

## Week 1- Power Over Sin – Rom 6 & 7

### Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

- [Question] What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?
- [Answer] 2 By no means!
- [Assertion] We (in our essential nature) died to sin;
- [Reframed Question] how can we (in our essential nature) live in it any longer?
- [Explanation] 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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.
- [Assertion] 5 If we have been [perfect tense...ongoing] united with him [Christ, not Adam] like this [in the likeness of] in his death, we will [future] certainly also be united with him [Christ] in his resurrection.
- [Explanation] 6 For we know that *our old self was crucified with him* so that the *body of sin* [ours] might be done away with [*rendered ineffective or abolished*], that we should *no longer be slaves to sin*— 7 because anyone who has died has been freed [slavery term] from sin.
- [Assertion] 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that *we will also live with him*. [future]
- [Explanation] 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead [resurrection not resuscitation], he cannot die again; *death no longer has mastery over him*. 10 The death he died, he died to sin *once for all*; but the life he lives, he lives to God.
- [Exhortation] 11 In the same way, *count yourselves dead to sin* but alive to God *in* Christ Jesus [our life is "hidden" within his]. 12 Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 **Do not offer** [go on offering] the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness [unrighteousness],
- [Contrast]
- but rather* offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness [good behavior].
- [Summary transition] 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are **not under law, but under grace**.

### Discussion:

- Old self HAS died (something ESSENTIAL has changed)...Burial signifies the theological significance of baptism...death to old life...New Life associated with *Christ's* resurrection
- Three things die- (1) old self, (2) body of death(sin), (3) slavery to sin. See also Wis1.4; Sir 18.22
- This is a death of the CONTROLL of sin over the body
- Transfer of heritage from Adam to Christ
- "Once for all" – a reference to all people and all time...no repeated sacrifice is needed
- "count yourselves" = "reckoning" or "consider"

## Slaves to Righteousness

- [Question] 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are **not under law but under grace**?
- [Answer] By no means!
- [Analogy #1] 16 Don't you know that **when you offer** yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, **which leads to** death, or to obedience, **which leads to** righteousness [end result righteousness]?
- [Explanation] 17 But thanks be to God that, though **you used to be** slaves to sin, you **wholeheartedly obeyed** the form [pattern, often a ref to a personality, a person] of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 You **have been set free from sin** [mastery of sin] and have become slaves to righteousness.
- [Exhortation] 19 I put this in human terms [analogy] because you are weak in your natural selves.
- [comparison] **Just as** you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, **so now** offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.
- [comparison] 20 **When you were slaves to sin**, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 **But now** that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.
- [Summary-Tx] 23 For the **wages of sin** is death [recall ref to wages in 5:1, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## An Illustration From Marriage

- [Analogy #2] 7:1 Do you not know, brothers—for I [Paul] am speaking to men who know the law—that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? 2 For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. 3 So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.
- [App/Transition] 4 So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. 5 For when we were controlled by the **flesh** [sinful nature], the sinful passions **aroused by the law** [this verse is a link to next section] were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the **Spirit**, and not in the old way of the **written code**.

## Discussion

- Sanctification, the process of spiritual growth is the overall view of this section....where is your choice leading? This raises the issue of the role of the Law, the purpose and function of moral codes.
- Holy living is not an option, but still eternal life is not a reward...it is a gift.
- 7:1f – parallel found in Numbers 5:20-29 in LXX
- 7:1f – believer used to be controlled by flesh...the law aroused passions (see 5:20f)