

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]

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.*

I. The Believer's Death and Resurrection with Christ (6:3-5)

- A. The Believer's old life (3)
- B. The Believer's new life (6:4-5)
 - 1. Its certainty (6:4)
 - a) Just as the glory of God is displayed in Christ resurrection so should that same glory be displayed in our walk with Christ (4)
 - (1) "hina" – might. Does not mean a possibility, but rather speaks to God's intentions.
 - (2) "kainos" – newness. Not chronology but rather quality or kind of life
 - b) Descriptions of our new life
 - (1) We receive a new heart - **Ezekiel 36:26**, *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*
 - (2) We receive a new spirit - **Ezekiel 18:31**, *Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?*
 - (3) We receive a new name - **Revelation 2:17**, *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'*
 - (4) We receive a new song - **Psalms 40:3**, *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.*
 - (5) We are considered a new creation - **Galatians 6:15**, *For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17*, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
 - (6) Possessed of a new self - **Ephesians 4:24**, *And to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*
 - c) Our new walk – daily spiritual conduct
 - 2. Its fruition (6:5)
 - a) United with Him

- (1) United – growing together or united by growing (as vines, grafted to one another)
- (2) Like His (likeness) – not identical to the Lord's death but "like His" (compare to Romans 8:3, Jesus came in the "likeness of sinful flesh" (similar, not the same)).
- (3) We shall certainly be – has a future meaning (glorification); but is also in reference to our life now (Romans 6:11)
 - (a) Present new life (**Romans 6:11**, *So you also must consider {reckon – credit - count} yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*
 - (b) Future glorification (**Philippians 3:20–21**, *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*
 - (c) **1 John 3:2**, *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*
 - (d) **2 Timothy 2:11–12**, *The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; **12** if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;*
- b) "United with" – "sumphutos" – to grow together or united by growing. (**John 15:1–8**, *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that **does bear fruit** he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me, [**1 John 2:6**, *Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.] and I in you. As the branch cannot **bear fruit** by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches [**Rom 6:5**]. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is **that bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit** and so prove to be my disciples.)**
- c) Distinguishing marks of the true branches
 - (1) They bear fruit (Vss 2, 4, 5, 8)
 - (2) They abide in Christ (the Vine) (4, 5, 9)
 - (3) They are obedient (John 15:10) (**John 15:10**, *If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*
 - (4) They undergo pruning (2) Pruning of vines involves:
 - (a) The removal of the growing tips so that would not grow too rapidly.
 - (b) Removal of 1 to 2 feet of growing shoots to prevent snapping of in wind.
 - (c) Removal of some flower or grape clusters so that those left could produce more and better quality.
 - (d) Removal of suckers that arose from below ground or from the trunk and main branches to conserve strength.

Ephesians 2:8–10, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) — **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Ephesians 4:17-25, 26-32, 5:1-2