grace and I got married, we exchanged rings, but wearing a ring didn't make us married, the commitment we made and marriage ceremony and license did that.
- If we'd gotten married but she didn't want to wear the ring to indicate that she was married, I would have been a little suspicious as to why she didn't want to publicly identify with me.
- Sometimes I wonder why people who get saved don't want to get baptized, why they don't want to make that public statement of faith and identify with Jesus.

Philippians 3:8-10 “⁸Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, ⁹and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: ¹⁰That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”

Walk in it!

V: 5-6 United in death, united in life. Likened to water baptism

- Water baptism: full immersion, fully buried, then out / up – fully resurrected.
- People don't go under, and stay there. (Dr. Kavorkian)

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

- In baptism (water) we confess that the Old man was / has been crucified (past tense).
- As such we are no longer subject to the physical drives of the flesh.

V: 6 If we want forgiveness for our sins; we must see Jesus crucified on the cross.

- If we want power over sin in our lives; we must see ourselves crucified as well.

“*Knowing this...*” (G1097) *Ginosko*; to know by experience.

vv3 “Know ye not...” (G-50) *Agnoeo* - not to recognize or know, to be ignorant of.
vv:9 “Knowing that Christ...” (G1492) *Oidas*, to see with perception or by revelation.
vv: 16 “Know ye not...” “*Oidas*.”

- We have to know by experience our flesh to be crucified with Him.

V: 6b “... that the body of sin might be destroyed...”

- Destroyed: (G2673) *katargéō*; To render inactive, idle, useless, ineffective.
- In this verse, means “rendered inactive” or “paralyzed.” It doesn’t mean “annihilated.”
- Therefore, when your old sin nature screams, trying to get you to commit that sin, whatever it is - Paul says that, although he can yell, he is powerless to act, since the Cross paralyzed him from the neck down.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

V: 7-11 Dead man living, freed from the power of sin.

- Paul describes the old life, from which we’ve been made free:

Ephesians 2:3 “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” This is written in the past tense.

- Take for example a man who is sentenced to die in the electric chair for murdering a police officer. As soon as he dies, he is freed, literally – “justified” from that sin. The penalty has been paid and the case is closed.
- Now we have died with Christ on the cross of Calvary.
- Not only has our penalty been paid, but sin’s hold on our lives has been broken.
- We are no longer helpless captives of sin.
- ⁹⁻¹⁰Christ doesn’t die again – there is no need:

John 19:30 “... it is finished!”

¹¹To “reckon” is to account, or to “reconcile” accounts. **It is a position of faith.**

Romans 7:24 “Oh wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

- As long as we’re in these bodies, we will be in the battle with the flesh – but by faith we know that we have the victory.
- That is where we are “positionally” - but practically we’re still dealing with the issues of the flesh.
- Faith to believe that we are dead to sin, faith to believe that we are alive unto God through Christ.

Faith – bluff – boldness – just act like it!

Shall we continue to sin? No, first reason:

1. We cannot, because we’re united with Christ.

V: 12-14 Appealing: We need not, because sin’s dominion has been broken by Grace.

V: 12 Man is an inferior trinity made of body, soul, and spirit.

- These are set in order; with the natural man / non-believer:
- The body is on top, dominating the soul (mind), and the spirit is at the bottom, being dead – all in all, alienated from God.
- When a man becomes born again by the Spirit of God, his spirit becomes alive and takes reign over the soul.
- And the desires of the body yield to the Spirit.
- The true child of God is no longer ruled by his flesh.

Galatians 5:16-17 “¹⁶This I say then, walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

V: 13 Do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness...

1 Corinthians 9:27 “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

- But rather yield yourselves unto God:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “¹⁹What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

- *We have the capacity and choice to yield to the Spirit, or not – to yield to the flesh, or not.*

V: 14 God’s grace is now the basis of our relationship with Him, sin does not and cannot have dominion over us. **We are free to live!**

This is the answer to David’s prayer:

Psalm 19:13 “Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me:...”

Shall we continue to sin? No!

1. V:1-11 - Reasoned: We cannot, because we’re united with Christ.
2. V:12-14 - Appealing: We need not, because sin’s dominion has been broken by Grace.

V: 15-19 Commanding: We must not, because it would bring sin in again as our master.

V: 15 The same question, renewed: Shall we continue to sin? No!

- If we yield to the lust of the flesh, we cannot be a servant of God.

2 Peter 2:19 “... for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage / slavery.”

- When Adam yielded to temptation, he yielded to and obeyed Satan’s suggestion, and became his servant / slave.

V: 16 “... *to whom ye yield yourselves...*” We have that power to yield or not, because we are no longer under the power or dominion of sin, it’s our choice.

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

- “*Yield*” (5x’s, 13, 16, 19) (G3936) “paristánō” to place, stand, to place at one’s disposal, to present, as in a sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present (paristánō) your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- These are all conscious acts of the will, a deliberate choice.

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

V: 17 JB Phillips “*¹⁷Thank God that you, who were at one time the servants of sin, honestly responded to the impact of Christ’s teaching when you came under its influence.*”

“... *that ye were servants of sin...*” Past tense!

