

HOW DEAD MEN SHOULD LIVE

ROMANS 6:1-11

Text:

Introduction:

Up until this point, the Paul has been speaking with the subject of sin and salvation. We have been told that we are all sinners. We have been shown that there is one means of salvation: faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been told that by placing our faith in Jesus for salvation, we are given the gift of eternal life in Him.

Those who trust Christ as their Savior are given a new life in Christ!

As we begin chapter 6, Paul is going to spend the next 3 chapters telling us how this new life is lived.

We often refer to the life that we are to live after salvation or justification as sanctification.

The word sanctification means:

1. The act of making holy. In an evangelical sense, the act of God's grace by which the affections of men are purified or alienated from sin and the world, and exalted to a supreme love to God.

2. The act of consecrating or of setting apart for a sacred purpose; consecration.

Notice:

1. SANCTIFICATION IS FOUNDED UPON OUR RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST (VS. 1-3)

While justification has to do with our standing before God, sanctification has to do with our state in this world.

When we speak of sanctification, we are speaking of the believer living in holiness and righteousness, set apart unto God.

A. The Inference Paul Examines

Romans 6:1

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Paul speaks on behalf of his objectors, and anticipates that they may offer this challenge. Their question is really not founded, based upon all Paul says, but is rather an attempt to undermine Paul's gospel.

Their question is essentially this: Since our sin makes the grace of God abound (a false premise), should we not just continue on sinning as before?

B. The Impossibility Paul Expresses

Romans 6:2

² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Paul answers his own question, again using the strongest language possible. He says in verse two, *“God forbid...”*

Paul goes on in verse two to explain why this inference in verse one could never be true. He says, *“...How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”*

He shows that a person that has been unified with Christ by true saving faith cannot continue to live a life of sin. This is supported by John in 1 John 1:6, where the aged apostle says, *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”*

C. The Identification Paul Explains

Romans 6:3

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

In verse three, Paul goes on to explain that it is impossible for a believer to continue in sin, and it is impossible based on the fact that they have been united in and identified with Christ's death. He asks,

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”

2. SANCTIFICATION IS FURNISHED BY OUR RESURRECTION WITH CHRIST (VS. 4-5)

Romans 6:4-5

⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

A. The Resurrection Gives Us the Power of Sanctification

B. The Resurrection Gives Us the Purpose of Sanctification

Paul says, *“...even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* The “even so” refers back to the “like as” earlier in the verse. Paul says, “Like as the Lord was raised to new life by the glorious work of God, even so are we too raised to new life (sanctification).”

C. The Resurrection Gives Us the Pattern of Sanctification

He says in verse five, *“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”*

Christianity is not merely reformation; it is regeneration. It is a total break from an old life, and an entrance into a completely new life in Christ. It is nothing short of a new birth (John 3:3). It is what prompted Paul to say, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

3. SANCTIFICATION IS FULFILLED IN OUR RESPONSE TO CHRIST (VS. 6-11)

Romans 6:6-11

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰ For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. ¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You may ask, “If Christ’s resurrection brings me into new life, why is that I still struggle with the old life?”

In verses 6-11, and throughout the next couple of chapters, Paul explains how the principle of sanctification through Christ is enacted and fulfilled in our life.

A. The Principle We Must Acknowledge

Verse six begins with a critical phrase. Paul says, *“Knowing this...”*

Paul goes on in verse seven, *“For he that is dead is freed from sin.”* Here is the fact Paul lays out. We died with Christ, and that death was for the purpose of freeing us from sin. Not just sin’s punishment, but also sin’s power.

Now, whether we understand it emotionally or practically, it is a fact nonetheless that we must acknowledge. *“Christ died not to save us in our sins; but to save us from our sins”*

Paul goes on and points us to:

B. The Promise We Must Accept

Verse eight begins with a word that points us to next step in Paul’s logic. Verse eight begins, *“Now...”* It is as if Paul says, *“Now that you acknowledge that Christ died not just to justify you, but to sanctify you as well, and to deliver you from the reign of sin in your life...”*

He goes on in verse eight, *“Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.”* Verse seven hung on what we should “know”. Verse eight hangs on what we should “believe”.

Our new life is tied up in the fact of His new life. We believe that in the promise of the gospel, that in Christ we are given total freedom from sin. That promise is based on the life to which Christ was raised, a life free from sin and alive only to God.

C. The Practice We Must Adopt

Notice verse 11. It begins with the word *“Likewise...”* Paul is about to draw a comparison. He has stated that we believe that Christ died once, and rose again never to return to death. Now he says in verse 11, *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord...”*

While chapter six explores the truth of our sanctification, the reality is that the whole chapter is really in answer to the question posed in verse one.

We are saved by His work, and likewise, we are made holy by that same work!

Close:

The Song writer wrote:

*I hear the Savior say, Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness watch and pray, find in Me thine all
in all.*

*And when before the throne, I stand in Him complete,
I'll lay my trophies down, all down at Jesus' feet.*

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow*