

Right in God's Sight

Studies from the Book of Romans

Lesson 7

Romans 6:1–14

Romans 6:1–7

In His Likeness

Paul spent the previous five chapters addressing the issue of the need for forgiveness and the provision of the believer's justification through faith in Christ. Now focusing on those who have received Christ as their Savior, Paul will spend the next three chapters (Romans 6-8) answering the question, *how then should a believer live?* An understanding of the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ means that we are no longer slaves to sin but that we literally walk into a new life.

Read Romans 6:1–14.

Paul previously stated (5:20) that where sin increased, God's grace increased much more. The truth that His grace is greater than all our sin should produce a response of praise. But some might incorrectly conclude that if God's forgiveness increases as people sin more, then why not go on sinning to experience more grace?

1. What is Paul's response to such thinking? Why? vv. 1–2
 - a. What is the reason Paul states for not sinning any longer? v. 2

The exclamatory words, "Certainly not!" (*me genoito*) are very strong and are repeated no less than fourteen times in Paul's letters. Depending on the context where they are used, they literally mean: "*Not at all!*"—"Certainly not!"—"By no means!"—"Absolutely not!"—"Never!" Paul's point being that in no way is God's grace ever to be misused as an encouragement to further sin. He goes on to explain why.

2. What does Paul say about the reality of the believer's position in Christ?
 - a. v. 3
 - b. v. 4

Paul uses the example of baptism to illustrate that by faith all believers are *baptized* (placed) into Christ, becoming united or identified with Him in His death. The physical act of immersion is a public expression of the inward conversion that has already taken place, signifying that when He died, the believer also died to the old sinful lifestyle, beginning a brand new one.

Note: It should be understood that the act of water baptism itself does not save; rather, it represents a burial to the old way of life and the raising (resurrection) of the body into a new way of life. Those who choose to follow Jesus should also follow His example and become baptized. (See Matthew 3:13–17; and His commission to His followers in Matthew 28:19.)

3. Once the believer becomes identified with Jesus in His death, what follows? v. 4

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead did not mean that He was revived; rather that His life took on a completely new form. Likewise, the transforming power of God that identifies the believer with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, separates him/her from sin's power, resulting in a new life.

Selah . . .

What contrast does Paul make about the believer's life in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

- Personal: What are some of the "old things" in your life that have passed away?

- Think for a moment about some of the *brand new* things that are yours now that you're a Christian: *new heart; new mind; new set of values and behaviors; new possessions; new family*. Pick just one of these blessings and share how it has impacted your life. Have you thanked God for it?

Memory Verse: "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:11

For Group Discussion . . .

To *walk in newness of life* means to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. 1 John 2:6 says, “*He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk as He walked.*” The Apostle John mentions several instances in the book of 1 John where he uses the phrase “*as He is*” meaning, as *Jesus is*. Look up the references below and jot down how you are to follow His example. Elaborate with a specific personal application where you can.

1 John 1:7

1 John 3:2–3

1 John 3:7

1 John 4:17

Word Wealth:

Using the resources you have on hand (i.e., additional Bible translations, dictionary, Bible dictionary, concordance, etc.), write a definition for the words below.

baptized (6:3) _____

buried (6:4) _____

resurrection (6:5) _____

dominion (6:14) _____

Romans 6:8–11

Dead to Sin

Read Romans 6:1–23. In this next section, we'll examine verses 5–14. (The remainder of the chapter, verses 15–23, will be examined in lesson 8.)

Sanctification is the transforming process of God that separates the believer from sin to Himself. It is the *walk in newness of life* that Paul spoke about in verse 4. It is the life-long process of growth that constitutes the gradual move toward maturity, holiness, and purity; one that never ends while we are here on the earth. Sanctification is grounded in a believer's identification with Jesus Christ by faith. From there it involves the willing participation of the believer's heart and mind, coupled with action in order for him/her to be conformed to the image of Christ. Paul will expound on this further in verses 5–23.