“...*obeyed from the heart*” - genuine faith, faith that is real / manifest.

- Having a heart and a mind that is receptive to the Word of God.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble / fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”

2 timothy 2:15 “Study to show yourself approved of God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”

V: 18 Being set free from sin, slaves of righteousness.

- Slaves 8X’s – doulos – willing, choice.

John 8:31b-32 “^{31b}...if ye continue / abide in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:36 “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

V: 19 Again, we face the choice. We must make a willful, deliberate choice not to conform to this world, but rather to yield to the Spirit.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

Matthew 26:41 “... the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- With the same vigor that we had in our sin, we should have the same or more energy to apply to righteousness, and holiness.
- There are a lot of non-believers who are sick and tired of their sin, but it rules over them like a cruel task master.

John 8:34, 36 “³⁴Jesus answered them, verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.” - “³⁶If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

- The Christian has been set free from the power of sin, and now yields their body as an instrument of righteousness.
- We need not believe the Deceiver who would seek to convince us otherwise.

Shall we continue to sin?

1. V: 1-11 **Reasoned:** We cannot, because we're united with Christ.
 2. V: 12-14 **Appealing:** We need not, because sin's dominion has been broken by Grace.
 3. V: 15-19 **Commanding:** We must not, because it would bring sin in again as our master.
- V: 20-23 **Warning:** We had better not, for it would end in disaster.

V: 20-21 Bound by evil, free from righteousness.

- The unsaved person is free from righteousness but his bondage to sin only leads him deeper into slavery so that it becomes harder and harder to do what is right.
- The Prodigal Son is an example of this (**Luke 15:11–24**).
- When he was at home, he decided he wanted his freedom, so he left home to find himself and enjoy himself. But his rebellion only led him deeper into slavery.

- He was the slave of wrong desires, then the slave of wrong deeds; and finally he became a literal slave when he took care of the pigs.
- He wanted to find himself, but he lost himself in the process! What he thought was freedom turned out to be the worst kind of slavery.
- It was only when he returned home and yielded to his father that he found true freedom.
- Lasting fruit, as opposed to that which will burn.

V:21 What is the fruit of the old life? Pain, suffering, death - shame.

Galatians 5:19-21 “¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- How were our gifts used? What was our stewardship?
- Talents...

Romans 7:5 “For when we were in the flesh, the motions / desires of sin, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.”

- There are some who would mistakenly say - “It’s so hard or it’s tough being a Christian...”
- I look at some of the things that people, Christians and non-Christians, the things that people go through and wonder how on earth they could possibly do it without Christ.
- It’s a much more difficult life apart from the Lord! How does anyone survive?

V: 22 Now that we’re free from sin, we are servants, bond servants of righteousness to God.

1 Peter 1:15-16 “¹⁵But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶Because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Empowered!

- Basically he’s saying “have nothing to do with sin!
- Be totally committed! God for it all the way. 1/2 hearted Christianity just doesn’t work.

We can give no quarter to the enemy!

Ephesians 4:27 “Neither give place to the Devil.”

- All that we might have fruit unto holiness, the fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23 “²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

- Later in this book, Paul asks the question in **Romans 8:31**

Romans 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

V: 23 Wages = earnings, the resultant effect.

- **Sin** – singular; any one sin in our lives, or the one sin in the garden of Eden, Adam’s one sin.
- **Death** = eternal separation from God, outer darkness.
- “**but**” = contrast.
- **The gift of God**: His grace, mercy, and forgiveness – without our works to earn it.
- **Eternal life** = heaven, forever.
- “**through Christ**” – in and through, abiding, continuing.

2 Corinthians 3:5 “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being fro ourselves, but our sufficiency is from / of God.”

- God’s work in our lives is sufficient to bring us to victory.
- Whenever the flesh rises up and seeks to draw us into sin, we reckon the old man dead, yield our bodies to God in faith and receive the victory.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

- Death, sin, and the flesh are always related or connected.
- The Spirit, righteousness, and life are related as well.
- God has ordained life for us in the proper order, living after the Spirit.
- God is a superior Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Man is an inferior trinity – spirit, soul (mind), and body (flesh).
- When man’s spirit is alive and uppermost, we have fellowship with God, just as God has intended for us.
- If our flesh is uppermost, then our fellowship with God is broken, because God wants nothing to do with our sinful flesh.

Romans 8:8 “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Psalm 66:18 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me;”

- We can only interact with God in the Spirit.

John 4:24 “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Romans 8:16 “the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

- It always comes back to our choice:

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 “¹⁹I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: ²⁰That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

- So often we apply v: 23 to the lost; bear in mind it was written to Christians - it is a warning to all those who believe!

Summary / Application:

Three instructions that need to be heeded each day that we live.

1. KNOW that you have been crucified with Christ and are dead to sin.
 2. RECKON this fact to be true in your own life.
 3. YIELD your body to the Lord to be used for His glory.
- Now that you KNOW these truths, RECKON them to be true in *your* life, and then YIELD yourself to God.