

I'M NOT WHO I ONCE WAS

Imagine you are revisiting your childhood home where someone else now lives. How do you think you would be received if you just went in and sat down as if it were still your home? You no longer live there. You no longer belong there. There is no reason you should have access. Just because we used to have a place there doesn't mean we still do or ever should again. Reasonable right? Our hearts of the home of who we are. If we have met Jesus He paid a heavy price to evict the sin that dwelt there and make it where He dwells. So Why then do you think it is ok to let sin back into your life?

Welcome to week 7 of Spirit and Truth! Today we are diving into the strong declarations and reminders of the Apostle Paul as he instructs the Roman Church and the Church today of where the property lines lie when it comes to our hearts, salvation, and sin. Before we leave today we should have a clear understanding of who the tenants of our heart are, who is trespassing, and how to further grow and develop the ways we are growing in Christ.

I want you to recognize who you are in Christ and recognize what you are becoming in Christ because what you believe affects how you behave. **Right thinking leads to right living.**

If your thinking only relies on you, there is a good chance it won't be right thinking. Right thinking come from a relationship and dependence on the Lord where His thinking becomes the filter and focus that our thinking proceeds through

Isaiah 55:6-9 NLT

Seek the Lord while you can find him.

Call on him now while he is near.

7

Let the wicked change their ways
and banish the very thought of doing wrong.

Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them.

Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.

8

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord.

"And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

9

For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so my ways are higher than your ways
and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

The result of right thinking means our living should change. The thinking is the first step, but is pointless if we aren't going to let that translate into how we live. The apostle Paul teaches the Roman church very strongly that there has to come a transition from who we were in our flesh, to who we are in Christ. Not a man made switch of behavior modification because we know

people are watching us and we don't want to disappoint Grandma, but a genuine change because of Jesus continually working through our lives via the Holy Spirit in our continual process of sanctification. Becoming less of who are in our flesh, and more of who we are in redemption.

ROMANS 6:1-2 (NIV)

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

How many of you have ever had to deal with mold issues in homes? Mold is bad, dangerous, and can be seriously damaging to your health. Especially if it's black mold. If you find there's black mold in your home what do you do? You get out! You find somewhere else to stay until it can be properly removed and then once it's properly eradicated, then you can move back in. It's a long grueling process. But you don't go through that process and then be like "you know what? I miss the mold. I miss the color. I miss the smell. I think I might grow a little bit. But only a little." That's ludicrous right? Just like you can't dwell in a house filled with black mold, you can't dwell in your sin and have the life God intended for you. And if you are trying to do either, you are going to seriously do damage to your existence. That's wrong thinking, leading to wrong living.

ROMANS 6:3-4 (NIV)

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.

When we accept Jesus, are we also accepting new life? Are we saying that He truly has the right and authority to do what He wants with our lives, or do we just want Him to save us so we can enjoy the life we currently have planned, and to make sure we don't end up in Hell? **We can't expect new life in Christ while holding on to our old life in the flesh.** New life is the result of the death of old life. It's the demolition of an old building for the replacement of something new. We can all think of decaying structures in our area. People aren't going to open new businesses in decaying decrepit locations. There has to be demolition, reconstruction, and remodeling. If you aren't allowing Jesus to knock down some of the spiritual dry wall in your life, how can you expect Him to build something new?

ROMANS 6:5-8 (NIV)

5 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. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

How many of you all haven't died with Christ?

If that is what is required you believe but haven't submitted. We are called to die to who we were. It's not a morbid or macabre situation. We are dying to what was dead. Dying to our flesh is fully embracing life in Christ, but we miss out of the fruit of that as long as we hold to who we were. It's like going into witness protection but refusing to change anything about who you were. Death is going to find you. Paul tells the Galation church that this is the standard we are to live up to.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." -Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

Dying with Christ is basically yielding of yourself, your glory, your namesake, your preference, your right to be heard, your right to vengeance, your right to the spotlight, your right to titles, your right to ambitions.

If you are dying to yourself, your life can no longer be just about what you want. God doesn't just want you to be happy, He wants you to be holy. He died to make that happen. Everyone wants to accept Jesus when it means you go to Heaven, but Heaven is a long way off, and there's a lot of life between here and there. How you live and how you grow are preparing you for that process.