The first thing every believer must take hold of is stated in verse 11 (this week's memory verse): ***“Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God.”*** To *reckon* literally means to *count* or, more specifically, *keep on counting* yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. This involves action on our part.

1. In order to reckon on something as true, we must know and believe what Paul states in verses 5–7. Rewrite these truths in your own words.
 - a. v. 5
 - b. v. 6
 - c. v. 7

If we reckon—*keep on counting*—all of the above, the result is that we will *know* (v. 6) that our old self was crucified with Him. The word *know* here speaks not of an intellectual knowledge, but an *experiential* knowledge that has been proven out in daily life. The “old self” is the person you were before you knew Christ, when you were still under the power of sin. At the moment of salvation, sin's power over you was broken—it can no longer control you!

Selah . . .

Paul put it beautifully in Galatians 2:20, which is written out for you below. Take a moment to think about each part of the verse, putting it in your own words.

- *“I have been crucified with Christ” –*
- *“It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” –*

- *“And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God” –*

- *“Who loved me and gave Himself for me” –*

The moment you became *born again*, God gave you a new nature; He did not change the old nature. In other words, you are just as capable of sinning today as you were before you received Christ as your Savior. But it is extremely important to realize that since you were united together with Christ in His death, you have been freed from sin’s power (Romans 6:7). God provided the way for you to walk into a new life; you now have to keep walking forward!

In verses 8–11, Paul reiterates what he says in verses 5–7.

2. If (since) we believe that we died with Him, what else do we believe? Why?
vv. 8–9

Resurrection life with Christ begins at the moment of salvation and continues on through eternity with the Lord. Jesus, having experienced physical death and becoming victorious over it through His resurrection, cannot die again. Death is not His master!

3. In verse 10, Paul says that in His physical death, Jesus died to sin once for all. How do the following verses in the book of Hebrews reinforce Paul’s point?
 - a. Hebrews 7:27

 - b. Hebrews 9:12

 - c. Hebrews 10:10

Jesus died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God (v.10). The words “He lives” are in the present tense meaning literally that He “keeps on living.” What is true of Jesus Christ is to be reckoned true by those of us who are identified with Him by faith. We too must count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God!

4. Resurrection life has God as its Source and its Goal. Look up the following verses that speak of *your* new life. Make a list of what this means to you.
 - Ephesians 2:5-6

 - Colossians 2:12–13

Romans 6:12–14

Alive to God

Once the Christian has the mind that reckons he/she has died to sin, that belief must be experientially put into practice. Paul puts the responsibility for this on each believer.

1. What does Paul command Christians in verse 12?

Your old self was crucified together with Christ on the cross, but at the same time the sin nature in you was not eliminated or destroyed; sin's ability to control you was done away with—it was rendered powerless. Paul says, *do not let* sin continue to reign in your body as it did before you knew Christ. When sin reigns, it enslaves and people obey its evil desires.

2. Paul becomes even more specific in verse 13; what does he command believers not to do?
 - a. What does he command believers to do?
 - b. See the related verse in Romans 12:1, where Paul states this same thought. How are you to view presenting your body to God? Is this *your* attitude?
3. According to Romans 6:14, what is the reason you should not allow sin to rule over you?

Look Closer . . .

What should motivate you to present yourself to God as a sacrifice? See 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

- ❖ Who makes this possible? Will you present yourself today?

The completion of our sanctification will take place when we see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. At that moment we will be like Him, "for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

My Romans Road

Listen . . . Learn . . . Live . . . God's Truth!

Take a look back at this week's lesson. Briefly recap what you learned this week and how you intend to live it out.

1. What lesson in your study became real to you this week?

2. How do you intend to apply this lesson to your daily life?

Memory Verse:

Write down what you learned about God from this week's memory verse.

Write out the verse from memory.

Prayer Request:

Write out your most earnest prayer request and lift it to the Lord.

Notes

[illegible]

