

## How Do We Then Live?

### Week 3 - Romans 6:1-14

? What is something you used to dislike that you now like? Or vice versa?

#### Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of how the salvific work of Christ translates to a life that is alive in Christ.
- Understand the seeming contradiction of being freed from the law but still living in a world of sin.

**In this section, Paul transitions from explaining our justification and salvation in Christ to describing how our lives and actions are changed because of Christ's work on the cross.**

#### What is True

##### Romans 6:1-11 NIV

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— <sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

? Why do you think Paul began with these questions in verse 1?

*Possible answers: This question is a response to the point he made in verses 5:20-21 ("Where sin increased, grace increased all the more"). Paul doesn't want that to be interpreted as a license to sin. This is a very easy way for us to misunderstand how we are to live in light of Christ's work on the cross.*

? How does Paul answer his own question?

*Possible answers: We are now DEAD to sin because of Christ's work. It is not natural to continue to walk in the dark after God has justified and completely changed us. We are united with him in resurrection, not death.*

? How do we make sense of this passage when it is very evident that we are all still sinners?

*Possible answers: We are still human and will struggle with sin for the rest of our lives in this broken world. We are immediately changed by Christ's death but his work will be continued through sanctification, the change God continues to make in our lives as we grow in the faith. We can have the assurance of faith that Christ will come again in glory and make all things new.*

## What to Do

### Romans 6:12-14 NIV

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

? What is the relationship between what Paul tells us is true in verses 1-11 and how he then teaches us to live in verses 12-14? How would you summarize each of these two sections?

*Possible answers: We are free from sin so we should strive to live like it. Our desire should be to continue to grow in our faith and continue to kill sin with the help of the Spirit in us.*

? How do we practically not offer any part of ourselves to sin as an instrument of wickedness?

*Possible answers: There are many helpful ways to fight sin in our lives. Here are some that could be useful: identify personal weaknesses and the things that tempt us, ask someone to partner with you for confession and accountability, actively avoid sources of temptation, consciously invest our time in good habits and service, and continue to pray and lean on God's strength in grace.*

? How might we still be tempted to live under the law?

*Possible answers: When we read the commands in this chapter, it can be easy to create a new law for ourselves. While fighting sin is important, we cannot use our success or failure at fighting sin as a measure of salvation, that is creating a new law for ourselves. As we read earlier in Romans, salvation is not by works, but by grace!*

? What does it mean for believers that we are not under the law?

*Possible answers: Salvation isn't about following rules. We have been freed from the penalty of sin and are completely justified by Christ's substitutionary atonement on the cross. We live under grace!*

### For Discussion and Accountability

? What was God telling you through this passage this week? What did you need to hear?

? What part of your “old self” do you need to nail to the cross with Jesus this week? How can we come alongside you in this?

? How does the knowledge that you are no longer a slave to sin free you this week?