

# Romans 6: Battle Sin and Win!

## Romans 6:6-8

We are dead to sin!

Once we have gone under the water of baptism, symbolizing our death to our old life outside of God—sinning continually and destroying ourselves—we can then know by faith we are dead to the penalty of sin. We have effectively identified with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. We have relived His experience of death unto eternal life. That which is dead is dead to sin. Simple, right? But we must internalize this truth for it to be a reality in our lives.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Recall your experience in water baptism. Recall the feeling of going under the water—being dead to your old life of sinning—and coming out of the water, alive to God through Jesus. These feelings are worth writing down and remembering throughout our walk with God. Our water baptism helps us understand being dead to sin and alive to God.

Paul certainly has put forth in Romans his air-tight argument against the misunderstandings and misuse of grace in his time. We still get it wrong even now. But along the way, Paul is teaching us about justification and sanctification. Justification is found in faith alone in Jesus Christ and His completed work on the cross. Period. Legally, there can now be no charge laid against regarding sin (Romans 8:1). Sanctification is the practical in-working and out-working of God's holiness in our lives. Apostle Paul describes the fear and trembling involved in salvation and subsequent sanctification:

### ***Philippians 2:12-13***

*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

And since God is 100% committed to this work of sanctification in us, we must endure patiently, as it takes a lifetime to complete:

### ***Philippians 1:6***

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

We co-partner with God in our sanctification and maturity into the likeness of Christ. Our response in any given area He is working on will determine whether this process is accelerated or hindered.

### ***Romans 6:6***

*(KJV) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

*(NIV) For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.*

Knowing (Greek word ginosko, to know absolutely). Not only comprehending intellectually, but knowing in one's spirit and heart. And knowing what?

That our old man is crucified with him. That person we used to be—the old creation outside of God's will—was crucified once and for all time with Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Knowing a thing/a fact absolutely requires that we repeat it to ourselves and meditate on it day and night, as the psalmist in Psalm 1 (Psalm 1:2). The further a truth is from the front of our minds, the less we conform to it in our lives. That's just the reality of being human. Transformation through the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2) comes only through saturating our minds and hearts in Holy Scripture. So, here we are told to remember the crucifixion, at such time as we died with Christ on the cross.

That the body of sin might be destroyed. Or, better put that the body of sin might be rendered inoperative. The flesh counts for nothing (John 6:63) in that we need not obey that which we are dead to.

Note that our death with Christ to our old life of sin is a death unto salvation (justification) but is also death unto new life wherein we no longer serve sin (sanctification).

### ***Romans 6:7***

*(KJV) For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

*(NIV) because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.*

So simple, this word picture! Have ever seen a dead body in a grave sin?

### ***Romans 6:8***

*(KJV) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

*(NIV) Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

Oh, the glorious resurrection life! Jesus didn't stay buried but was risen from the dead by the power of the Holy Ghost unto eternal life with God. Get excited—rejoice! You, when you came up out of the waters of baptism symbolized that you had become a new creation:

### ***2Corinthians 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.*

There is four—and more—evidences of your new life in and with Jesus Christ:

1. He will brighten your countenance.
2. He will cleanse your tongue.
3. He will change your heart attitude.
4. He will deepen your love for people.

The people around you will taste and see that your God is good:

***Psalm 34:8***

*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

And this:

***Matthew 5:16***

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

\*STUDY POINT: Track and record the Scriptures that describe how God draws us to the cross, convicts us of our need for Jesus, and then—by our response to Him—justifies and sanctifies us. Though our personal circumstances during this process may differ, the truth in His Word remains unchanged for all humans for all time.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland