

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

Grace means not just an overturned verdict for our lives; it means an overthrown tyrant in our lives.

The Text Explained

- Christ is the head of a new race who reclaim and fulfill the original charter for humanity. (vv. 1-2)
 - God (re)-made man to image Him and enjoy Him forever.
 - Holiness is not an add-on or an elective when it comes to the purposes of God.
 - Holiness is at the very heart of the gospel.
 - Freedom from sin is just as much good news as forgiveness for sin.
 - The purpose of God is not simply to get you into heaven; it is to get heaven into you.
- Baptism by immersion mimics the key components of the gospel—death, burial, resurrection—and our participation in those through Christ. (vv. 3-4)
- So, our union with Christ is a vital and life-changing union. (vv. 5-11)
 - We were crucified and buried with Christ *so that* we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
 - Death and sin are not things we do; they are kings that we obey and masters that we serve.
 - When Jesus died on the cross He cancelled our records and broke our shackles.

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 Jn 3:8)
 - The resurrection of Christ guarantees both a better future and a better present. (v. 11)
 - You are dead to sin—the power of sin has been broken.
 - You are alive to God—you are no longer dead in trespasses and sins.
 - You are only this in Christ Jesus—union with Christ is the Christian life.
- Now, the only reign that sin has in the lives of believers is the reign they allow. (vv. 12-14)

The Text Applied

- Are you pursuing holiness in your life?

People do not drift toward Holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated. (D.A. Carson)

- We must work hard at being like Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12-13)

Strive... for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)

- *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)*
- How important is holiness and likeness to Christ in your life?

- Ask yourself:
 - What territory have you given back to Satan?
 - How are you growing in Christlikeness?
 - What specific efforts are you making to kill sin and promote holiness?
- Remember, holiness is not legalism.
- Commands are not bad—they lead us to holiness, which is wholeness.

- As a church, remember that we have promised to pursue holiness together.

We will spur one another on to love and good deeds.... We will pray for one another regularly.... We will edify one another with our speech and encourage one another with our example. We will humbly and gently confront one another and receive correction from one another in accordance with a New Testament understanding of church discipline and restoration. (CFC Church Covenant)

- Are you pursuing holiness in the strength of Christ's work?

- If we really believe the gospel, holiness won't be confused with moralism.
- If we really believe the gospel, we'll see holiness as impossible apart from grace.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

I am not what I ought to be; I am not what I want to be; I am not what hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am. (John Newton)

- If we really believe the gospel, correction won't threaten us.
- If we really believe the gospel, we don't have to hide from a holy God.

When I saw him, 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, ¹⁸ 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)

- If we really believe be the gospel, then Christ is Lord and is worthy of all this!

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