

Sunday, August 31, 2008  
Living Hope EFC

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The Bible says I'm Dead to Sin. Then Why do I Feel so Alive?  
God's Answer to Sin's Mastery in Our Lives: Rom.6:1-14

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**ILLUS:** Discharge from the Navy

Jack has been in the Navy for 20 years. Today, at noon he gets his discharge. He has finished his time. He is getting out and starting a *new live*. He's been looking forward to his *new freedom!*

At noon Jack reports to his commanding officer and presents his papers. His duffle bag is packed. He's dressed to leave. He salutes his commander one last time, turns & begins walking away.

His commander responds: "Jack where are you going? I need you to finish your work. I'll look into these papers. *You've got a greater obligation* – to your country & your commanding officer! Besides, you've got security here. A routine you've known for years.

Jack: "But sir, I have my discharge papers?"

Commander: "Jack, **you've been under my command for years**. I'm your superior officer. Get back to your post & get back to work."

Jack turns, takes his duffle bag and heads back to his quarters and to the same old routine. *He thought he had been discharged? I wants his freedom...but its true, this is what he's known for years. Its who he is!*

Q: What's wrong with this picture?

**Why would Jack submit to servitude to his old commander?**

Paul asks us the same question in Romans 6:1.

WHY – If we are new creations in Christ, have a heavenly citizenship, are justified, sealed by the H.S., Christ lives in us...

- **Why, saved from sin, do we continue to submit to its impulses?**
- Gal.5:19-21; Eph.4:25-32 –These exhortations are written to churches
- Does God have an answer to the dilemma of Rom.7:15?
- [Is God's intent to make us like Christ, or leave us as we were?](#)

Rom.6:1-14: God's Answer to Sin's Mastery over our lives.

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CONTEXT: **Chafer:** "Salvation from the power of sin for the Christian, like salvation from the penalty of sin for the unsaved, depends on two factors; the divine provisions and the human appropriation," Vol.2, 349.

ROMANS 1-5: Paul explained that **freedom from sins penalty** is totally and completely aside from any human effort, by grace, thru faith in Christ's sufficiency as our sacrifice for sin (3:20, 23; 5:1, 9-11).

ROMANS 6-8: God's work in **freeing us from sin's power** is on the same basis as freeing us from the sin's penalty; by our faith in the sufficient provision of grace – our actual sharing in Christ's death & resurrection.

**6:1 The Q:** Shall we go on sinning – that grace might increase?

- **Jews** criticized the gospel of grace: "*It leads to lawlessness*" (3:8).

- “If my sin reveals how magnanimous God’s grace is, then the more I sin = the more grace abounds and God is glorified!”
- **TODAY:** “You Christians think you can live any way you want and just ask forgiveness -& everything is OK!” = **Grace condones sin.**”

**Barnhouse:** “The ...question arose in part from those who imagined that God was teaching a justification that did not involve sanctification,” (DTS notes, 4-5)

The issue Paul is dealing with: “**Shall we continue to live, (remain) as we used to live, subject to the reign of sin...now that grace reigns?**” 5:20-21

- Can grace achieve anything more than Law?

### **6:2-4 The A:** Death has effectively ended our relationship with sin!

#### **1: God’s salvation includes His provision for freedom from sin’s power.**

- **Titus 2:11-15** – Grace never teaches irresponsibility.
- The time for our living under servitude of sin has ended!
- When the Christian chose Christ as the means of his payment for sins (*penal benefit*) he automatically received God’s provision of freedom from sin’s power (*moral benefits*).
- He is NOT saying that it is impossible for us to sin (1 John 1:8,10).
- He IS saying it is logically & ethically inconsistent. As inconsistent as Jack continuing to obey his commander, discharged from service.

#### **2: Paul is now dealing with the principle of SIN, VS SINS.**

- Up until 5:12 Paul has been dealing with God’s answer to our SINS.
- From 5:18-8:39 “SIN” is mentioned 35 times.
- Paul made a transition from the *fruit* to the *root*, acts to their source.
- Christ not only died for our “sins,” but He died unto “sin” – the very source/ commander of our old life patterns.

#### **3: “We died to sin” (v.2, 3,4,5, 6,7). What does this mean?**

1) We did not literally die! We died with Christ in His death. HOW?

- **Vs.3: Baptized.** A past action. When?  $\mu\epsilon\nu$ : 2,000 years ago.  $\delta\epsilon$ : At regeneration the H.S. joined us to Christ’s death to sin.
- “**Baptized**” = “To dip into, be identified with, influenced by.” It was used of dipping cloth into a dye, the cloth was ever- after changed by the color/ influence/ of the dye.
- The H.S. places us “into Christ” (1 Cor.12:13; Jn.14:20).
- You can’t be “IN” Christ without *sharing the influence* of his spiritual history & achievements (1 Cor.1:30; John 15:1-8).

**Chafer:** The believer is joined to Christ, and partakes of all that Christ is with respect to meritorious standing, and all that He has done, with respect to substitution- co-death, co-burial, co-crucifixion, co-resurrection,” Vol.2, 351.

**6:4 – Buried:** (aorist) > Purpose = “*Just as...even so we live a new life.*”

- It is impossible to participate in one without the other.
- We are to live a NEW life, by a NEW life principle.
- **καινος = NEW** in quality or character (VS νεος = new in time).
- 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph.4:24; Col.3:4

**ILLUS: Blood transfusion.**

Steve was telling us about a man who was going to receive a blood transfusion from his sister. His immune system must be destroyed, and he will have her immune system. His new health is actually her health!

- The quality of his new life is totally dependent upon the quality of his sister's blood/ life! - The same it true for the Christian!
- **God has given us new life. We add nothing to it.** Much more: 5:17.

We may say: "How can that be? I don't und/ it. I don't feel dead!"

- Truth is truth regardless of our understanding or experiencing it.
- We can't fully understand how our sins were put on Christ, how He could pay the total price, how we could die to sins power?
- **Our experience is not the measure of truth. God's revelation is.**
- It is not our perfect und/ing, but our reckoning that saves us.

**Wm. R. Newell:** "How are you able to believe that Christ really bare the guilt of your sins and that you will not meet them at the judgment day? It is only God's Word that tells you that Christ bare our sins...And it is that same Word that tells you that you as connected with Adam, died with Christ, that your old man was crucified, and are thus to reckon your present relation 'dead to sin, and alive to God.'"

2) Sin did not die; we are separated from its legal dominion.

- Sin is not eradicated. It is alive and well! - 1 John 1:10

3) Nor are we unresponsive to sin, like a paralyzed limb is to outside stimulus. BUT we **need not** sin any longer.

- **We can never say: "I have no sin," NOR "I must sin" 1 John 1:8, 2:1-2**
- God has made a provision for us to NOT sin. We are not to go on the way it used to be. He has broken sin's dominion over us.

**POINT:** God's provision in breaking the hold of sin over us **is not by anything we do**, but what Christ did and by our union with Him.

NOW we can say to sin: "I am conscious of your presence in me. I know too well the appeal you make to me. BUT I believe with all my heart your dominion over me was broken by what God did in Christ for me." - McConkey, *The Way of Victory*, 21

- **Don't confuse sin's presence in you with sin's dominion over you.**

**6:5-7** Further Explanation: God's liberation of the Christian.

**6:5** –We "have been" (perfect tense) united to his death...resurrection"

**6:6** – Our "old man" has been (aorest) crucified" – rendered inoperative, deprived of power, of no effect. – **Heb.2:14.**

- **NEW life (v.4) comes out only as OLD man is rendered inoperative.**
- **WHEN?** 2,000 years ago. **HOW?** By our real union with Christ.
- **Old Man?** = Our state of existence in Adam, as a result of the fall, separate from the grace of God, under the dominion of sin (3:9-20)
- **Body of sin:** Our body under the control of sin, sin's weapon.
- **SIN:** the principle of evil, the source from which evil operates with man, enbondaging man, causing him to be dead to God!

