

Armed With the Mind of Christ
1 Peter 4:1-3

1 Therefore, since **Christ suffered for us in the flesh**, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for **he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin**,

Christ suffered for us in the flesh –

1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) — 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Or as Spurgeon put it – “Christ has fought with sin to the bitter end. He is now done with sin. (It is finished), for He has died to it. He has borne the capital sentence pronounced upon the guilty, dying so that He could bring us to God.”

Those of us who have put our faith in Jesus are now **One with Him**. And so, we too have **died in our association with Him**.

This reality of dying in our association with Christ should cause us to reflect back to the Words written by the Apostle Paul in **Romans 6**, where he argues of the necessity of living in a **new manner of life as a result of** our association in both Jesus’s death and resurrection.

Romans 6:1–14 (NKJV) — 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** Certainly not! **How shall we who died** to sin live any longer in it? **3** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life**. **5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. **7** For he who has died has been freed from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. **10** For the death that He died, **He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God**.

Again, these words speak of our **association in Jesus** using the reference of being baptized into Christ.

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The term – “**as many of us as were baptized into Christ**” – In reference not primarily to water baptism, but more importantly to our spiritual baptism in Christ. Now we are commanded to be baptized **as a** believer, not to become a believer!

But if the spiritual act of baptism (our spiritual union in Jesus’ death and resurrection) has not already taken place in one’s heart, **then water baptism is pointless.**

This word "Baptism" comes from the Greek word **baptizo**; There is another word in the Greek which is **bapto**. Both words mean to "dip" or "soak" or "wash" something. But there is a difference between the two.

In order to better understand the difference – we can reference an old pickling recipe.

- The first step of the recipe is to **dip or bapto the vegetable in boiling water.** Which would rightly be described as **bapto**.
- But then the second step is to **baptizo** the vegetable into a vinegar solution.

Both verbs involve immersing the vegetable in a liquid, but **bapto** was only temporary. Whereas the second step – **baptizo** caused a **permanent change in the vegetable.** It is **not just** that the vegetable was immersed into the solution, but the solution has **now permeated** the vegetable, **changing its state.**

Taking a cloth and dipping it in dye will cause the cloth to be permanently altered and identified with that dye. In the Greek, it would be said that the cloth has been **"baptized"** into the die, using the term **baptizo** not **bapto**.

*This is what Paul is referring to in our being baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection. The idea of us being spiritually joined into Christ’s death and resurrection in such a way that we have been permanently altered within our association to that death. **Therefore, we are also permanently identified with Christ’s death in our own lives in such a way that we are not longer ruled by our old sinful nature.**

The moment that we enter into relationship with Jesus, we begin to loath the sin that we once cherished. As much as I wish the promise was that we wouldn’t be able to sin any longer. **We know that is not a reality.** We are still very capable of acting out in every sin. But **it is no longer out of our hearts desire.** The **desire of the believer is to please the Lord.**

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Now God has given the believer **everything they need to start living a godly life**. But the new **believer must learn** to walk in the truth of all they he or she has received in Christ. In other words, as Christians – **we must learn to live as if Jesus was living through us, BECAUSE HE IS! He has place His Spirit in our hearts.**

- We call that sanctification.

The two sources that God has given the believer to enable them to live a resurrected life is, the **Living Word of God**, and the **Holy Spirit**.

We are all at various stages of this process of learning how to cease from sin, **within** our association with Jesus's death and resurrection. But **realize that every believer has already died in their relationship to sin.**

He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin -- meaning we have died to the absolute control of sin.

It is a single and completed action. It does not **mean that we are dying gradually, day by day**. Nor does the verb died **have a future tense**. It is not saying that we shall die to sin at some point in the future. **But it is a finished action that has already taken place in the life of a believer.**

Now I would readily admit that some day's it **feels** like it is sin that has control. But God's word assures the believer that in their union with Jesus Christ, something supernatural has already taken place within their spirit. Not something that we have to do, **it is something that God Himself has already done to us.**

In fact, the key to victory comes when we understand that **it is Jesus living through us.**

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) — 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

I am so thankful that it is Jesus living in us, instead of **us having to satisfy a standard of righteousness on our own**, in order to have a relationship with Christ.

What we are required to do is humble ourselves and come to Jesus confessing our position before Him as a sinner, **with a heart that is willing to repent and turn to Jesus**. So that we can receive His offer of Salvation through Faith. It is out of our relationship that **obedience is born. Because it will be Christ living in us.**

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That is how we have the same mind in Christ. We surrender to Him!

We are told to arm ourselves with the same mind – Just as Christ in obedience, willingly went to the cross to deal with our sin.

We are to now consider ourselves dead to sin. Not in our own strength. But in our relationship in Christ and **through the power of the Holy Spirit now living in us.**

As Spurgeon put it, **“understand there is no quit of sin’ – there is no escaping from its power – except by contact and union with the Lord Jesus Christ.**

As a believer, with the mind of Christ, we are to **no longer give ourselves over** to the desire of the flesh, **as we once did** prior to knowing Jesus as Lord. The mind of Christ will always result in obedience. Not for Salvation but out of our relationship. Through our union with Christ.

This union that we have entered – changes our priorities.

2 that he **no longer should live** the **rest of his time** in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

Often people will try to continue to live in their past failures. Our at least carry around the burden of those failures. But **today is a new day.** Having repented of those failures, we are now invited live from this day forward, **not continuing in those failures**, nor carrying the burden of those failures that were already paid for on the Cross. **But now we are to start living for God.**

In the gospel of John, there is recorded an incident involving a woman caught in the act of adultery. The Jewish leaders tried to use this occasion to test Jesus hoping that they would find an accusation against Him. So they brought up that Moses’ law demanded that such a person be stoned to death. And then asked Jesus what, did He say concerning the situation? Trying to corner Him.

But Jesus merely replied that he who was with out sin was to be the first to cast a stone against her. Knowing that they were all guilty, **possibly of the even the same sin.** After that each accuser left one by one.

John 8:10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” **11**

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She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**"

Can you relate to how that woman must have felt hearing those words from Jesus?

But that is the mission of Jesus. Instead of coming to condemn us of our sins. **Jesus came to receive our condemnation for us.** And therefore, His words are the same for us. "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**"

Therefore, from this day forward, set in your heart to start living entirely for God instead of for the lust of men. **The way you lived before you were pickled in Jesus.**

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing *the will of the Gentiles*—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

The world is in hot pursuit of these fleshly lusts. But we know that those lusts have no place in the life of one who is in union with Jesus. Even if you try to give yourself over to them. You know our are out of place.. **They can no longer satisfy.**

Romans 6:21–23 (NKJV) — 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **22** But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.