

Fellow believers: "I've accepted that I've been reconciled with God. I've become God's new creation: instead of IN Adam, I'm IN Christ. And, such wonderful truth—I can't outsin God's grace! I exult in God (5:11)! Now that I'm IN Christ, my thinking, actions, speech, and choices should reveal my identity and these truths. Walking in victory over sin is possible and even expected because of who I am now IN Christ!" May each of us who are Christians both believe and practice these truths! **Read 5:11-6:23.**

:1-2 IF JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN JESUS, YOU'VE DIED TO SIN (5:1, 6:2)!! :1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? Wrong conclusion: "If God's grace superabounds regardless of the amount or degree of sin, what does it matter if I live how I did before I became a Christian? In fact, am I not doing God a favor, giving Him more opportunities to display His grace?" Paul's immediate response? No! No! What poor logic!

:2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? God's grace is never an excuse to sin. Sin is no longer the Christian's nature nor does it have power over us. **6:2-5** are a key to understanding what God has done and who He's made us in His Son. **We've died to sin!** It was a one-time event completed in the past (aorist). Why would we even want to go back to that nature or lifestyle? Jesus died not only for what we DID but also for who we WERE. "We're not remodeled sinners but re-created saints!" Since we're new in Christ and our sins have been dealt with, living in sin is a contradiction to who He is (holy) and to who He's made us in Him (holy!). Freedom in Christ means freedom from sin and freedom to love/serve—our Lord and others. It's not so much "Can we go back?" but "Why would we?" That lifestyle is not who we now are; we've died to sin and are alive to God in Christ Jesus (**:11**)!

Can a Christian (one who is IN Christ) still sin? Of course. We still live in unredeemed bodies where sin still dwells (**chapter 7**). But, Paul's question is "Why?" What are possible reasons? (1) We don't understand the fullness of Jesus' work on the cross. (2) Mistaken identity (we think we're still sinners by nature or the flesh is who we are). (3) We don't know how to walk. (4) Temporary spiritual insanity (ignoring the reality of what Jesus has done)!

What joy to find out that when Jesus died on that Cross, somehow we as sinners died with Him; that when Jesus was raised from the dead, we were raised as saints with Him, the purpose being to walk in newness of life.

:3-5 explain how we died to sin (**read**). (1) WE DIED WITH CHRIST, (2) WERE BURIED WITH HIM, AND (3) WERE RAISED WITH HIM SO NEWNESS OF LIFE WOULD BE OUR WALK. **:3 Or do you not know (ginosko) that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?** Baptize doesn't always mean water; it just means immersed or placed into something. "Or don't you KNOW that all of us who were placed into Christ Jesus were placed into His death?" **Read 1 Cor. 12:13.** Know this—if you're a Christian, you were placed into the one body of Jesus Christ, and since that's true, then you were also placed into His death! You and I died with Christ! Our old man IN Adam ended with the Cross of Jesus (:6). Jesus not only died for our sins (offering forgiveness), but also for us as sinners. God found no good in the old self (man) who had to die or else we'd always be slaves to sin. The old

man IN Adam had to die so God killed it—when Jesus died on the Cross!

:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, SO WE TOO might walk in newness of life. Newness of life is what should mark us as Christians, not the old lifestyle of sin (conforming to the world's practices around us, those things which mark those who aren't Christians). God has made a newness-of-life walk not only a possibility but an expectation.

Since we died with Christ, what do you do with a dead person? You bury him! And that's what happened to us; we were buried with Jesus through being placed into His death. Don't dig up the old man and try to put life into it again! It seems a lot of Christians are trying to put life in the old dead-and-buried man IN Adam. We are to KNOW the facts: we've died and been buried with Christ!! And, we've also been raised with Him!! The reason for our deaths and burials was so just as Jesus was raised from the dead through the Father's glory, so we too might be raised (**:5**), the purpose being to live a brand new life (never experienced before), a holy life, a life that could/would bring glory and honor to the Father. Incredible! Newness (kairos), refers to newness of quality and character (not neos, which refers to newness in point of time). Our old man IN Adam ended with Jesus' death; our new man IN Christ began with Jesus' resurrection. God says it; we are to make the choice to believe it, based on the historical facts (not feelings) of Jesus' death and resurrection. Have you had your funeral yet? Have you had your resurrection party yet?

