

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

— A Study of Romans —

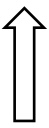
Lesson Eleven

Romans 6:1-14

*So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
Romans 6:11*

Day 1

Pray:



God help me as I open your word, to love your truth, to understand it and meditate on it. Help me to know and love you better through my time in your word today.

Read: Romans 6:1-14. Read it again in another translation such as NLT.

Observe:

- Write key words and themes, repeated words, or phrases. Circle on your Scripture pages any transition words (therefore, but, because, if/then etc.)
- Are there any commands to be obeyed, or truths to be trusted?
- What questions do you have about the text?

Day 2- Romans 6:1-3

Verse 1 is a transition that brings us into a new emphasis in the letter to the Romans. "Chapters 1 - 5 explain what God has accomplished for us in the gospel; chapters 6 - 8 tell us what God will accomplish in us through the gospel."¹ In chapters 3-4, Paul teaches that grace justifies, in 6-8 he teaches that grace sanctifies.²

1. Put the question Paul poses in verse 1 in your own words and personalize it.
2. What three words in verse 2 characterize the relationship to sin for those who are united to Jesus?

Scholar's Note: The phrase *died to sin* in verse 2 is in the aorist tense (remember it points to a single past action). This means that "this "death" is the result of our union with Christ..."³ "Death to sin is not something hoped for or resolved upon by the believer; it is something that has already taken place..."⁴ "It is the result of something done to us, not something we have done."⁵ This is "not the impossibility of committing a single sin, but the impossibility of continuing in a life dominated by sin."⁶

Picture and Ponder

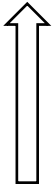
"When we believe, we are united to Christ, so that whatever is true of him is now legally true of us. Since Christ died, and dead people are freed from sin, so we are freed from sin."⁷

Digging Deeper

To have died to sin means that sin no longer reigns over you, it has lost its power to rule you. How do the verses below add to our understanding that sin no longer reigns over those who have put their trust in Jesus?

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

[Jesus speaking]...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. Acts 26:18



God help me to remember that sin is not my boss anymore—even though it keeps trying to act as if it is! Thank you for rescuing me out of the kingdom of darkness and bringing me into the kingdom of your beloved Son! Help me to live out of this reality.

3. In verse 3, Paul says that we were baptized **into** Christ and **into** his death. Using biblegateway.com look up this verse in all English translations. What other words are used instead of the word *into*?

Scholar's Note: “ To say we are *baptized into his death* (v.3) is just another way to say that our conversion (symbolized by baptism) joins us to Christ in his death.”⁸



To ask the question: *why can't I just keep on freely sinning since God gives me grace and forgiveness?* doesn't make any sense when we understand that saving faith unites us to Jesus. What a stunning thought—that we are joined to Jesus! Not only does he live in us through his Spirit, but we are in him. We are one with Jesus!

- ◆ Why is it contrary to who we are in Christ to continue to make a practice of sinning?

Picture and Ponder

So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! Romans 6:1-3 (MSG)

Day 3- Romans 6:4-7

1. Our union with Jesus in his death means that we have died to sin. What does our union with him in his resurrection mean for us according to verse 4?

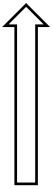
2. How does *new life* with Jesus help answer the question in verse 1?

Digging Deeper

Being united to Jesus in his resurrection (v.5) means that one day we will live eternally with him in our new resurrection bodies, but it also means we live new lives here and now (v.4). The following verses also speak of the present reality of being raised with Christ. What does Colossians say we are to do **now** in this **new life** because of what Jesus has already done for us? How does this help you think about what it means to rule over sin instead of letting sin rule over you?

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand' ² Think about the

things of heaven, not the things of earth...⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you...⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. Colossians 3:1-2,5, 7-10 (NLT)



Lord help me to see the sin lurking in my heart and put it to death. Help me to live out of my new life and to think about the beautiful truths in your word of who you are and what you've done and what you will do instead of dwelling on earthly things that are of no eternal value.

3. What relationship do we have with sin now that our old self is dead according to verses 6 and 7? (Look for three things)

Digging Deeper

How does the following verse in Galatians help you understand the implications of what it means to be crucified with Jesus and share in his death?

I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20 (AMP)



Being united to Jesus in his resurrection means we have a new life—we are not the same people we were before Jesus! 2 Corinthians 5:16b-17(NLT) says,

At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Understanding this, we can say with Paul, *how can we who died to sin still live in it?* (v.2)

- ◆ If you are in Christ, you have been fundamentally changed, your old self is dead, you are a new person, with a new heart. Jesus died and rose to set you free from the power of sin. You have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of God. How have you grown to be more like Jesus in the past year? Praise God for the work he is doing in you.

