

CrossRoads Baptist Church
June 1, 2008 10:15 a.m.
Romans 6:12-14
Romans #38

“The Reinforcement for our Identity”

When you are pouring concrete, you put reinforcements or rebar into the concrete to make it stronger.

There are three words that open up the life of victory as taught in Romans 6:1-14: 1. “Know” (3,6,9) 2. “Reckon”(11) 3. “Yield, present” (13).

1. The body itself is amoral.

Romans 6:6 “body of sin” should not be rendered “sinful body” for that suggest a physical frame is inherently evil. It most likely means “our sin dominated body” in that the body is conditioned and controlled by sin

J. R. Stott “Sin uses our body for its own evil purposes, perverting our natural instincts, degrading hunger into gluttony, sexual desire into lust.”

“old man” does not refer chronological age – but rather something that is completely worn out and useless – fit only for the scrap heap

So the body does not have to be whipped into submission. But neither should we believe as the Gnostics that since the body will be destroyed in the future that it does not matter and we can let it do whatever. It is only the spiritual things that matter.

2. The battle for victory is not in the body, but the mind.

Never was. Genesis 3

3. The real test of belief is the resulting action of your body.

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.

Repentance is a change of mind and absolutely necessary for salvation.

4. The corresponding action of your body reinforces the mind.
5. The actions of your body are but servants and are determined by you.

Verse 13 – “present” carries the thought of the Old Testament sacrifices. But instead of taking an offering to the Temple, you are to present your bodies as living sacrifices.

Every man and woman is now a priest who must present their own bodies at the disposal of God to be used by Him.

It is a whole burnt offering that must be rendered and could never be reclaimed.

Instruments – tools, weapons of warfare

Wuest – “Paul thinks of the members of the Christian body as weapons to be used in the Christian warfare against evil.”

If God wants us to go somewhere, say something, or do something and we don’t yield our body to righteousness, then sin and disobedience will still have power over us and our knowing and reckoning will have no effect.

Thus our living is not in Christ, but self.

But if we yield our bodies to righteousness, then we break the dominion of sin over us – verse 14

Amplified “Do not continue offering or yielding your bodily members to unrighteousness.”

The actions of your body are determined by you.

If I asked to borrow your car to go and make a visit to the hospital and a thief asked you to use your car to rob a bank. It’s your car – your choose who to lend it to. Whoever you want to give the keys to is in your power. Which would you chose?

The body is a servant, an instrument, a weapon. Be careful to whom you give control of it. But it is your choice and you are responsible.

6. We are no longer enslaved to sin but are free to permit our bodies and our minds to serve God.

Sin has not died. The old man has died to sin and the body of sin is paralyzed and rendered powerless.

The power of sin has been broken. Not that sin is impossible to us – but it is no longer necessary. We are not sinless, but we should sin less.

Verse 6 – “the body of sin might be done away with..” It is rendered paralyzed, unemployed, powerless. It does not mean extinct, but deprived of its power.

7. The source of our victory is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit living inside us.

Watchman Nee said, “Sin is a deposed monarch who will exhaust all his energies to seize all opportunities to regain his throne.”

When you stop being filled with the Word of God and the Spirit of God, then you are powerless in yourself and headed for a fall. But not one that from which you can’t recover.