

Consider Yourselves Alive to God in Christ Jesus

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.

❖ Intro: These verses may seem like Theological Banter

- And... I agree they seem that way... I agree they are hard to understand...
- But the principle behind what Paul is saying is simple...
- And practical... They are very practical for you in your walk with Christ.
- **Practicality (Why these verses are good for you):**
 - 1. We have a sin problem
 - 2. We Need Assurance
 - 3. We Need Understanding
 - 4. We Need Hope
 - 5) We Need Help
- **I hope that by the end of this sermon... All of 4 of these concerns have been helped.**

❖ I Want to Remind You: What Jesus Did Was More Than a Past Event

- It has Past - Present and Future Ramifications
- His Birth-Life-Death-Burial-Resurrection... all of these affect us now and in the future
- **God did things in the past and things have happened to us in the past...**
 - But... God is working right now... and will work in the future
- **What God will accomplish for us in Jesus...**
 - We have a future promise of being totally free from sin... and resurrected
 - **Living it out in the Present...**
 - We are already walking in newness of life...
 - we are already experiencing resurrection of our dead spiritual self
- **So... Have understanding... living in it now... and it will come to a full fruition in the future**

❖ 1) Paul has been Defending God's Design in Salvation

- Justification by Faith Alone
- Romans 5 Where sin increased... grace abounded all the more
 - As sin reigned in death, grace reigns in righteousness

❖ 2) Man Has an Objection

- And... Satan will use any opportunity he can to cast a Shadow on God's Truth...
 - So He does...
- Objection: Sin that grace may abound

❖ 3) Paul's Counter Response:

- **Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ...**
- **He is incredulous... he says... this is asinine... aren't you even listening?**
 - This is inconsistent with the grace and work of Christ...

- That... the very thing God has done to repair our fallen nature would give life to our sinful passions
- That which is done to kill sin, cannot give life to it
- **If God saves us... He makes us new... and in making us new... He will have us walk in a new life**
 - Sin will not gather strength from the grace that comes to destroy it...
 - [We do not take antibiotics to increase harmful bacteria... rather to destroy it](#)
- **Simply Put:** This heretical statement can not be true. B/C it is not what God has done in Christ.

❖ **There is a Real Danger to Think in the manner Paul is objecting**

- **1) The Legalist** who hold to works based righteousness
 - He refutes faith alone because it makes no sense to his sense of works earning grace
 - [This person does not understand the nature of the human condition and grace of God](#)
- **2) The Worldly Person**
 - They may actually believe it makes sense to sin more so there is more grace
 - If it worked before, then it will continue... and they are blinded by their love of sin
 - [This person does not understand the nature of the new birth](#)
- **3) The Believer in “Faith Alone Saves”**
 - They may have a tendency to take God’s grace for granted
 - This occurs when a person strays from close fellowship with Christ
 - When love for the world grows and love for God dwindles
 - This person would never say: Sin so grace abounds...
 - But... this person sins, knowing their sins are covered... (dangerous ground)

❖ **4) Paul’s Union with Christ Response: (vs 3-4) (We will work through this more later)**

- **1- Baptism**
 - **Romans 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?**
 - Baptism is symbolic of our Union with Christ... Our Joining with Him...
 - Not just to be like Him or act like Him... but actually joined to Him
- **2- Buried**
 - **Romans 6:4 a We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that,**
 - Baptism signified our burial with Christ of the old self
- **3- Raised**
 - **Romans 6:4b 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.**
 - Baptism also signified that spiritual resurrection we had at new birth

❖ **Today’s Text:**

❖ **1) Consider Yourselves Alive to God and Dead to Sin (Present)**

- **¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**
- **Let’s Start with where we are heading...**
- **Consider: To keep this on your mind...**
 - This is a Mind Set you must have if you want to see progress in your Christian Walk
 - If you want to continue to win the battle against sin
 - **Don’t have the wrong mind set...**
 - If you do not consider yourselves dead to sin...
 - This is a False mind set to have, if you are in Christ...
 - **I’m talking about More than Positive Thinking...**
 - Where a person may say...