If you are still clinging very tightly to the idea that everything is about you and has to make you happy, then you are going to find heaven and the new earth very disappointing places.

ROMANS 6:9-10 (NIV)

9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, 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.

The life you live you are to live to God if you are called to be His child. When Jesus defeated death and sin, He didn't just defeat them as vague concepts. He defeated them as real powers and authorities that hold grips on us. He defeated the sins you've long repented of. Family, He's also defeated the sins that you are struggling with. Church, He's also defeated the sins that you are welcoming with open arms. Whenever we are embracing sin, we are taking away from the quality and depth of our own lives, because we are rejecting life and choosing death.

If you want the place you dwell in to last longer and be stronger in quality there are certain things you do that add value. New roof. New Windows. New Foundation. New Paint. Landscaping etc. Adding quality and life to your home means repairing the damage that exists. But when we ignore problems in our homes, because we think they are too much hassle to deal with, or it's not that big of a deal, we are allowing room for things to decrease. How many of you know of something right now in your home that really needs to be fixed, but it just isn't something you want to deal with. You see some cracks in your exterior walls. You took down your smoke detector cause it wouldn't stop beeping in the middle of the night and never put it back up. There are certain outlets in your house you don't use because you know there's a short in it. Things that are destructive, but not drastic enough to cause you to panic, until it's too late. When we are embracing sin in our lives, dabbling in it, or even tolerating it, we are allowing destruction to have a foothold, diminishing the work that Jesus has done for us. Things that could be huge damage later.

ROMANS 6:11-13 (NIV)

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **13** 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.

Any part. There should be not a single part of ourselves that we consciously allow sin to possess. Jesus gave us the freedom where that never has to be a factor again. But if we

are comfortable with it, we may allow it. If we fear the pain of dying to ourselves we may allow it. Understand this church. Every time we are choosing to include sin in our lives, we are telling God He's not enough for us. Any sin we allow, is damage we won't be able to ignore forever. It's ok if there's a leak as long as it stays in the bathroom. As long as only the garage is on fire, that's fine. As long as the roof is only cracked in the office area, it's not a problem. There should not be a room in your life you are comfortable letting sin dwell, even in secret.

ROMANS 6: (NIV)

14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Jesus' blood was enough. His death was enough. His resurrection was enough. He brought all the redemption we need. He's our master. He is our dwelling place. We are under His grace. We don't even have to do the work of redemption ourselves, we just have to choose not to destroy the work He's done.

There's so many remodeling shows on tv. People taking run down or struggling homes and turning them into the best versions of themselves possible. Then there's usually a dramatic reveal where the people who live in the home get to see what has been done to their home. There's usually lots of tears and smiles, and sappy music. And we're happy for them. You know what i've never seen? One of those big reveals where the people walk into their new home and just start smashing stuff with a sledgehammer. Where they take what was so graciously provided them, and trash it for no reason. That's what we are doing when we take the work Jesus has done and willing bring sin back into it. We recklessly demolish the beauty of His grace. We are given reckless love, and instead choose reckless selfishness.

We need to recognize our current condition. What portions of our life are truly sturdy and sound in Jesus. Not just by his death and resurrection, but by His full lordship.

If we continue in the current path of how we are living, are we building towards something stronger and even more securely centered on Jesus, or are we leaving openings for sin to steal, kill, and destroy the work that Jesus has done.

Are you giving the Holy Spirit access to your life daily to lead and guide, or are you inviting the sin Jesus removed to return to be a spiritual squatter in your heart?

Invitation:

1. Recognize who you are (Romans 6:3-10)

2. Recognize what you are becoming (Romans 6:11-13)

WALKING POINT: What are you giving rights to in your heart or access to life? Preach the truth to yourself everyday.

Brendon notes/scripture

Romans 8 1-2 NLT So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** And because you belong to him, the power^[a] of the life-giving Spirit has freed you^[b] from the power of sin that leads to death.

Galatians 5:13 NLT **13** You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Ephesians 2:22-23 NLT **22** throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. **23** Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

Colosians 3:9-11 NLT **9** Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. **10** Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. **11** In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,^[a] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,^[b] slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.