**6:7** – **Death frees one** from all previous legal obligations & relationships.

- It cancels old debts, breaks old ties, clears of all claims against us.

**Newell:** "Perhaps no more difficult task, no task requiring such constant vigilant attention, is assigned by God to the believer...this matter of taking note of & keeping in mind what goes so completely against consciousness, that our old man was crucified.

These words are addressed to faith, to faith only. Emotions, feelings, deny them. To reason, they are foolishness. But ah, what stormy seas has faith walked over!...Let us never forget, that this crucifixion was a thing definitely done by God at the cross, just as really as our sins were there laid upon Christ," 212.

**6:8-10.** God has done for us, what Christ has achieved for us.

Our new relationship to sin and life is what Christ's is!

- What happened to HIM, happened to US, by our union with Him.

**6:9** – "Was **raised** (aor). "Is (pres) **no longer** dying, mastered by sin."

**6:10** – "**Once for all**" died to sin! Alive to God – forever! = Our state!

**ILLUS:** Suppose a man is convicted of a capital offense. The law sentences him to death. He died last Friday, but today is alive, walking around.

**Q:** What authority/ jurisdiction does the law now have over him?

**A:** Once the crime has been judged, the sentence carried out, the law is fulfilled & has no more that it can do. The crime is forever settled.

**POINT:** Christ paid all that the Law demanded for our sin. Now raised, the Law has no more jurisdiction over Him, or over we who are united with Him in His death and resurrection.

**Gal.2:19** "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God."

**We may continue to sin. The fact is, God ended our relationship to it.**

**6:11-14.** NOW you must individually apply what is your new life.

**6:11** – What is left for us to **do**, to defeat sins' mastery over us?

- "**Count it yours!**" – Present imperative.
- Paul uses an *accounting term*: "Give it the full value God does."

**POINT:** That which Christ did in relation to sin and new life, the believer is now to count upon with the same value - for himself. Christ's achievements (the riches of grace) are in our spiritual account to draw upon – **Eph.1:3.**

- It goes back to the principle explained in 5:18-19. The actions of one representing many, involve the many in his merit or demerit.
- **Counting it so** does not crucify self, it applies what is already done
- *It does not make the fact, but is commanded in view of the facts.*
- It does not banish sin's presence or experience.
- It is not a matter of our feelings. It is commanded on basis of facts.

**6:12** – As a result: "Stop letting sin reign" (pres impv).

**6:13** – Don't place your members at sin's disposal (pres impv). BUT – Present yourselves (aor. Impv.) to God – once for all, then daily!

**6:14** – **Here is Paul's decisive answer & contrast to verse one.**

- Grace – does not abound by the Christians ongoing sins...
- Grace abounds by setting the slaves free from sin's bondage!
- It effectively ends our relationship to sin, and gives us a new relationship with God that is free from sin's control.

## SUMMARY

1 – God has set us free from sin's power by applying Christ's death to sin's power – to our account, as well as His resurrection life – Jn.7:38-39.

2 – To be set free by someone is one thing!

To realize our freedom is another.

- **The fact of our emancipation is dependent upon our Emancipator.**
- *Experiencing freedom from sin's domination takes our intelligent obedience of faith, in the facts of Christ's accomplishments.*
- There is no cheap easy way; no flash experience to sanctification.
- It is a decision of faith in the facts, followed by a daily attitude of faith

### Emancipation Proclamation

It was New Year's Day, 1863 when the Emancipation Proclamation was publicly stated, but it was not until Dec.18, 1865, two years later, that the Constitution made those convictions official. By the time it became law Lincoln was dead, yet never was his influence & voice of greater effect!

2,000 years ago Jesus died on the cross paying sins' penalty, and destroying sin's power over every Christian who would ever believe in Him. Never has His influence and voices been of greater affect.

THOSE who walk in freedom, are those who BELIEVE it is true, and walk accordingly.