

## The Way

### Maturity of the Church

## Lesson 22: Believers Share in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

### Review (Where We've Been)

#### *Charting Paul's Teaching Through Romans...*

*Condemnation* - You are far from God (Romans 1-3)

*Justification* - You are made right with God through faith (Romans 4-5)

*Sanctification* - You are free from the power and penalty of sin (Romans 6-8)

*Restoration* - You are restored to God (Romans 9-11)

*Transformation* - You are to live in obedience to God (Romans 12-16)

#### *Last week we learned about the benefits of being made right with God...*

Peace with God, Access to God, God's Strength in Suffering, God's Great Love

#### *We concluded that...*

- In the Garden of Eden, Adam **represented** ALL people when he sinned  
**Romans 5:12 (NLT)** When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.
- On the cross, Christ **represented** ALL people who would receive Him by faith  
**Romans 5:18 (ESV)** ...so one act of righteousness leads to justification...

### BIG Idea

Paul knew people might think that because God's grace, love and forgiveness is greater than man's sinfulness, we should continue to sin so God would show more and more of His grace and love in forgiving us.

**Romans 5:20 (NLT)** God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. **21** So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul will spend Romans 6 explaining that God's grace, love, and forgiveness is not a license to continue in sin.

## Information (What You Need to Know)

### *Two false beliefs about sin and grace...*

- Since God loves and forgives sinners, we shouldn't worry about continuing in sin
  - Since God gives grace to sinners, we should sin more to receive more grace
- Paul will teach the Romans that... **We've been set free *from* sin, not *to* sin.**

### *The Results of Being Made Right with God...*

#### ▪ **We are dead to sin**

**Romans 6:1 (NLT)** Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? **2** Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

✓ Paul says that we should not continue to sin because grace is available

✓ Paul reminds his readers that they are dead to sin

“Through Christ, our former relationship with sin is forever finished. This means we are no longer slaves of sin. Sin's power to control us has been broken. We have died to sin. We have been separated from sin, so we no longer need to obey it.” – Firm Foundations

✓ Paul *doesn't* say that sin is dead to the Christian (won't be characterized by sin)

#### ▪ **We are now free to live new lives in obedience to God**

✓ We are *joined with Christ Jesus in baptism*

**Romans 6:3 (NLT)** Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?

### *Two types of baptism...*

○ **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** (spoken of here)

“The believing sinner is placed **in Christ**, thus coming into **union** with Him. By that action he is taken out of his old environment and placed into a new environment. All this is accomplished by the act of the Holy Spirit introducing or placing him into vital union with Jesus Christ. No ceremony of water baptism ever did that.”- Kenneth Wuest

○ **Water Baptism** (not spoken of here, but symbolic of faith)

“The water, in which we were immersed at baptism, is a picture of the grave into which Jesus was placed after He died for us on the cross. When we were immersed in the water, we were showing that we shared in Jesus' death and burial. After we were immersed, we came out of the water. This was a picture of the resurrection of Jesus. We were showing that we shared in the resurrection of Jesus and that we now share in His life.” – Firm Foundations

- ✓ When Christ died for sin, He gave us the ability to live new and eternal life  
**Romans 6:4 (NLT)** ...And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. **5** Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.  
**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)** This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

- **Sin has lost its' power in our lives**

- ✓ Sin does not own us anymore  
**Romans 6:6 (NLT)** We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. **7** For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.
- ✓ Our life is now under the power of God and for the glory of God  
**Romans 6:11 (NLT)** So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.  
“The new life we are granted isn’t given so we can live unto ourselves. We aren’t dead to sin, free from sin, and given eternal life to live as we please, but to live to please God.” – David Guzik

### Application (What You Need To Do):

#### *How do we keep sin from ruling in our lives?*

- Recognize and repent of sin so it cannot control you  
**Romans 6:12 (NLT)** Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.  
**1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
- Surrender yourself moment by moment to the Lord  
**Romans 6:13 (NLT)** Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

“If my life is surrendered to God, all is well. Let me not grab it back, as though it were in peril in His hand but would be safer in mine!” - Elisabeth Elliot