- “Some days I practice positive thinking; other days I am not positive I am thinking...”
- **This is Right Thinking... Truthful thinking...**
 - Satan can tell you all the lies He wants... And you can believe them...
 - Doesn't make them true:
- **You need to know who you are...**
- **Illustration:**
 - **When you are looking for the person you want to spend the rest of your life with**
 - You have a certain mind set...
 - You are single... You have an idea of what you are looking for...
 - And if you do not find the right person, you just move on...You are single...
 - **But... When you get married... your mindset changes...**
 - You are not looking anymore... you are a different person with a different mindset
 - And your behavior changes because of it...
 - **Buddy... you better not live your life like your single...**
 - Your spouse isn't going to like that very much...
 - And you may find yourself out on the street with no where to live...
- **Paul says... You Must Consider Yourselfes...**
 - Alive to God in Christ Jesus... And Dead to sin...
 - Living for God... and not living for or in sin
- **Paul gives us a Pattern for this: Jesus**

❖ 2) Christ is the Pattern

- **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.**
- **Follow the Pattern of Jesus... More than an example... He is the Mold...**
 - Just like a metal mold... A mold is made of a metal that will not melt even under very high temps
 - A softer metal is poured within the mold... to make a replica... to make a similar object
 - Jesus is the pattern for us...
- **Jesus was Raised from the Dead...**
 - He will never die again...
- **Death no longer has dominion over Jesus...**
 - Not that it ever had dominion over him because of His own sin
 - He was without sin...
 - But He subjected Himself to the dominion of death
 - Why? So that He could represent all who have faith in God
- **He Died to sin...**
 - So... because of our sin... he died... he represented sinful man in His death...
 - And it brought about His death
 - He only had to do this once... it was sufficient
- **Died to sin; But, the life He lives... he lives to God...**
 - So... death was unable to hold Him...
 - And now He lives... and He lives to God...
- **Jesus is Our Pattern... Do you see it?**
 - Jesus died for sins... and He rose... And He lives... and He lives for God...
- **This is our Pattern... When we come to know Him by believing...**
 - But... you may say... how? Well... because...

❖ 3) We are Joined with Christ (Past)

- 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.
- **We Have Union With Jesus...**
 - There is a mysterious but true joining with Christ at conversion
 - When the Christian is born again by the Spirit...
 - He is united with Christ...
 - **Colossians 3:3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**
- **United in a death like His... Meaning... He died to sin...**
 - **He died because of it... and He paid the price for it...**
 - So... He satisfied the requirement of sin... which is death
 - **But He also accomplished a victory over it...**
 - Because He was perfect... his death paid the price for all who would be joined to Him: By faith...
- **United by Faith...**
 - God allows all those who receive Christ... to be joined with Christ... to be children of God
- **Union with Christ is Explain Further in Scripture by different analogies**
 - **1) Vine and Branches**
 - He is a vine... and we are grafted into Him...
 - to take part in the life giving sustaining power of the vine
 - **2) The Father and Son Union**
 - They are one in essence... and we too are similar in our union with Christ...
 - Although it does not make us Gods...
 - **John 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us,**
 - **3) Our Relationship to Adam**
 - In the same way that we are joined with Adam by physical birth...
 - And his sin passed down to us... as well as his genetics
 - We are joined with Christ by Faith Spiritually
 - When we are born again... regenerated or made new...
 - ◆ Christ's righteous nature passes to us... as well as his character...
 - ◆ Not that we are in essence like God... but we are being conformed to His image... (rom 8:29)
 - **4) Husband and Wife**
 - Are joined together spiritually... Scriptures say that two previously unrelated people
 - Become one flesh...
 - It is the same for the believer who is joined to Christ...
 - There is a spiritual union
- **Paul then... gives a quick example to explain how sin has no power now...**

❖ 4) Death Sets Man Free from Sin - Justified (An Illustration)(Plus a Spiritual Truth)

- ⁷ For one who has died has been set free (justified) from sin.
- **This is very Simple... When you die... Sin isn't a problem anymore... (Humanly Speaking)**
 - Why?... your flesh is dead... your sinful desires are no more...
- **But there is more here... the person who is joined to the death of Jesus...**
 - This term... set free... means justified...
 - The person has been justified from sin...
 - Is: Legally declared free from it...
- **So... now the power of sin has been broken b/c in the death of Christ**
 - I am declared righteous

➤ And... Paul is going to make this point... We Have died....in Christ...

