

Romans 6:8-14

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 6:8-10

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God.

Notice the “if” in Romans 6:8. This “if” is connected back to Romans 6:3 about our baptism into Christ’s death which leads to His resurrection and our “new life”.

Why do we believe that we will live with Jesus? Because He took us with Him in death, and since He has the power and authority over death, He takes us with Him into new life. Jesus told his disciples that they would be with Him in John 14:2-3, *“In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

What is meant by the phrase “will never die again” referring to Jesus in verse 9?

Why does death have no dominion over Jesus? Death is in Satan’s domain, Jesus the man lived a sinless life so death could have no power over Him. He chose to lay down His life on behalf of all people who were born in Adam, born into the identity of “sinner” and Satan, a created being certainly has no power over Jesus the risen King and Creator (John 1:3 NLT *“God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him.”*)

Romans 14:8-9 says, *“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.”*

The death He died – He died a different death than us. His death was not only brutally physical; it was also brutally spiritual. All the sins of every man from Adam till Jesus returns again, were laid on Him, and in that moment which must have felt like eternity, His Father left Him because a perfectly Holy God cannot reside within a sinner, and at that moment when all sin was laid on Him, He was the

epitome of sin. Our death, even the most brutal physical death does not compare to what Jesus suffered for us when He died so we could be with Him.

His sinless life was the perfect sacrifice – a “once for all” sacrifice. 1 Peter 3:18 says, *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,”*

The “once for all aspect” points back to the Jewish law. In Leviticus 23:27-28, the Lord gave this law for a day when no one could work or they would be cut off from their people and destroyed by God., *“Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall fast and present a food offering to the Lord. ²⁸ And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God.”* Atonement means “covering.” It was a covering of sin for the next year, not a permanent removal of sin. On this day, and the duties of the high priest of the temple are outlined in Leviticus 16:1-34.

Gotquestions.com does a wonderful job of explaining the priestly activities on this day, also called Yom Kippur. “Before entering the tabernacle, Aaron was to bathe and put on special garments (v. 4), then sacrifice a bull for a sin offering for himself and his family (v. 6, 11). The blood of the bull was to be sprinkled on the ark of the covenant. Then Aaron was to bring two goats, one to be sacrificed “because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been” (v. 16), and its blood was sprinkled on the ark of the covenant. The other goat was used as a scapegoat. Aaron placed his hands on its head, confessed over it the rebellion and wickedness of the Israelites, and sent the goat out with an appointed man who released it into the wilderness (v. 21). The goat carried on itself all the sins of the people, which were forgiven for another year (v. 30).”¹

I also recommend reading Hebrews chapters 8, 9 and 10 to understand the meaning and weight of this day from the New Covenant perspective. Consider the contrast between Hebrews 10:3-4 which says, *“But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”* and 10:12-14 which says, *“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”* That single offering was all that was needed. It went beyond atonement; it eradicated sin from the spirit of the believer; it changed the spiritual DNA forever.

What does this phrase mean - but the life He lives He lives to God? With all the sin gone, the only life He lives is to God. Do you see how this is us? WE have been given the gift of that spiritual death. We have appropriated, we have taken as our own, that spiritual death that Christ died, and sin is no longer resident in our spirit. Instead, we have a new spirit given to us by Jesus’ resurrection. And if that was not the best thing ever, it gets even better. God sends the Spirit of His Son (Galatians 4:6) into us, so we have the power to live holy and sinless lives when we CHOOSE to follow the Spirit. But we always have a choice. God did not want to force us to love Him. We can also choose to walk after the “flesh,”

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Day-Atonement-Yom-Kippur.html>

the old man that was buried with Christ. We can choose to resurrect our old feelings of unworthy, unacceptable, insecure, fearful and all the other lies we chose to believe before we became new creations in Christ.

But now, if we choose to follow the Spirit, then all our actions can reflect that. The enemy may still bombard our thoughts. We may still have the first response in our head that is the “old man,” but we can then choose to take that thought captive to obey Christ, and the action we take can reflect our new identity.

