

Romans 6:1-14 – “Dead to Sin, Alive to God”

(Pew Bible Page: 942-943)

Intro: Last week we looked at the wonderful truth that God has taken us out of Adam and put us in Christ. Because of this the matter of our ultimate salvation and glorification has been once and for all settled. Our assurance theologically rests in this reality. But, while this may help our heads, we still need something for our hearts, because even though the issue of our being put right with God is settled as far as God is concerned, our fallen hearts will continue to condemn us. We may be intellectually satisfied that our situation has been changed by grace, but the old sin nature refuses to die, even after being nailed to the cross with Jesus! Wickedness never rests and Sin won't rest until it's finally consigned to the grave at Jesus' return. So, even though we are saved we will continue to have moments of guilt, fear, and doubt, though God has fully received us in Christ. The cure for this condition is the same medicine God has prescribed for every one of our spiritual sicknesses: His grace, received through faith. Simply put, our hearts will begin to experience rest as we learn the skill of living our lives daily according to the reality of who we are in Christ. In a real sense this question of how to convince our heart to believe what our head already knows is what will be discussed in chapters six through eight. The opening assault on our experiential insecurities begins in tonight's passage.

Proposition: Because we are in Christ, we have everything we need to silence our condemning hearts.

Billboard:	(vv.1-4)	A Statement of God's Intention in Saving Us
	(vv.5-11)	Three Things we Must be Persuaded Of
	(vv.12-14)	The Work of Faith that Must Be Pursued

(vv.1-4) A Statement of God's Intention in Saving Us – A natural question that arises out of the doctrine of our complete salvation in Christ is, “What about sin?” Though we are in Christ and the question of our ultimate sanctification is settled, does that mean that we need not fight against our sinful nature and its desires any longer? Not at all! In these verses, a statement of God's intention for us concerning holiness is given: **Romans 6:1–4 - 1** *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2* *By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3* *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4* *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.* It seems reasonable that since we are in Christ and all our sins are forever forgiven, we ought to be able to relinquish our daily battle against sin and relax. After all, grace is overwhelming our sins, as 5:20-21 has told us. What about that? Is this what God intended when He took us out of Adam and placed us in Christ? Verse 4 removes all doubt about that: **4** *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.* God's intent for putting us in Christ is plainly stated here: He did this IN ORDER

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THAT WE MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. Far from intending that we would continue to live in obedience to the old nature, He intends us to live the new life of Godliness in Christ.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] God’s intention for us is that because we are now in Christ, we will live a new life of holiness for His glory.

[ILLUSTRATION] A basic rule of thumb for accomplishing any difficult endeavor in life is, “Begin by stating the objective.” What are you trying to accomplish? If you aren’t clear about that, chaos is bound to happen. Many a project has been destroyed and come to nothing because of fuzzy thinking about the ultimate objective being sought.

[APPLICATION] In this same way, anyone calling themselves a “Christian” who is uncertain of God’s intention for their life regarding sin is headed for difficulty. Let there be no doubt about God’s intention for His children. He has put us in Christ with the full intent that we, those washed in the precious blood of Jesus, will live a new kind of life. A life that is noticeably different than the old life we lived when we were in Adam. Of course, we won’t be able to do this perfectly, and God has made provision for this (cf. 1 John 1:9). But the lives we live should bear a noticeable difference from the lives of those in Adam once we’re in Christ.

(vv.5-11) Three Things we Must be Persuaded Of – In order to fulfill the new purpose God has given us in Christ, we must be persuaded of three crucial realities, as these verses tell us. **Romans 6:5–11** - **5** *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* **6** *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.* **7** *For one who has died has been set free from sin.* **8** *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.* **9** *We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.* **10** *For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.* **11** *So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.* Our freedom from an accusing heart begins with what we are persuaded is now our situation because we are in Christ. Until we are certain of these truths, our hearts will find a way to accuse us relentlessly. What are the three truths of vital importance?

- (vv.5-7) Because we are in Christ, the power of the sin nature to control us is now broken – When we were in Adam, our sin nature had authority to condemn us through the power of the Law. Because we were lawbreakers, our hearts could legitimately bring relentless accusations against us. But now that we have died with Christ, we are dead to the Law and our sins are forgiven. Sin no longer has authority to condemn us. At the cross we died with Christ and now are raised with Him in a new kind of humanity. Sin’s authority over us has been forever canceled.

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- (vv.8-9) Our union with Christ cancels the power of death and brings us new life – When we were in Adam, our sin nature rendered us spiritually powerless – “dead” – with no strength to resist the sin nature’s demands. But now that we are in Christ, we have been given new life – the indwelling Spirit of God. In His power, we can now have consistent victory over the sin nature.
- (vv.10-11) Because of our union with Christ, we are to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God – This is a call for a change of heart and mind about sin and about who we really are now that we are in Christ. We are urged to “consider ourselves dead.” The word “consider,” can also be translated as an accounting term, “count” or “reckon.” The idea is: TAKE THIS TRUTH TO THE BANK! THE DEATH WE DIED AND OUR RESURRECTION WITH CHRIST HAS FOREVER SETTLED THE ISSUE – WE ARE NOW DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD. Whether our heart accepts it or not, we are to live our lives from now on counting on this truth.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] We must be persuaded that we are dead to sin and alive to God to overcome the deceitful demands of our old nature.

[ILLUSTRATION] There is a saying, “Knowledge is power.” Though we cannot find that exact phrase in our Bibles, I think we’d all agree that there is a certain amount of truth in that homespun wisdom. The Book of Proverbs often commends to us the value of knowledge for living a life characterized by wisdom. Knowledge is an accurate understanding of facts. It is another way of referring to the truth. For knowledge to be true knowledge, it must be anchored to reality. Accordingly, there is no such thing as “false knowledge.” So called, “false knowledge” isn’t knowledge at all. It’s a lie.

[APPLICATION] Our old nature desperately wants us to believe three pieces of “false knowledge.” It wants us to believe that it still has the authority to demand our obedience and the right to afflict our conscience. It wants us to believe as well that we have no power to resist its commands. Finally, it insists that God cannot be counted on to keep His promise to save us once and forever. The old nature has been nailed to the cross of Jesus, but it’s not dead yet. Though under a sentence of death, the old man keeps shouting out his commands and bullying his victims. But it’s all a lie. Don’t let him get away with it! When God took you out of Adam and put you in Christ, He once and forever delivered you from the power of sin and death. Count on it, dear one. Live a life of faith based on that truth. Begin your reasoning from that fact and live your life in the light of its certainty. *Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

(vv.12-14) The Work of Faith Must be Pursued – Simply being persuaded of these truths will do us no good in our struggle against an accusing heart unless we put these truths into action daily.

Romans 6:12–14 - 12 *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.*
13 *Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves*

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to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. Faith is not merely *knowing* what is true but *acting* on what we know is true (cf. James 1:22-25). Because we now consider all this true, we are called to STOP letting sin reign in our mortal bodies. Sin works through our PASSIONS (desires). We are to stop giving our bodies to sin’s desires and we are to begin giving our bodies to God’s commands, something we can now do because of Christ’s Spirit living in us. We are to reserve our bodies for God’s use as instruments of righteousness. Law no longer motivates nor judges us. What God has done for us in Christ now motivates and empowers our daily living. As we walk in faith day after day, the accusations we feel in our hearts are rebuked and confidence in our acceptance by God grows. But it all begins by realizing who we now are in Christ. We overcome an accusing heart by overwhelming it with obedience to God’s commands carried out day after day in the power of Christ’s resurrection life. This is the beginning and cultivation of experiential assurance in our relationship with God.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] We are called to live out daily who we now know ourselves to be in Christ.

[ILLUSTRATION] How does one thwart a tyrant who is determined to have his way at any cost? It seems to me that we may be getting an object lesson in that today by observing our nation dealing with Vladimir Putin. No one knows what will happen in Ukraine tomorrow, of course, least of all me. But it appears that our tactic of announcing the tyrant’s next move loudly and publicly before he can carry it out is at least giving him pause. Doesn’t this remind you of what we’re being told in Romans 6 tonight? The best way to rob a lie of its power is to confront it with facts.

[APPLICATION] “Facts are stubborn things,” said John Adams. You can ignore them; you can try to bully them; you can spin them until they are hardly recognizable. You can do all those things to facts, but at the end of the day the one thing you can’t do is change them. They just won’t move. Don’t let the flesh, the old nature fool you into thinking that God doesn’t love you; can’t save you; won’t keep His promise to you. If you are in Christ, Sin has lost its power to command you; the Spirit of God will empower you to overcome Sin’s deceptions; you need only know who you are in Christ and live daily in accordance with that fact to push back against Sin’s deception. *“Sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”*

Conclusion: The devil is a liar, and his little toady assistant, the sin nature, apes its master’s tactics. You and I begin the victory over guilt, fear, and doubt by clinging to the facts: We have been made new in Christ. Live in the light of that truth and sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.