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**:11-14** 'HOW' CAN THE CHRISTIAN WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE, NOT A LIFESTYLE OF SIN? This is how to live a 'blessed' life! Paul gives us choice and projects the results. The 1<sup>st</sup> step is to **KNOW** the facts of **6:1-10**. We died with Christ (**:2,3,5,6**) and were raised with Christ (**:4,5,8**), God's new creation. The 2<sup>nd</sup> step is to by faith **CONSIDER** the facts true (because they are! **:11**). The 3<sup>rd</sup> step is to **PRESENT** our bodies to God (**:12-13**). Know! Consider! Present! = How to walk as God intended all to walk! Otherwise, all we do is live in the cycle of **1 Jn. 1:9** (sin, confess, forgiven and cleansed, fellowship restored). While **1 Jn. 1:9** is part of the Good News, it's corrective medicine, not preventative.

So, the question after **6:1-10**? If the old man is dead, why is there a continual struggle with sin? This will be answered in **7:1-25**. But before that, let's take four action steps that Paul tells us to take.

**Read :11-14.** CONSIDER THE FACTS OF **6:1-10** TRUE AND ONCE-FOR-ALL PRESENT YOUR BODY TO GOD. **:11** **Even so consider** (1<sup>st</sup> command) **yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** So you also, count yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Consider is a financial term that means "to take into account, calculate it to be true, look at the books!" Think!

Take a long, slow look at the facts of God and come to a settled conviction and confidence in your mind: As Christians, we must take God at His Word. He's said it. We're to believe what He's said just like Abraham did (**4:20-21**). The facts: WE HAVE DIED WITH CHRIST. WE'VE BEEN RAISED WITH HIM. BY FAITH IN HIM, CONSIDER THESE FACTS TRUE FOR YOU! Because God's Word declares these facts, embrace by faith what God has revealed to be true. Scriptural exhortation is always built on spiritual knowledge. A moment of choice, to believe or not believe. These 3 are the only commands in Romans 5-8.

**:12-13** **Therefore do not let** [the 2<sup>nd</sup> command] **sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts...** **THEREFORE**—because you're dead to sin and alive to God and you believe these truths—don't let sin reign. **DON'T LET SIN BE KING IN YOUR MORTAL BODY SO THAT YOU OBEY ITS DESIRES.** It doesn't make sense based on the facts. It's an illogical action. You're not acting on the basis of 'who you are now IN Christ'. Why would you justify a 'lifestyle of sin'? You either don't know the facts or you don't consider them true. Don't let your fleshly urges rule; we (holy ones) are to rule in life (**5:17**). The flesh is not who you are. You are God's new creation, a saint, a godly one, a holy one, IN Christ. Making choices based on who you are, don't let sin reign. **NOT LETTING SIN REIGN IS A DELIBERATE CHOICE, BASED ON GOD'S FACTS AND OUR CONSIDERING THEM TRUE.** Remember, the new 'you' is not your body/flesh.

**:13** **and do not go on presenting** [the 3<sup>rd</sup> command] **the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, & your members as instruments of righteousness**

**to God.** "And don't go on offering the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of unrighteousness/injustice." This is another action step that defies Christian logic. God asks, "Why would you do that, when I've made you this new person in Christ? I put to death the sinner you were and raised you a saint. Your purpose as a Christian is to walk in newness of life and I've made every provision for that." Don't hand over your body to be used as a weapon of evil.

**INSTEAD, ONCE FOR ALL, PRESENT YOUR BODY TO GOD,** as the person who has been brought from death to life, and offer the parts of your body to God, as instruments of justice/righteousness. Present = to put yourself at the disposal of another. WE'RE TO PRESENT OUR UNREDEEMED BODIES TO GOD TO BE USED AS HE SEES FIT. Once for all (aorist) offer the parts of your body to Him (your tongue, your mind, your stomach, your hands, your feet, your sex organs)—offer them to God. **7:18** "I know nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my FLESH." **7:23** "I see a different law in the members of my fleshly BODY...making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members (of my body)" **12:1** Present your BODIES a living and holy sacrifice. It only makes sense based on the facts!! Hammer in the benchmark once for all! Why present? Because only God can produce Christ-like thinking and behavior. The new people we are IN Christ still live in physical bodies that are as yet unredeemed. Sin still dwells in these bodies, and it uses our flesh and even God's Law to tempt us. The only remaining beachhead where sin can attack a Christian is in his mortal body. The brain and the thinking processes are part of the mortal body. So yes, we still struggle with evil that is resident in our 'bodies', but it hasn't touched our 'spirits', and it can't do so. We are new people IN Christ. Be sure to remember the distinction between nature and flesh.

