

Romans Part 20 – Chapter 6

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Romans 6:1–14 explores how Christians should think about and respond to sin now that we are in Christ and our sins are forgiven. In explaining this, Paul reveals new information about what happened when we put our faith in Christ. In a spiritual sense, we died with Him, and to our sin. We were then resurrected to a new spiritual life. Now Paul instructs us to continue remembering that we are no longer slaves to sin. We must not offer our bodies to be used for sin, but we must offer ourselves as instruments of righteousness.

Let's have fun with an example of looking at our obedience to God rather than our response to evil in the world:

What are some of the latest global concerns?

1. China becoming strong and promoting socialism and world dominance through economic and political leverage.
2. Taiwan being taken over by China – then China controls the majority of microchip making in the world
3. Massive Immigration into the U.S. through the southern border
4. Massive spending bills passed on the precipice of a recession

What are the most obvious commandments from God for our lives?

1. **Matthew 28:19-20:** *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*
2. **Mark 16:15** *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*
3. **Matthew 22:37** *And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ⁴⁰ Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets."*
4. **Matthew 25: 37-40** *Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? ³⁸ And when did we see You as a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? ³⁹ And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of Mine, you did it for Me.'*
5. **Matthew 5:14-16:** *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*
6. **Matthew 5:43-48:** *"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the*

tax collectors, do they not do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers *and sisters*, what more are you doing *than others*? Even the Gentiles, do they not do the same? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

We can look at all our challenges in this life through these commandment filters to look for ways we can accomplish the goals of Christ's Kingdom; **2 Peter 3:9-10** *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

Romans 6:1-4

*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?** 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.*

Died to sin: we're not talking about a forensic thing, we're talking about reality. We're not talking about something God said, we're talking about something He did to you. You died. Some translations say "who are dead to sin," and that gives the idea of a state you are currently in. That is not the best translation. "Died to sin"—it's talking about a past event. You can't go on living in sin. You're not just declared righteous—you have been made righteous. You're not only justified—you have been sanctified, transformed. Paul is outrageously indignant in verse 2, when he says, "By no means."

Paul then introduces that our old self has died, just as he did in **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.*

There is a danger in emphasizing the doctrine of justification if you think that salvation is purely a declaration and not a transformation. It is important to talk not only about justification, but about regeneration or conversion or transformation. Our new self has a new way of thinking, a new way of acting, a new way of living. Those entrapped by sin cannot be transformed because they are slaves to sin. Our new life of obedience brings sanctification. If you want to confirm whether you're a Christian or not, you can look at your life to discern that the evidences of transformation are manifest. The evidence of transformation has to be there, and that's how you discern the reality of your spiritual condition.

Romans 6:5-11

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.

We died in Christ, and we rose in Christ. The old is gone, the new has come. We share in His death that we may share in His life. He becomes sin for us that we might be made righteous in Him. This is the transformation. **Galatians 2:20**: *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but*

Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The old has died - crucified with Christ. That's death. Crucifixion is a symbol of death. And yet it's not just me now. It's Christ living in me. A Christian is a transformed person. It is not just someone who says, once somewhere in the past I believed, and therefore God declared me just and now it doesn't matter how I live, grace bounds toward my abounding sin. That's not what Scripture teaches. There is justification and there is sanctification, which includes an initial transformation.

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. 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.

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Paul realizes that in our transformation to obedience he can never look at people the same again. He doesn't judge anybody according to the flesh and he certainly doesn't judge Christ according to the flesh like he did once in his life. His whole perspective on life has totally changed. And that's how it is for anyone who is in Christ. Everything changes from the inside out. Old things have passed away and behold new things have come. New longings, new desires, new loves, new affections, new ideals, new perspectives, everything is new.

We cannot go on living in sin, the same way we did before because we have died. We are not the same person. We are a new creation. Old things have passed away and new things have come. We have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son. We have been granted the indwelling Holy Spirit. We have been given a new nature, we are new creations. And all of that is linked to dying. This dying concept is at the heart of understanding the experiential transformation of salvation.

*¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to **sanctification**.*

John MacArthur: "I heard preachers say you have a black dog and a white dog and the dogs are fighting your whole life. And the one that wins is the one that you say sic 'em too. What that does, it makes salvation purely addition instead of transformation.

If I am still what I used to be, and you added something to me, where's the transformation? What I read in the Bible here very clearly is that the old self was killed.

And that is exactly what 2 Corinthians 5:17 said. I am a new creation. I am not what I was. The old self is not the flesh because we still have the flesh, our unredeemed humanness. The old self is our old, unregenerate nature. It is dead. It's gone. The old man has been crucified. Now, there're two words for old in the Greek, *archaios*, which means old from point of time, archaic. We use the term archaeology to describe the study of old things. And the other word is *palaios*, which means, not old in point of time, but old in point of use. And that's the term used here.

The old self. The useless self. Old in the sense that it is worn out. It describes something worn out, useless, not functioning, fit for the dumps, scrap heap, something literally to be discarded. And that's the old man. The old man is simply the person you were before you were a Christian. Depraved, unregenerate, and useless to God and unable to do anything to please Him and even your best acts were filthy rags. The old man is the unregenerate nature, what you are in Adam, what I was in Adam. So it is very, very serious to think of a Christian as an old man and a new man together. That is not what the Bible teaches. It teaches that the old self was crucified. And crucifixion is a metaphor for death."

*²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But **now** that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, **but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

A Christian is not simply a person who gets forgiveness, a Christian is not simply a person who gets to go to heaven, not simply a person who receives the Holy Spirit; he is a person who has become someone he was not.

He is a saint, a child of God, a divine masterpiece, a child of light, a born son, a citizen of heaven, not only positionally, not only judicially, but actually. Becoming a Christian is becoming a new creation. That's what we are. And that's what we see as we look at our lives. It is not that we no longer see any sin in our lives, and we are not perfect now. We see sin in our lives and hate it. That's the evidence of our new nature. John Newton, the author of the song "Amazing Grace" said. "I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I wish to be. I am not what I hope to be. But **by the cross of Jesus Christ, I am not what I was.**" That's it. That's a new creation. What a gift.

This should add another layer of thought to **John 17:3**: *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*