

CrossRoads Baptist Church
April 6, 2008 10:15 a.m.
Romans 6:1-4
Romans #34

Our Identity With His Death

Have you ever known someone to accept Christ only to return to their old former life? The Bible clearly states that when a person experiences Christ, they should be a difference...change...transformation.

To understand Romans 6, remember in Romans 5 he refers to First Adam and the Second Adam. In the first Adam, there is death, sin, unrighteousness. How did you get into the first Adam? Did you choose it? Did you will it? No – you were born in it. And up to that time there had never been anyone else exactly like you but at the same time everybody who had ever been born was just like you. Your nature was the same. Protect number one – do what you wanted to do, what made you feel good.

The DNA of the first Adam is for you to sin, to put yourself first, to let sin have dominate.

Apparently after chapter five, some were saying, “If I have been justified freely by the grace of God, If I sin again, I shall be forgiven again, by grace. Thus, the more I sin, the more there is of grace.” The thought is that grace only grows as sin grows.

Or again, "If God delights in justifying the *ungodly*, why be *godly*? If our acceptance with God depends wholly upon what *He* does, then it doesn't matter what *we* do. So let's sin all the more!"

But this is based on a misunderstanding of what Paul said. But, to be truthful, had Paul not made those statements, no such objection would be forthcoming. It is only when one preaches salvation by grace through faith that the accusation of *Antinomianism* is heard. Indeed,

as Stott has said, “if we are proclaiming Paul’s gospel, with its emphasis on the freeness of grace and the impossibility of self-salvation, we are sure to provoke the charge of antinomianism. If we do not arouse this criticism, the likelihood is that we are not preaching Paul’s gospel” (167).

I.E. if you preach grace, then you will be accused of being soft on sin.

But what about the second Adam? Christ? How did you get into Christ? You were born in it.

John 3:3 You must be born again.

I Peter 1:23 “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but in corruptible, through the Word of God....”

I John 5:18 “We know that whoever is born of God does not sin;”

How is that possible? How can a change like that come about? The answer is that you are born again. You are now a new creation, with new DNA, a new person with an identity that is different.

The concept of coming from Romans 5 and talking about the grace of God being greater than sin, some argue then that we should continue to sin so grace might abound. Paul answers that argument in chapter six with that being a total impossibility. He is outraged at such a statement.

Romans 6:2 “No means!” For a Christian, continuing to live in sin is not impermissible, it is impossible!” The old KJV says, “God forbid.”

II Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new.”

We go from a pig nature to a sheep nature. We go from hating the Word of God to loving the Word of God. We go from not wanting to be with the people of God to being a part of the family of God.

When change does not happen then something is really, really wrong.

“Any justification that does not lead to sanctification is a sham.”

Robert Mounce

Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse: “Holiness starts where justification finishes, and if holiness does not start, we have the right to suspect that justification never started either.”

This concept of continuing to sin so the grace of God looks good does not even work with mothers. Can you image a teenager telling his mom, “Mom, I’m going to keep my room so messy so everyone will see what a great housekeeper you really are.”

To really understand this concept you must understand two words: positional and practically.

You will want to mentally argue as we talk about this great concept in the next few weeks – but Pastor, practically, I am still tempted to sin, how can I be dead? I do still sin, does that mean that I’m not dead to sin and alive to Christ?

The difference is that Paul is giving us a positional statement and stance here that we must first know before we can live it out.

There was a man who left his facet on in his bathroom and tried to keep the water out of the floor by continually mopping up the water. Was there a better way? Yes, turn the facet off. Realize that you can turn it off and stop the water flow.

Remember last Sunday the statement from Dr. Timothy Warner, “People may not live what they *say they believe*, but they will always live what they *really believe*. Therefore, if you want to help a person change the way they live, you have to help them change what they believe.”

You must believe right before you will behave right.

What must you believe? What must you know? Look at verses 3,6,9

“know.”

There are three words that you need to underline, circle and highlight in Romans 6.

1. Know – verses 3,6,9 – We must accept a fact
2. Recon – verse 11 – We must possess an attitude of faith
3. Yield – verse 13 – We must continue in an act of finality.

Today, we look at the first aspect of that fact we must know.

We died with Christ at the cross.

Just look at the references to die, death in these verses:

2, 3, 4,5,6-8, 11, 13, 14

Two great truths concerning the death of Christ:

1. Jesus died for our sins. Romans 5:6, 8
2. We died with Jesus to our sin.

Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

Neil Anderson was telling the experience of a pastor visiting him, “I’ve been struggling to live a victorious Christian life for 20 years. I know my problem. I’ve not died like this verse says to. How do I do that? I do I die?”

Neil: “Dying is not your problem. Read that verse again”

The pastor read it again and replied with the same response.

Neil: Read it again, but slower. Then the light went off.

Pastor: “That’s past tense isn’t it? I have already died.”

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, ...”

So this is the beginning of these steps to victory:

1. Recognize Christ’s death for you on the cross.
2. Recognize your death in Him on the cross.

Your old self has to die. Why? The old self was independent and disobedient to God, so it had to die so we could be free from the slavery of that sin – Romans 6:6

Death is an ending to a relationship, but not of existence. Sin hasn't died, it is still strong and appealing. But when your old self died with Christ on the cross, your relationship with sin ended.

Does this mean you are now sinless? By no means. The death of your old self formally ended your relationship with sin, but it did not end sin's existence. Sin and Satan are still around, and they were strong and appealing. But by virtue of the crucifixion of the old self, sin's power over you is broken (Romans 6: 7,12,14). You are no longer under any obligation to serve sin, to obey sin, or to respond to sin.

You are free.

You commit sin when you willfully allow yourself to act independently of God as the old self did as a matter of nature and course. But when you do this, you are violating your new nature and your new identity. Such actions must be confessed and forgiven.

See yourself now in Christ – a new creature – already with power to overcome sin and self.

You no longer have to walk according to the flesh, but the Spirit. You are free.

Do you want that freedom in Christ?