:5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death [according to **:2-4**, we have!], **certainly** [absolutely] **we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.** Wow! If we've died with Christ (and we have!), then we've also been raised with Him. United = to implant, grow together with, to graft a branch into another. An example would be a vine and branch. We know Jesus is the vine and we are the branches (**Jn. 15:1-11**). We're united with Him in death, burial, and resurrection. As Christians, Jesus' life and ours are inseparable. In **:6-10**, we'll see Paul repeat these same facts again. Why? Because it will radically change the way we live! We died so we could be freed from sin and its power. We were raised so we could live to God! Our life is bound up with His. He is our 'type' (**5:14**)! To be IN Christ is to have died, been buried, and been raised with Him. United and identified with Him, we can walk in newness of life. Know these facts. Believe these facts! Present our bodies to Him!

God's grace was extended so we could walk in victory over sin, not so we could continue in it! If you claim to be a Christian yet continue to see yourself living in a lifestyle of sin, then (1) you're not a Christian and deceiving yourself; OR, (2) you don't understand what God out of His grace has done in your life; OR, (3) you don't know who you are in Christ; OR, (4) you don't know how to walk in a way pleasing to God. "Dead to sin; alive to God." Play these facts over time and again—to blot out the message that's been defeating you and to bring you understanding that will free you.

Daily we're given opportunities to practice these truths: when we're stuck in traffic, a slow grocery line, difficult children/parents, tempted to sin. What

is it for you? Yes, we can have a sinful response to a blocked desire or need OR remember these **Romans 6** truths and get our true needs met by God. We make a choice, to consider these truths true and remind ourselves we've presented our bodies to God, OR to reject the truths of **Romans 6** and suffer the consequences: shame, guilt, frustration, no life of God evident.

KNOW THIS—We've died to sin! You and I died with Christ! We were buried with Him. Our new man IN Christ began with Jesus' Resurrection. God's purpose was so newness of life would mark His own! Newness of life, not a lifestyle of sin, should be our walk, based on who we now are IN Christ!

“Our Father, Your ways are so far beyond us. We would have tried to improve the old man; you killed him! We would look at deadness as failure; you look at it as the necessary ingredient to walking in newness of life. We are tempted at times to try to resuscitate the old dead person IN Adam. We need to remember: He's dead! He's buried! We can't bring life out of death! Only You can and did! If we haven't had our funerals yet, we need to! If we haven't had our resurrection parties yet, we need to. You began a whole new race so newness of life would be our walk (**Eph. 2:11-16**). Our hearts and minds are full! Jesus, thank You that when You died, were buried, and were raised, somehow we were too. We bask in the wonder of it all! Amen.”

Reflecting on Rom. 6:1-5: As you review these verses and the notes, in what ways do you tend to use God's grace as an excuse to sin? In light of these verses, what mental changes need to take place? When did you have your funeral for who you were IN Adam? When did you celebrate your new life IN Christ? How does ‘newness of life’ characterize your thinking, choices, behavior, and words?

5:11 “Exult in God! He's reconciled us” (**5:11**) is the context! Before we were reconciled? Helpless, ungodly, sinners, enemies, death reigned, condemned, IN Adam. After justified? Adequate (**2 Cor. 3:4-6a**), godly, saints, friends with God, we reign in life, righteous, IN Christ. In **6:1-5**, we learned that we died to sin. How? We died with Christ, were buried with Him, and were raised with Him—the purpose? So we could/would walk in newness of life. Together let's explore what that means. Recall **5:10**—**saved by Jesus' life**, His life in and through ours! ‘Why’ continue in a lifestyle of sin since these facts (**6:1-5**) are true? It's not so much “Can we sin?” as much as “Why would we?” Keep in mind that we're looking at identity here (**:1-10**), not performance! In **6:6-10** Paul basically repeats the truths of **6:1-5**.

:6-7 knowing (ginosko) this, that our old self (man) was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; :7 for he who has died is freed from sin. YOU DIED WITH CHRIST! You're no longer under sin's power. You're no longer a slave to sin. Knowing (:3,6,9): Renewed thinking starts with knowing the truth that transforms. We are ‘learning’ that our old man IN Adam was crucified with Jesus *so that* the body of sin might be rendered powerless (worn out and useless, inoperative) and we are no longer slaves to sin (6:17-18).

