

BACKGROUND

1. The end of chapter 5 showed us the depth of our wickedness
2. In Adam, we inherited a sinful nature Paul later calls “the flesh”
3. There is absolutely nothing good in our flesh
4. Before Christ, sin is our master and it dominates us
5. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we are righteous before the Father
6. Chapter 5 ends saying that grace now reigns in believers over their

Chapter 6-8 deal mainly with how we live in Christ now that we understand what Christ has done for us.

Believers are Dead to Sin but Alive to God (Romans 6:1-14)

I. Believers Cannot Continue in Sin (v. 1-2)

A. Does Grace mean we can sin all we want? (v. 1)

1. Chapter 5 said “where sin abounds grace more abounds”
 - a. Some take this as a license to sin
 - b. Some take this as a “get out of jail free card”

B. Dead People Can’t Live in Sin (v. 2)

1. When a person dies, he lives in a different reality
 - a. A dead man no longer exists in the land of the living
 - b. A dead man exists in another sphere – spiritually (heaven or hell)
2. If a person is “dead to sin” he no longer exists in it
 - a. He has died to the life of sin
 - b. He has died with Christ and Christ died to pay for sin

II. Believers Are United with Christ in His life and death (3-8)

A. Union with Christ Brings New Life in Him (3-5)

1. Believers have been united with Christ in Death (3-4a)
 - a. Everyone who is saved (baptized into Christ)
 - i. Paul is not here trying to propose a theology of baptism
 - ii. He is using baptism to speak of the entire conversion experience (i.e. when you were converted) – you were immersed into Christ
 - b. That Saved have “died” with Christ
 - i. We were united with Him in death
 - He died in our place
 - His death is our death – it pays for our sins
 - ii. We were united with Him in burial
 - Buried signifies a break from life
 - Buried is the final state of death
 - Only truly dead ppl are buried
 - We were buried “with Him”

2. Believers have been raised with Christ to new life (4b)

- a. Just as Christ was raised from the dead
 - b. So too we are raised in newness of life
 - i. This means we are not the same person
 - ii. The old man died – the new man was raised
- 3. Believers Can't be united with Christ in death and not life (5)
 - a. If we have died with Him (had our sins paid)
 - b. We will also be raised with Him in the resurrection
 - i. We are born again (a new creature)
 - c. Death with Christ (being saved) means we have new life
 - d. One cannot come without the other
- B. Union with Christ Brings Death to Sin (6-8)
 - 1. Believers are dead and no longer slaves to sin
 - a. By trusting in Him – He took our sin upon Himself
 - b. By trusting in Him – our body which still sins can be done away with.
 - c. By trusting in Him – We are no longer slaves of sin
 - d. The “dead” man is free from sin

NOTE: If you were a slave to a master and you died, you would be free from your master – this is the language Paul is using. Because of death, sin is no longer your master. You died and therefore, you do not live under sin's power anymore.

You died and are separated from the world of Adam, but you were also raised from the dead and now live under the dominion of Christ.

- 2. Believers dead with Christ are also alive with Him (8)
 - a. If we died with Him (when we were saved)
 - b. We believe we will also live with Him
 - i. This is not just in eternity
 - ii. This is right now. – we will also live with him
 - iii. We live with him right now – in his power
- III. Believers Serve a New Master (9-14)
 - A. Believers Must Reckon Themselves United with Christ (9-11)
 - 1. Christ Defeated Death through the resurrection (9-10)
 - a. Christ is no longer subject to death
 - i. He will never die again
 - ii. Death does not have master over him
 - b. Christ died to sin and now lives to God (10)
 - i. He died to sin once for all time
 - ii. He now lives for God – free from death
 - 2. Believers Must Consider themselves Dead with Christ (11)

NOTE: This is the first time in Romans that Paul actually tells believers they are to “DO” something. Because of all the truth we have learned, now we are to act. But the first thing we must do is be sure in our minds that we have are dead to sin and alive to Christ. This is faith. “Reckon” is the same greek word we have seen

before where God “counts” faith as righteousness. Just as He credited or counted us as righteous, we are to “count” or “reckon” ourselves dead to sin and alive with Christ.”

B. Believers Must Reckon Themselves Slaves to Christ (12-14)

1. Believers are Subject to a new master (12-13)

a. Do not let sin reign any longer (12)

- i. you are not its slave anymore
- ii. you don't have to obey
- iii. Sin still makes you feel like you have to obey
- iv. We must trust that we are dead to it

b. Present your bodies to God rather than sin (13)

- i. Trust that your new master is Christ
- ii. Therefore you should serve your master
- iii. Sin tries to reassert itself as your master
- iv. Sin is lying to you – you are dead to it
- v. You must reckon yourselves the same way God has reckoned you.

Your body no longer belongs to your desires – it belongs to God. You may feel like you “have” to obey your desires – this is a lie. By faith we trust that we no longer are slaves to sin. We do not present our bodies as instruments for sin to use. We don't owe sin anything.

2. Believers are no longer slaves to sin

a. NOTICE THE STATEMENT:

- i. it is not a command – “do not let sin have dominion”
- ii. it is a statement of fact – “sin shall no longer have dominion”
- iii. We are no longer under the law but under grace
 - this is the reason sin has no dominion
 - the penalty of law has been paid
 - grace has freed us from sin's grasp
 - it has no power because of our perfect forgiveness

We will see in the next section that this doesn't mean that we are free to sin all we want.

Sin is still there in your flesh. But it no longer has dominion. When we fail and sin, we can easily slip into despair, wondering why we are not the perfect person we should be. The same faith that saved us and caused us to be justified before the Father is the faith with which we “reckon” ourselves to be dead to sin. When sin seems like it is trying to take control we don't have to listen. Our flesh is lying to us. Sin does not have dominion. Christ is who has dominion.