Someday we'll be separated from the very presence of sin and receive new redeemed bodies, but not yet. In the meantime, KNOW THE FACTS, CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THEM TO BE TRUE FOR THE TEMPTATION YOU'RE FACING AT THE MOMENT, AND REMEMBER—YOU'VE PRESENTED ONCE FOR ALL YOUR BODY TO GOD. By faith, set out on a course of obedience based on the facts and believing them (**:16**).

Biblical faith (considering :11 and presenting :13) rests upon Biblical facts—we're dead to sin and alive to God. We base our belief on what God has said! We can't skip any of these steps if victory is to be ours—**KNOW :3,6,9, CONSIDER :11, and PRESENT :13.** Draw a circle. On the inside write 'The Victory Cycle' and '**Romans 6:1-14**'. On the outside of the circle, at about 1:30 write 'Temptation/Test', at 4:30 the word 'Know', at 7:30 the word 'Consider', and at 10:30 the word 'Present'. Finally, at high noon, write the words, 'Reign in Life **5:17**'. **Gal. 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me (these are the facts—dead with Christ, alive in Christ, His life in me); and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith (consider and present) in the loving Son of God."** This is such a helpful cycle. "Keeping our eyes on the Biblical God & His facts makes the truths of Christ progressively become the truths of our daily experience."

Sin results when (1) we don't know who we are, (2) when we refuse to believe or consider who we are, and/or (3) when we refuse to put our bodies at God's disposal. But realize, as Christians, now when we sin it's because we choose

to, not because we have to. If you let sin reign, your slavery is voluntary, not mandatory. It's not even who you are anymore. Yes, sin CAN reign in our mortal bodies, but it is also obvious that sin does not HAVE TO reign there.

**:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.** Since a Christian, it doesn't make sense for sin to be our master. It's true, if we would still be under Law, we'd still be slaves to sin because the Law makes sin increase (**5:20**), and, the Law has no ability to deliver the sinner. But as Christians, we're no longer under law; we're under God's grace. **7:1-8:11** is Paul's complete commentary on this crucial expression. The indwelling Holy Spirit will fulfill the Law's requirements through us (**8:4**)!!!


Exult in God! Know (**:1-10**)! Consider (**:11**)! Present (**:12-14**)! Have you memorized these 3 steps and do you fully understand what each means and how to use them when temptation comes? What is your focus, on the flesh with its urges or on Jesus and the new you He's made you? God's purpose in creation and redemption is for His glory and your glory (**3:23, 8:21**). Let's reign in life as full provision has been made. What choices are you making when tempted by the world, the flesh, or the devil? Because of who God has made each Christian, let's walk in a God-pleasing way. We can, you know!

“Our reconciling Father, grace should never be used as an excuse to sin. Your reconciliation and grace included making dramatic changes in our lives; we're no longer who we were. We're now new IN Christ and IN the Spirit. So, newness of life, holiness, should be our daily walk. Have I taken these facts into account? Do I believe them? Have I acted on these truths, not presenting my body to sin but instead once-for-all presenting it to You? Am I on a path of faith and obedience? Please reveal Your honest answers to my questions. I want to walk in Your ways. I want to please You in all respects. I want newness of life to be seen through my body. Thank You for making every provision so I can walk in victory. I love You. Jesus, Your Cross and Resurrection made it possible to walk in victory. Thank You. In Your name, we pray. Amen.” (A footnote: a 4<sup>th</sup> command is in **11:18**, don't be arrogant.)

**Reflecting on Rom. 6:11-14:** Review the ‘facts’ of **:1-10**. What are two important lessons you learned from **:11-14**? What are two practical ways you will apply? Review the ‘Victory Cycle’. In which action step do you tend to fail? Memorize the Victory Cycle. If writing a letter to someone, what are the facts from **6:1-14** you will emphasize?

Final thoughts: Christianity is positive, not negative. It's okay to do unless you know it's wrong Scripturally or the Holy Spirit lets you know it's wrong for you. The Christian's goal is to cultivate and practice Godly thinking and habits. Trust and obey are necessary qualities to develop. As we do this over time, we find we'll be able to walk longer and longer between sins. We'll never walk sinlessly perfect on this earth as long as we're in these unredeemed human bodies, but, as we grow in Christ, we'll walk longer and longer periods of time in authentic Christianity. Growth as a Christian is measured not by how much I'm filled with the Spirit (because I'm either filled or I'm not) but by how much of the time I'm filled with the Spirit. If I'm growing as a Christian, I am filled more of the time this year than I was last year.

Understanding How to Walk as the Christian You Are (The Forgiveness and Victory Cycles)



Forgiveness Cycle  
1 John 1:9  
Psalm 32:1-5



Victory Cycle  
Romans 6:1-14

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