

Week #1 – Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ *Romans 6:1-14*

Key Concepts:

Baptism into Christ Jesus
Death to Sin
Presenting Ourselves for “Righteousness”

I. Baptism into Christ Jesus (*Romans 6:1-5*)

Discussion:

6:1-2 – Paul poses and answers (with strong language) a rhetorical question. To continue/remain” in sin (6:1) means to continue living under the dominion of sin. “Dying to sin” (6:2) means no longer being controlled by the power of sin.

6:3 – “Baptism” is synonymous with our identity “in Christ.”¹

Baptism in Romans 6 does not necessarily refer to the physical act of baptism by water (cf. *1 Corinthians 10:12*; *Mark 10:38-40*). The act of water baptism is a physical symbol of the spiritual reality that we experience when we trust in Christ.

Identity in the Christian life is crucial to understanding how to live the spiritual life. If we get this wrong, then our entire foundation is incorrect.

6:4-5 – Baptism includes being identified with Christ’s burial and resurrection. Walking in newness of life refers to a new quality of life. We should no longer live the life we used to live because we are no longer the people we used to be!

Questions:

1. What does it mean to “continue in sin” (*Romans 6:1*)? What was Paul’s response in *Romans 6:2*? What implications does his response have for how we live?

¹ This “in Christ” language is found all throughout Paul’s letters. For additional verses that pertain to our identification with Jesus Christ, see *2 Corinthians 5:17*; *Galatians 3:27*; *Colossians 2:12*; *3:3-5*; and *1 Peter 2:24*

2. What does it mean to be “baptized into Christ Jesus” (*Romans 6:3*)? Does this refer to physical baptism or something else? What connection does this baptism have with death and being raised (*Romans 6:4*)?

II. Death to Sin (*Romans 6:6-11*)

Discussion:

6:6-8 – The “old self/man” refers to our lives **before** salvation in Jesus Christ. Our lives before Christ were defined by our **rebellion** against God, when we were “under Adam” (*Romans 5:12-14*). The “old man” is not the same as the “old nature” (or “flesh in the NIV).

“Death to sin” refers to our **separation** from sin’s **power**. The clearest metaphor for death is “**crucifixion**.”²

6:9-11 – Being “freed” from sin means we are **alive** with Jesus Christ – our **identity** has completely changed. The clearest metaphor for being freed is “**resurrection**.” We must consider (or reckon to be true) the change that has happened in our lives! No matter how we “feel,” the truth is the truth – we are different people!

This is a transfer of citizenship: From the “Kingdom of **Sin**” to the “Kingdom of **Christ**.”

Questions:

1. Have you have been “crucified” with Christ (*Romans 6:6*)? What are the results of this “crucifixion?” If we are freed from sin (*Romans 6:7*), why do we still struggle so much?
2. What connection does the resurrection of Jesus Christ have to how we live our lives (*Romans 6:10-11*)? How has Christ’s resurrection given us a glorious hope not only in the future, but also the present?

² Note that while we are dead to sin, sin is not dead to us. For additional verses that speak to this idea of “crucifixion” and “death” to sin, see *Galatians 2:20*; *Ephesians 4:22-24*; *Colossians 3:9-10*. For verses relating to the resurrection of Jesus Christ along with its present and future ramifications, see *1 Corinthians 15:19-22* and *2 Corinthians 5:15*.

III. Presenting Ourselves for “Righteousness” (*Romans 6:12-14*)

Discussion:

6:12-13 – “Presenting ourselves” refers to how we choose to **obey** or **disobey**.³

We must present ourselves (i.e. live) in a way that is consistent with our new **identity**. If we disobey, we are allowing sin to “reign” in our bodies and sin becomes our “master” in those moments of disobedience. We should present the members of our body (i.e. our entire selves) as instruments (weapons) for God’s righteous purposes rather than for the unrighteous purposes of sin.

6:14 – Failure to live obediently demonstrates that we are living as if sin is our **master**, which is no longer the case. Sin is very powerful and it desires to be our master. The truth, however, is that sin is NOT our master. Jesus Christ is!

Now that we have been **identified** with Christ, we *can* **choose** to obey Him.

Questions:

1. What does it mean to let sin “reign in your mortal body” (*Romans 6:12*)? How do you do this in your own life? Do you have others in your life who can encourage and pray for you in these areas?
2. What is the difference between presenting/offering the parts of our bodies to sin and presenting ourselves to God? What might it look like for us to present our bodies as well as ourselves to Him as instruments of righteousness (*Romans 6:13*)?

Definition of the “Spiritual Life:”

Part 1: “Understanding your identity in Christ ...”

³ See also *Romans 12:1-2*.

Key Terms:

Death
Sin
Baptized
Identity in Christ
"Old self"
Crucified
Slaves to sin
Alive to God
Presenting ourselves

Key Verses:

Romans 6:11
2 Corinthians 5:15, 17
Colossians 2:12

Scripture Memory:

"Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."
(*Romans 6:11*, NASB).

Homework Assignment #1:

- 1) Know definitions for Key Terms
- 2) Memorize *Romans 6:11*.
- 3) Answer the following questions:
 - a. Does your identification with Christ impact how you grow closer to Him?
 - b. Can you articulate for someone this concept of "death to sin"? How?
 - c. How can a failure to understand one's identity in Christ be harmful?
 - d. How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ offer us immeasurable hope?
- 4) **NextStep APPLICATION:** Write a list of areas where you struggle and ask God to grant you a victorious mindset rather than a defeated one over them.
- 5) Review class notes.

Next Week: Slaves to Righteousness (*Romans 6:15-23*)