- ◆ Maybe you're still living much of the time out of your old life, and you don't see any changes. Take this to God, talk to him about it, ask him to work in your life and remind yourself often of the truths in this passage. If you have never really understood the gospel and put your faith in Jesus, you can do that now and begin a new life with him today. Share your thoughts with your discipler or another mature believer.

Day 4- Romans 6:8-11

1. Verse 8 restates the truth in verse 5 that our unity with Jesus in his death leads to a new life with him now and in the future—*we will live with him*. What is the basis for this complete confidence according to verse 9?

Digging Deeper

Verse 9 teaches us that Jesus will never die again—death has no power over him. (Unlike Lazarus and others, who Jesus raised from the dead, they died an earthly death again.) How do the following verses help us to understand why death could not hold Jesus?

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 1 Peter 2:22

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. Acts 2:24



In our union with Jesus, what is true of him is true of us. Because Jesus conquered death it has no hold on us either.

When I saw him [Jesus], I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades." Revelation 1:17-18

◆ Spend some time pondering and praising God for this truth.

2. What words in verse 10 show the finality of Jesus' sacrifice for sin?

3. What are we supposed to consider (reckon, regard, look upon, count) to be true about ourselves according to verse 11?
 - a. What does it mean to be alive to God?

Day 5- Romans 6:12-14

1. In verses 1-11 we have seen what Jesus has accomplished for us through his death and resurrection and how when we put our faith in him, we are united to him. Now, in light of these truths, what are we not to do according to verse 12?
 - a. What happens when we let sin reign in our body according to verse 12?

For Discussion

Even though when we put our trust in Jesus, we are made dead to sin and alive to God, we still sin. What is the difference between letting sin reign and sinning (but not letting it reign)?



Before we were united to Christ, we were captives to sin—sin reigned over us, and we had no power to resist it. But now grace reigns through Jesus our King. In his death and resurrection, he has conquered the power that sin had over us. Joined to our King we now have the power to rebel against sin and resist it.

- ◆ When sin reigned over us we were bound to our pride, selfishness, and anger, etc. But now that we have died to sin, grace reigns and we are free to turn away from those sins and live in the freedom and forgiveness of Jesus. The turning away is not easy but it is possible because now that I am in Christ, sin has lost its grip on me. What are the truths from this passage that you can call to mind as you struggle with sin?

- ◆ What weapons and strategies do you have at your disposal to fight against sin because of your unity with Jesus? Share any verses you have that are helpful.

- ◆ Do you believe that Jesus has broken the power of sin in your life? God said to Cain in Genesis 4:7 ...*sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.* Where do you need, through the power of God, to rule over sin in your life?

2. Write our verse 13 in the NLT

3. *Do not present* in verse 13 is in the present tense, indicating a continual action. What are the implications of this?

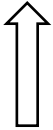
For Discussion

In the second half of verse 13, the verb tense in *present yourselves* indicates “deliberate and decisive commitment”⁹. What does it look like to present your whole self (eyes, ears, feet, hands, heart and mind) to God as instruments for righteousness in this way?

4. Why does sin no longer have dominion or rule over those who are united to Jesus in faith, according to verse 14?

Picture and Ponder

"To be under law is to accept the obligation to keep it and so to come under its curse or condemnation. To be under grace is to acknowledge our dependence on the work of Christ for salvation, and so to be justified rather than condemned, and thus set free."¹⁰



Thank you God that I am not under the curse of the law, but under the blessing of grace because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection!

One Thing:

What is one thing from this week's study that God has impressed on your heart, or convicted you about; is there something new that you learned or is there a verse you want to ponder and meditate on?

Praise God for this and thank him for the work he is doing in your life. Ask him to help you remember this and live it out for his glory.

¹ Keller, Timothy. Romans 1-7 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series) (p. 150). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

² Doriani, Daniel M.. Romans (p. 272). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

⁵ Keller, Timothy. Romans 1-7 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series) (p. 151). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

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⁷ Keller, Timothy. Romans 1-7 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series) (p. 151). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Kruger, Michael J. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/study-romans-kruger/#romans-6>

⁹ Dunn, Vol 38A, p.338 as quoted in Stott p. 181

¹⁰ Stott John R.W. The Message of Romans. Intervarsity Press USA