We are to KNOW that we've died. It's an important truth that the apostle will

continue to build on. Our old selves IN Adam were crucified with Jesus. If you're a Christian and alive today, you're no longer who you used to be! Know/Learn—you're no longer IN Adam; he's dead! The believer does not have two competing natures, the old and the new; but one new, justified, redeemed, holy nature that is “still incarcerated in unredeemed flesh.” A new man in an old suit. Eph. 4:20-24, Col. 3:9-10 since you laid aside the old self (man) with its evil practices, and have put on the new self (man). We no longer have to try to find worth and acceptance, purpose and love, meaning and security in our old man, with its sinful thinking and actions, by our own fleshly methods of operation.

Sin has been deprived of its strength, its controlling influence. Sin has no power over a dead person, and, we've died with Christ!! We are no longer under sin's power, although the memories and fleshly urges don't cease.

We were also crucified with Jesus SO we're not slaves to sin any longer! Yes, we are not freed from ‘sin in the flesh’ (that's still future, when we receive our redeemed bodies, **8:23**). By the way, the Holy Spirit is God's solution to sin in the flesh and its fleshly urges; see **chapters 7-8!**) But we are free from sin's penalty and free from sin's power. Exult in God (**5:11**)! From here on, we don't have to sin. We can sin with our minds, our tongues, our bodies.

What is logical Biblically? Because we're united with Jesus in His death, (1) we're no longer under sin's power. And (2), we're not slaves of sin anymore. At His death, Jesus abolished sin's penalty and broke sin's power. Now when we as Christians sin, it's because we choose to, not because we have to! As Christians, when we sin, we're DOING something we're not! It is hypocrisy, a masquerade. We've died with Christ! “Praise the Lord, I've died!!” Celebrate!

Col. 3:1-11 reinforces these truths (**read**)!

:8-10 WE LIVE WITH CHRIST! **:8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, :9 knowing (oida, perceived, etc.) that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. :10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.**

:8 Now if we have died with Christ (have we? YES! Be convinced after **:1-7**), **we believe** (it's a life of faith) that **we will also live with Him**. Not only have we died with Christ, but we are absolutely certain we'll also live with Him, both in the future and now. As Paul says in **Gal. 2:20**, “**I have been crucified with Christ** (sounds familiar!) **and it is no longer ‘I’ who live, but Christ lives in me...and I live by faith in Him!**” **Col. 3:4** states, “**Christ is our life.**” Jesus was raised. We were raised. Jesus is our life. We live with Him.

:9-10a KNOWING (see **:3,6**) that Christ, having been raised from the dead—He's the risen Lord, never to die again; death's power to master Him is finished. He's the victorious conqueror of sin and death (**read Heb. 2:14-18**). His Resurrection is proof that sin and death and we as sinners were forever dealt with. And since He lives and is victorious over sin and since we live with Him, we can walk in victory over sin also! The certainty of our new life IN Christ is rooted in Christ's once-for-all death and resurrection.

Now Paul gets to his point of **:8-10. :10b But the life that He lives, He lives**

to God. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all (once, only once; that's what it took, but that's all it took). But the life that Jesus lives, He lives to God. It's an ongoing life, now! AND, He lives it in and through people like us! (see **5:10b, saved by His life!** speaking primarily of righteousness in this present life.) Exult in God (**5:11**)! Jesus' life, lived to the Father, in and through us! That's how 'newness of life' is displayed. Through Jesus we've been raised from the dead so we can live to God. Alive to God in Christ Jesus. Praise the Lord, I'm alive! Celebrate!

In order to walk in newness of life (life as God intends, a God-pleasing life), we have to understand that Jesus died for us and we (who we were IN Adam) died with Him on that Cross. Then, in order to walk in newness of life, we have to understand that Jesus was raised from the dead and we were raised with Him: His new creation, IN Christ. The purpose of His death and resurrection and our death and resurrection was so we could (would) walk in newness of life, not in the old lifestyle of sin. Remember the question in **6:1**? Walking in a lifestyle of sin as a Christian is contrary to everything God has done and who we've been made IN Christ. Know **:3,6,9**—we are not who we used to be, we are new IN Christ, and our thinking, actions, speech, and choices should reveal these facts.

What does this look like? It looks like choosing to trust our Lord, believing His words, and remembering we have presented our bodies to Him to be used as He chooses. Then in His strength, it looks like the fruit of the Spirit (because it is! **Gal. 5:22-23**), even when mistreated. It looks like trusting Him in the midst of impossible circumstances. It looks like making the choice to consider the facts of **Rom. 6:1-10** true, trusting Him, and making the choice to love and serve others. That's the reason Paul writes **6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** Why? Because we are!

