

A New Kind of Freedom

March 18, 2018

We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:2b–4, NIV)

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (Romans 6:6–8, NIV)

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:11–14, NIV)

How can I live in my new identity as a Christian?

To live a holy life, you need to know the truth about who you are in Christ.

A human being always acts and performs according to what he believes about himself. - Dr. Maxwell Maltz

There are only two sources for the development of your identity.

- a. Culture.
- b. Christ.

The reason that people are living unhealthy and unfulfilled lives is they are putting their trust in how their culture defines them.

1. You died with Christ and gained a whole new life as a result.

By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (Romans 6:2, NIV)

2. Your sinful nature was buried with Christ.

Paul illustrates this here with baptism.

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:3, NIV)

This refers to the baptism of the Spirit that we all received when we trusted Jesus.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:13, NIV)

3. When Jesus rose from the grave we were raised with him.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4, NIV)

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:5, NIV)

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. (Romans 6:12, NIV)

4. When we were raised with Jesus we received “a new self” – a new nature.

*For we know that **our old self was crucified with him** so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. (Romans 6:6–7, NIV)*

*Now if we died with Christ, we believe that **we will also live with him**. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. (Romans 6:8–10, NIV)*

To live a holy life, you need to accept the truth of who you are in Christ.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11, NIV)

Accept that you are dead to sin.

Accept that you are alive to Jesus Christ.

To live a holy life, you need to yield to the truth of who you are in Christ.

Sin is still in your body and soul, but it is not your master.

Paul speaks of sin as a personified character in your life.

Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

And he says that this personified character of Sin is no longer your master.

For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:12–14, NIV)

You have the freedom and opportunity to say “no” to Sin.

I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. (Romans 6:19, NIV)

When you gave in to Mr./Ms. Sin you became its slave!

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16, NIV)

There were negative consequences when you were a slave to sin.

When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! (Romans 6:20–21, NIV)

But now you have God on your side! It's now you and God against Mr./Ms. Sin.

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:22–23, NIV)

A New Kind of Freedom – Study Guide

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Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be a slave?
- What benefit do we get from sin?
- What benefit do we get from righteousness?

Read Romans 6:15-16

- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does it mean to be a slave of sin?
- What about a slave of righteousness?

Can there be a neutral?

- What does it mean present yourselves to "someone"?
- Who would an unbeliever be presenting themselves to?
- How about a believer?
- Are we slaves of God?
- Isn't it very bad to be a slave?

Read Romans 6:17-18

What is the significance of the phrase "obedient from the heart"?

- Aren't our actions the most important?
- Why would someone be obedient if it isn't from the heart?

Explain the phrase "to that form of teaching to which you were committed"? What form of teaching?

- Are you committed to obeying from your heart biblical teaching?
- What "human term" is Paul referring to?

Read Romans 6:19-23

Can someone be saved if they aren't willing to make Christ the Lord and master of their lives?

- Does the slave pick and choose what he wants to obey?
- How about when he wants to obey? (It's all or nothing).

Closing Discussion Questions

- What are the results of these two ways of life?
- What should we do when we face temptation according to the Bible?