

# We Who Died to Sin

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study  
Romans 6:3

---

## Romans 6:1–14

**Paul states the question:** *1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! **How can we who died to sin still live in it?*** [the sense here is something that has happened once and for ever. It is a fact that belongs in the past]

1. “How can we” – “We – How shall we . . .” The emphasis is our uniqueness, our position. If we realize what Christ has done in our life and the special position we as believers occupy, the whole question of lawlessness goes away.

**Exposition of the doctrine of our union with Christ:** *3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus **were baptized into his death?** 4 **We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been **united with him in a death like his,** we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 **We know that our old self was crucified with him** in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For **one who has died** has been set free from sin. 8 **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.*

**The appeal to the believer:** *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.*

2. In reference to Paul’s statement in verse 2, Martin Lloyd-Jones comments, “Indeed I do not hesitate to say that to understand the meaning of this phrase is the key to the understanding of the Apostle’s whole doctrine of salvation – in its full sense.”<sup>1</sup>
3. **What does “who died to sin still live in it” mean?**
  - It does not mean that we are perfectionists. In other words, we will still sin.
  - It does not mean we “ought” to be dead to sin (the text says we died).
  - It does not mean we are “dying more and more” to sin (again, we died)
  - It does not mean we have “renounced” sin. (again, we died)
  - It does not mean we have died to the “guilt of sin and its punishment” (again we died to sin)

### I. The Meaning of the Statement (6:2)

A. In what sense has the Christian died then?

1. The new birth ended the reign of sin in our life (**Romans 5:21**, *So that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*)
2. The Christian has died to the reign of sin. Its reign. Its rule. Instead now, Grace reigns in our life. (Romans 5:12-21, esp vss. 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21)
3. Scriptural Support
  - a) **Colossians 1:13**, *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,*
  - b) **Acts 26:18**, *To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’*

---

<sup>1</sup> Lloyd-Jones, Martin. Romans: Exposition of Chapter 6. The Banner of Truth Trust. 1972. (14)

<sup>2</sup> Lloyd-Jones, Martin. Romans: Exposition of Chapter 6. The Banner of Truth Trust. 1972. (16-21)

- c) **Philippians 3:20**, *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*
- d) **Ephesians 2:19**, *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

## II. The Argument (6:3)

- A. Paul is dealing with the question that will inevitably arise, “Does grace lead to lawlessness?” This is the topic of chapter 6.<sup>3</sup>
- B. The Believer’s Union (Baptism) into Christ (Romans 6:3)
  - 1. **Romans 6:3**, *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?* This is the intimate, personal union, personal fellowship with Christ<sup>4</sup>
    - a) **1 Corinthians 10:1–2**, *For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,*
      - (1) Under Moses’ authority
      - (2) Involved in all that God was doing in Moses’ life
      - (3) Moses was the channel by which God spoke to Israel
    - b) **1 John 1:3**, *That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*
    - c) **Matthew 28:20**, *Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*
    - d) **1 Corinthians 6:17**, *But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.*
      - (1) A good definition of the Greek word baptize is when a person, place, or thing is put into a new environment, thereby forever altering its relationship to its previous environment. This is a profound concept as it relates to our union with Christ and we will never fully understand it.
    - e) Putting on conveys the same message as baptism:
      - (1) **Galatians 3:27**, *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
      - (2) **Romans 13:14**, *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*
    - f) **Colossians 2:11–12**, *In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.*
    - g) **1 Corinthians 6:15–17**, *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.*
    - h) **Ephesians 2:5–6**, *Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*
    - i) **Revelation 3:21**, *The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.*
    - j) **2 Peter 1:3–4**, *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*
  - 2. How did the believer die to sin? Baptism means union with Christ in His death. (we say at one’s baptism, “Buried with Christ unto His death,” we lower a person into the “grave” water.)

<sup>3</sup> Lloyd-Jones, Martin. *Romans: Exposition of Chapter 6*. The Banner of Truth Trust. 1972. (5)

<sup>4</sup> MacArthur, John, *Freedom from Sin*. Grace to You, Valencia, CA. 2022. (14-20)