“Our Father, these are facts we're looking at. They are not debatable. They're not based on how we 'feel' at the moment. I may 'feel' like a sinner at times, but Your Word teaches me that I am a saint. I may 'feel' the walk of the Christian is impossible for me to live, but You say it's in every way possible! These facts are grounded in Your Son's death, burial, and resurrection. Please teach us all they mean and how they can impact our daily thinking and walking. They are so far beyond us that we have trouble grasping, then believing and acting on them, but we want to know, we want to believe, we want to act. Thank You for Your plan...for writing Your ways down in the Scriptures...that You have provided for newness of life to be our daily walk. And Jesus, we are saved daily by Your life, lived to the Father, in and through us (**5:10**). Amen.”

Reflecting on Rom. 6:1-10: As you review these verses and the notes, how is it evident your thinking and choices are based on the facts of God's Word? How do your decisions indicate that you are no longer IN Adam but are now IN Christ? What truths of this passage need to pierce your mind? Talk through your thoughts on this passage with a trusted friend. What a passage!

Fellow believers: “I’ve accepted that I’ve been reconciled with God. I’ve become God’s new creation: instead of IN Adam, I’m IN Christ. And, such wonderful truth—I can’t outsin God’s grace! I exult in God (5:11)! Now that I’m IN Christ, my thinking, actions, speech, and choices should reveal my identity and these truths. Walking in victory over sin is possible and even expected because of who I am now IN Christ!” May each of us who are Christians both believe and practice these truths! **Read 5:11-6:23.**

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Col. 3:1-11 reinforces these truths (read)!

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Now Paul gets to his point of **:8-10. :10b** **But the life that He lives, He lives**

to God. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all (once, only once; that's what it took, but that's all it took). But the life that Jesus lives, He lives to God. It's an ongoing life, now! AND, He lives it in and through people like us! (see **5:10b, saved by His life!** speaking primarily of righteousness in this present life.) Exult in God (**5:11**)! Jesus' life, lived to the Father, in and through us! That's how 'newness of life' is displayed. Through Jesus we've been raised from the dead so we can live to God. Alive to God in Christ Jesus. Praise the Lord, I'm alive! Celebrate!

In order to walk in newness of life (life as God intends, a God-pleasing life), we have to understand that Jesus died for us and we (who we were IN Adam) died with Him on that Cross. Then, in order to walk in newness of life, we have to understand that Jesus was raised from the dead and we were raised with Him: His new creation, IN Christ. The purpose of His death and resurrection and our death and resurrection was so we could (would) walk in newness of life, not in the old lifestyle of sin. Remember the question in **6:1**? Walking in a lifestyle of sin as a Christian is contrary to everything God has done and who we've been made IN Christ. Know **:3,6,9**—we are not who we used to be, we are new IN Christ, and our thinking, actions, speech, and choices should reveal these facts.

What does this look like? It looks like choosing to trust our Lord, believing His words, and remembering we have presented our bodies to Him to be used as He chooses. Then in His strength, it looks the fruit of the Spirit (because it is! **Gal. 5:22-23**), even when mistreated. It looks like trusting Him in the midst of impossible circumstances. It looks like making the choice to consider the facts of **Rom. 6:1-10** true, trusting Him, and making the choice to love and serve others. That's the reason Paul writes **6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** Why? Because we are!

“Our Father, these are facts we're looking at. They are not debatable. They're not based on how we 'feel' at the moment. I may 'feel' like a sinner at times, but Your Word teaches me that I am a saint. I may 'feel' the walk of the Christian is impossible for me to live, but You say it's in every way possible! These facts are grounded in Your Son's death, burial, and resurrection. Please teach us all they mean and how they can impact our daily thinking and walking. They are so far beyond us that we have trouble grasping, then believing and acting on them, but we want to know, we want to believe, we want to act. Thank You for Your plan...for writing Your ways down in the Scriptures...that You have provided for newness of life to be our daily walk. And Jesus, we are saved daily by Your life, lived to the Father, in and through us (**5:10**). Amen.”

Reflecting on Rom. 6:1-10: As you review these verses and the notes, how is it evident your thinking and choices are based on the facts of God's Word? How do your decisions indicate that you are no longer IN Adam but are now IN Christ? What truths of this passage need to pierce your mind? Talk through your thoughts on this passage with a trusted friend. What a passage!