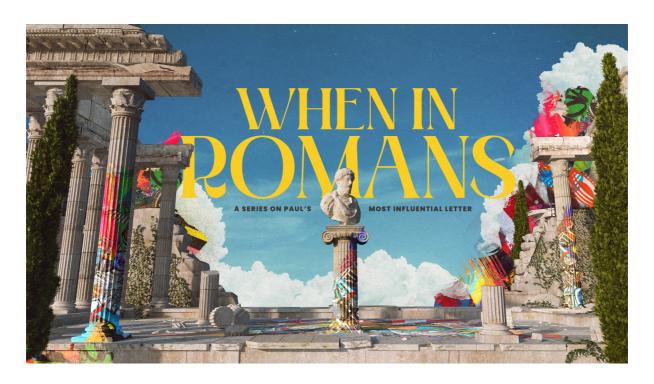
# When In Romans

# Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

Pastor Jeff Atherton



#### Themes from Romans

Week 1: The gospel saves and shapes

Week 2: Before grace is amazing, sin must be exposed

Week 3: We are made right with God - by faith (not performance)

Week 4: So what now? If grace is that big... can we just keep sinning?

Grace doesn't Minimize sin — it completely Destroys It

#### Romans 6:1-4 NLT

Should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism.

And just as *Christ was raised from the dead* by the glorious power of the Father, now *we also may live new lives*.

Grace doesn't give you <u>Permission</u> to sin — it gives you <u>Power</u> to Overcome

You don't work for Freedom - you Walk in it

#### Romans 6:6-7, 11-14 NLT

We know that our *old sinful selves were crucified with Christ*... So you should *consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin* and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live... Instead, give yourselves completely to God... *Sin is no longer your master.* 

Don't try to earn <u>Freedom</u> - just <u>Live</u> like you're <u>Free</u>

The Law reveals the <u>Problem</u> - but only christ is the <u>Cure</u>

#### Romans 7:4-6 NLT

So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. We can now serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

<u>Rules</u> can show you what's <u>Wrong</u> - but only <u>Relationship</u> can make you <u>Right</u>

The struggle is Real - but so is Victory

#### **Romans 7:14-25 NLT**

So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. *The trouble is with me*, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. *I don't really understand myself*, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, *I do what I hate*. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a

miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

The struggle is not a sign of <u>Failure</u> - it's a sign of <u>Faith</u>

#### **TALK ABOUT IT**

- 1. What stuck with you most from this week's message?
- 2. Why do you think people assume grace gives us a "free pass"?
- 3. Paul talks about being "dead to sin and alive to God"—what does that look like in everyday life?
- 4. Read Romans 7:15-25. How does Paul's struggle give you hope?
- 5. What's one area of life where you're ready to stop managing sin and start walking in victory?

**GOING DEEPER**: Bible Study for the Week

Reading: Romans 6:1-7:25

### **Key Concepts**

- Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ (*Romans 6:1-14*)
- Slaves to Righteousness (*Romans 6:15–23*)
- Freed from the Law (*Romans 7:1-6*)
- The Inner Struggle (Romans 7:7-25)

#### **KEY WORD STUDIES:**

- **Baptism** Greek: baptizō (to immerse, submerge—into death and resurrection)
- **Sin** hamartia (missing the mark; rebellion)
- **Law** nomos (standard of righteousness, exposes sin)
- **Grace** charis (unmerited favor with divine empowerment)

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. Why does Paul use slavery as an image for sin and righteousness?
- 2. What does it mean that you are no longer under the law but under grace?

- 3. How can you distinguish between conviction from the Holy Spirit and condemnation from the enemy?
- 4. What daily habits help you live as "alive in Christ"?

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

 $Romans\ 6:11$  — So you should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

#### **PRAYER FOCUS**

Ask God to reveal any areas where you're still living as if you're in chains. Invite the Holy Spirit to empower you to live fully alive in Christ, walking in freedom and not fear.

#### **REMEMBER:**

The gospel is the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ... That he died on the cross for our sins and rose again on the 3rd day to defeat sin and death!

Read - Think - Pray - write down your thoughts... then do something - GO BE THE CHURCH!

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