

The Dead Living

Romans 6:1-23 ESV Our lives transformed by the power of the gospel.

- I. An inconvenient truth.
 - a. There is an enemy inside of you. A mole in the CIA; Wormtongue inside the castle – sin, the sin nature, the carnal nature, the flesh, the old man, or the first Adam – all the different names he is identified by in Scripture.
 - i. It's in league with Satan and the demons assigned to you – you are vulnerable because they know your specific weaknesses. Sin multiplies over generations – we inherit spiritual DNA that is flawed.
 - ii. The enemy hides it from you to get you in the wrong fights against the wrong enemies. (He appears as an angel of light – the master of deceit) A political party, another country, corporate America, your in-laws, your spouse, your boss, your children - anything to make you a victim because a victim can't make anything better, it depends on someone else. *Wormtongue is your friend and tells you how powerless you are and how hopeless change would be. Jesus is not welcome here. Paralyzing!
 - b. Only two chairs give you a consistent worldview.
 - i. Chair three is the living dead (a horror movie); physically alive, but dead on the inside. “Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.” No life except the weekend, and no real purpose for living – just surviving. Rebellion or religion – two ways to live in chair three.
 - ii. Chair one is the dead living; walking in the fulness of the Spirit and living dead to the carnal nature – blessed and a blessing wherever they go. Living from the love, delight, and grace they are receiving from their identity as a son and their ongoing intimacy with the Father.
 - c. Chair two is the one alive to God who also hasn't put down the sin nature. (Derrick will preach Romans 7 next week)
 - i. Romans 7:19-20 ESV “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.”
 - ii. A Christian but in a cycle of losing – why??? Sincere but defeated.
- II. Make your identity in Christ's death.
 - a. “We have been buried with Him through baptism into death.” Baptism isn't supposed to be an event, but a picture of our identity in Christ. We live dead to the old man and alive to Jesus' resurrection power. Two truths:
 - i. Jesus died for me – gets me to heaven. Imputed righteousness – a relationship with God. (Romans 6:23)

ii. I died with Jesus – gets heaven into me. Imparted righteousness – fellowship with God. (Sanctification – we are being changed from glory to glory)

b. “Consider yourselves to be dead to sin...” By identification, this is the secret. I share His death – the old Adam died. I’m a new creation, the old is passing away – he tries to define me but when I consider myself dead, his power over me is lost. (2Cor. 5:17)

c. This means being dead to our own dreams and desires.

i. 2Corinthians 5:14-15 NIV “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” Jesus loved us enough to set aside heaven’s glory, become a human, and die for us; now we need to love Jesus enough to die to ourselves and live for His glory. Not the kingdom of me, but the kingdom of God!

ii. What!!! This is un-American. Even the dreams and desires that God has put in you will have to die and be raised from the dead.

Spouse, career, ministry – God wants us to hold them up to His fire so our identity stays in Him.

III. Do not present your members to sin.

a. Don’t access the sin nature.

i. Romans 6:13 NIV “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.” *The sin nature is still on your hard drive even though you’re a Christian – just because it’s there doesn’t mean you have to access it. Pornography – coming out – the enemy can tempt but only we click on it and access it.

ii. Galatians 5:16 ESV “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” It doesn’t say you’ll stop having them – if you think it’s sin to have a wrong desire or to be tempted, you’ll always be discouraged. *Images pop up – delete them immediately!

b. Put off the sin nature. Ephesians 4:22 “... put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.” *What stuck out to me this week was that the command wasn’t – “Don’t put on the sin nature.” You don’t have to put it on – just do nothing spiritually and you will automatically wear it! If you don’t take off your pajamas you will wear them all day!

IV. Present your members to God.

a. Remember your identity.

i. Romans 6:13b ESV “... present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life...” Don’t just consider yourself

dead; consider yourself alive with His resurrection power. This is who you are! Baptism wasn't just an event, it is a picture of your identity now.

ii. Romans 6:14 ESV "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." Not under law is the key. You are not under performance and the fear, guilt and shame of living under the law. If we go back to law, we will go back to will power and find ourselves losing – "that which I want to do, I'm not doing."

1. I am under grace – God loves me because He's good, not because I'm good. I am delighted in and favored – He has adopted me as His own – this is who I am!

2. My lawn mower man. "Don't use gas with ethanol – it will both mow the grass and slowly destroy the engine." The right fireplace for the fire. We were created to run on grace.

b. Regularly open the gift of intimacy. (John 17:3) To live in church one you will have to use your identity to access intimacy or fellowship with God.

i. My quiet time every day. Not doing a duty, looking forward to the greatest gift of all – being with Him! A place, a time, coffee with my best friend. He happens to be the King of the universe so I always let Him talk first!

ii. Church with others - there are some things He will do for you and me, but there are other things He will only do for us! (Matt. 18:20)

iii. Putting on the clothes that go with the new life. Eph. 4:24 NIV "...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Righteousness, peace, and joy – hey! *These outfits are part of the gift – they're already in your closet – put them on! Dealing with shame – 1John 1:9 – Today is a new day!