
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. (Romans 6:4)

I. You Have Been Changed

- a. Just because we are under "abounding grace" does not mean we should keep on sinning.
- b. When we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are saying that we identify with His death and resurrection. That spiritual identification should result in an outward manifestation of change.
- c. Paul asked four penetrating questions to alert listeners/readers of a call to change. (vv.1-4)
- d. We may wear the same clothes, live in the same house, drive the same car, but we do not have to live the same way now that we are *in Christ*. (read v. 11) How are you living?
- e. We often appreciate and take care of something new. We must learn to take care of this *new life*.
- f. Christian living depends on Christian learning. If Satan can keep you ignorant he can keep you powerless. We must learn to walk free. Christian freedom is taught and practiced.
- g. Our salvation is based on a living relationship with Christ.
 1. *Baptism* refers to immersion and identification in that relationship
 2. Our new relationship with Christ also means we have a new relationship with sin.
- h. We must all learn to submit to this new life that Paul describes as being "slaves of righteousness."

II. Free From Sin, but a Slave to Christ

- a. Bond -slave (*doulos*) – one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, their will being altogether consumed in the will of the other.
- b. Sin is not simply something that we can't help doing but something we choose to do in direct violation of the will of God. **How do feel about being controlled?**
- c. Paul makes an appeal to the "free will" that exist inside of all us...*Let not sin...Do not present...but present* (vv.12-14). "Present" means to put at the service of; to place or stand.
 1. Whatever you present, submit or yield to, will determine how you live.
- d. Why does the Lord want your body?
 1. The body is not sinful, the body is neutral. It can be led by sin or by God.
 2. Sin wants to be the master. It finds a foothold in the old nature, and seeks control.
 3. The believer's body is God's temple, and He wants to use it for His glory. (Phil 1:20-21)
 4. The body is God's tool to be used for Kingdom building and for spiritual warfare.(e.g. prayer)
- e. Three words summarize the reasons for our yielding: *favor, freedom, and fruit*.
- f. *Favor* – It is because of God's grace that we yield (present) ourselves to Him. (vv.14)
- g. *Freedom* – the unsaved person is free – free from *righteousness*. The Prodigal son wanted freedom, but his rebellion led him deeper into slavery. The righteous are free from "sin slavery."
 1. Only when he returned home and presented himself to his father did he really find freedom.
- h. *Fruit* – the fruit of sin is ultimately death. The fruit of righteousness is holiness and everlasting life. (v.22)
- i. In verse 17, we see the word heart (*kardia*) which means the seat of and center of human life.
- j. If we want the favor of God, the freedom that is found only in Christ, and Spiritual fruit produced from or lives, we must fill our hearts with the God's word.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Christ has died for you, so now we must die to ourselves daily, in order to live the new life!
- b. *Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*(Matt 12:34)
- c. Your words are the manifestation of who your really are underneath the visible.
- d. The source of your life flows from your heart. Guard it and feed it and protect it with the God's Holy Word. The newness of your life depends on it. Live a life of practiced faith.