❖ 5) We Died With Christ (past)

- ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him
- ⁸Now if we have died with Christ,
- Our Death has already happened....
 - Our old self was crucified... we have died with Christ...
 - What could this possibly mean...????
- It must mean that:
 - We were represented there on the cross with Christ...
 - Our representation must have been by virtue of our union with Christ
 - That has come about by Faith
- So... By being joined in the death of Christ...
 - We are set free from the power of sin... we are also legally declared free of sin...
- Therefore... we are now... made alive

❖ 6) We are Alive in Christ (Present and Future)

- , we believe that we will also live with him. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- We Will Also live with Him... we are alive to God in Christ Jesus
- What this means is this... let's go back to verse 4
 - 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.
 - This is a present and future truth...
 - Our previously dead spiritual being has been raised...
 - Physically... birth happens and then death
 - Spiritually... death is our status and then birth
- We are currently walking in a newness of life by virtue of our union with Christ in His resurrection
 - We also will one day be resurrected... in fact... it is greater than that...
 - It has already happened for us... so now... we do not even have to taste death....
 - Jesus told Martha this very thing before He raised Lazarus from the dead...
 - John 11:25-26 ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

❖ 7) God's Work in Us: To Destroy Sin in Us (Present and Future)

- ⁶We 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.
- We Have Already Discussed: Our Old Self Died With Christ
 - Why? What is the end game here... what is the purpose?
- In Order that...
 - So here is a statement from Paul... that helps us understand why things happen...
 - What the objective is... in order that
- Body of Sin Be Brought to Nothing...
 - The body of sin is not merely your flesh and bones...
 - But all of the desires and passions of the person that are against God...
 - God wants them: brought to nothing...
 - Or have them put to an end... To be done away with...
- So that... We would No Longer be Enslaved to Sin...

- **Slaves have no control over their own life...**
 - They must do as their master tells them... Master says work... they work
 - If he says rest... they rest... He tells them when they can eat or sleep or wake
 - He tells them what they can listen to or watch or do in spare time...
 - Their whole life is controlled by their Slave Master...
- **God's Work in Us is to break this slavery to sin...**
 - Where it controls our thoughts and emotions and body...
 - God breaks the claim sin has against you...
 - He breaks it when you believe on the sin breaking work of Jesus Christ...
- **The Goal of the Work of Christ (life-death-burial-resurrection)**
 - He is going to break sin's hold on us
 - He is going to break sin's work in us
 - He is going to break sin's claim on us
- **Logically: If God saves us by faith to destroy the power of sin in us...**
 - Both now progressively and in the future completely
 - Then, it would make absolutely zero sense for us to continue on in sin...
 - It is not what God is doing in us...
 - **It would make even less sense for anyone to think:**
 - It is a good idea to sin more so grace will be more...
 - It is illogical and it is the opposite of what God is doing...
- **It is a Gradual Work**
 - **Do not be fearful if you look at yourself and think... I am not completely free...**
 - Sin has not been brought to nothing in me yet... it has not been destroyed...
 - I find myself returning to the mud with the pigs..
 - **God's Work is not completed on the day it begins...**
 - A beautifully crafted house is not built in a day... rather it is built
 - Brick upon brick until it is a completed house...
 - The foundation is poured... the groundwork for plumbing an electrical and a/c are prepared
 - The structure of the house is formed...
 - Insulation is added and then beautiful walls and ceilings and floors
 - The house is fitted out with furniture and appliances...
 - **God is a Master Builder...**
 - He will complete the good work He began in you (Paul says in Philippians)
 - Every day He advances His work in you...
 - **Your Assurance:**
 - Is there a house being built?
 - Is there evidence of a friendship with Christ... a union with His Death...??
 - Just Because you find remains of sin... it does not mean there is no union...
 - ◆ Rather... there should be a continued labor to rid ourselves of the trash

❖ Invitation/Application