Romans 6:11-12

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

Paul begins with “so”, referring to what he has just been talking about in Romans 6:2-10. Using “so” is like saying, “as a result” or “in conclusion”. After explaining the power and new life within us, he commands us to consider sin to be dead within us. Let us take this thought and walk through it as thoroughly possible. I live in an area that is full of small wild animals called squirrels. They are very fast and run out onto the roads. They will run out and back so quickly, that they are easily killed under a tire of someone driving. If I pull my car over to check on it, I will see a crushed body. It is as flat as a piece of chapati bread. It is DEAD. There is nothing I can do to bring it back to life. That is how we are to consider sin in our life.

So why does it still feel so alive in us? While sin’s access to our spirit has been completely cut off, removed, he can still talk to our soul – our mind, our will, and our emotions. Sin (also called the enemy or satan) will serve up thoughts to our minds in first person as we discussed last week. The thoughts are always presented as if they are my thoughts. For example, “This week was so bad, I deserve to go out and get drunk tonight.” If they were presented, as “This week was so bad, you deserve to go out and get drunk tonight” you would recognize immediately what was going on and deny the thought. It would be as if someone else was talking to you. THEY ARE. They may be using “I” instead of “you” but it is still the enemy, a source outside of you.

So, what do you do with the thought that comes into your head? You have 2 choices: come into agreement or don’t. Coming into agreement would look like taking steps to figure out where you want to go to get drunk or perhaps imaging what it would be like to just sit and have those drinks. Not coming into agreement would look like recognizing that this thought is not from you but from the enemy, and imagining a net in your mind that just scoops up the thought and tosses it away from you, so far that you can no longer see it. It is followed by reminding yourself that you are a child of God, that that was the old you and the new you has been set free from those actions and behaviors.

We all wish the thoughts would not even come into our heads. Some see this as how little their faith has grown but this is not truth! You are not a sinner because these thoughts come into your head. The truth is that the enemy will continue to do this the rest of your life in one way or another, trying to

limit your Kingdom use. He will throw out thoughts of old habits, of greed, of power, or jealousy, of lust....the list goes on and on. He knows your weakness; he used to be your master. 1 Peter 5:8 reminds us, *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* These are not just words to consider; they are the truth that is happening all the time. We see great men of God fall because of power or lust. When that happens, the many young in the faith who listened to them and trusted them are disgusted and turn away from Christianity. But God did not leave us without strategies to use. He gives us 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 reminding us about the battle and how to fight it. *"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ"*

This is an important point – too often we ask those we are guiding to behave in a certain way but without the reminder of the strength and the power given to us by Holy Spirit living inside of us. We can do nothing out of our own strength. It must be done out of His strength. We must understand that this is not a weakness of our faith but rather the opposite – a more mature faith that understands our status as new creations, as saints and not sinners, as children of the most high God and not beggars seeking crumbs from the Lord's table. We act by depending on and abiding in Christ, letting Holy Spirit guide our steps.

Romans 6:13-14

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Your "members" are what is outside of your spirit – your mind, will, emotions and your body. Do not place yourself in situations where you can be tempted to sin. Instead, place yourself fully before God for His use and His purpose. Be an "instrument for righteousness." This requires a posture of humility and understanding. Humility comes from the recognition that YOU could have never done this for yourself; only God could. It also requires a position of thankfulness for what He did to save you; it is beyond what you could ever pay back.

In this position of humility and thankfulness, you gratefully allow Holy Spirit to dominate your life, to guide your decisions, and His power in you does not permit sin to dominate (or have dominion over) you.

Let us ask Holy Spirit to fill us with this understanding, not just in our heads, but in our hearts. Let us truly embrace this truth not as an ideal that is only written in scripture but as a reality out of which we can truly live. Romans 12:2 reminds us of how to hold onto this truth, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* As we spend time in the Word, it is a constant reminder to us of who we were and who we are now. **This truth will rock your world.**