

**Not Ashamed  
(Week 15)  
Romans 6:1-11  
"Do Not Be Deceived"**

**Introduction**

**"What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" Romans 6:1-2**

I once heard a very well known pastor tell a story about a person in his congregation that approached him after a particularly powerful sermon on those who will not inherit eternal life. As I recall, the pastor had quoted from Paul's letter to the church at Corinth.

**"Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. And some of you used to be like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of The LORD Jesus Christ and by The Spirit of our God." 1Corinthians 6:9-11**

The man approached the podium with a very worried look on his face and said, "Pastor, I have been in a loveless marriage for many years. For the past several years, I have had a mistress. Are you telling me that I could lose my salvation?" The Pastor replied, "No, that is not what I'm saying. I'm saying that you have never been saved in the first place."

Now that, my friends is an honest preacher! Telling the truth may not get you invited to many parties, but the truth needs to be told nonetheless. If you can continue to live in sin, then you most certainly are NOT in Christ. It doesn't matter how many church roles bear your name, or how many times you have been prayed over and baptized. If you have Jesus, you are radically changed from the inside out. That doesn't mean sinless perfection, but it does mean that you cannot return back to your old ways as a slave to sin. The very point of the cross is to free us from sin, not give us license to continue in it.

Every time Paul made a declaration such as;

**"But where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more ..." (Romans 5:20),**

he knew that there would be a response from his critics saying that he was giving people an excuse to sin. They would say things like, "If sin actually causes God's grace to multiply, then why not sin even more and receive all the more grace?" Any who would say such things, are simply proving their ignorance of Christianity. Christ died to free us from sin, not so that we could indulge in it. If sin is no big deal, then the cross was meaningless. Those who have been born again by The Spirit of The Living God will have a desire to put their sin to death. You cannot be filled with Christ and long for sin at the same time. Those two things simply cannot go together. Those, who claim to have Christ and yet refuse to turn away from their sin, are merely deceiving themselves. They haven't "lost" their salvation... they never had it to begin with!

In Romans 6, Paul addresses the accusations of those who say he is minimizing sinful behavior. He has just explained that through one man sin and death entered the world, and through Christ grace and life came. Now, he explains that those who are in Christ will be radically transformed by His divine nature. He uses the illustration of Baptism to explain what truly happens when someone is reborn and made new in Christ. We are Baptized in Christ, our old nature is Buried with Christ, and we are transformed so that we can Become like Christ. Please allow me to explain.

**Baptized In Christ**

***“Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”*** **Romans 6:3**

Being baptized in water has never saved a soul. That being said, baptism is very important and is commanded for all who believe on the Name of Christ. It is important, not because of its saving power, but because of its witness. To be baptized is to publicly proclaim what has taken place in the life of a believer. Paul uses the imagery of baptism to explain what happens in the life of a person, when they are baptized by The Holy Spirit into Christ.

The word for Baptize in the Greek is “*Baptizo*”, and it means to be “*fully immersed*”. When a person places their faith in Christ, they are, by the power of The Spirit of God, placed “in Christ”. In other words, they are no longer two, but one with Jesus. The bond that is created is inseparable. Imagine watching your mom make a cake when you were little. I used to love to watch my mom put all the stuff in a mixing bowl (back then we didn’t have a box ready made from Duncan Hines). She would mix together the eggs, flour, milk, and sugar, and I’m quite certain lots of other things that I don’t recall (I’m not much of a cook obviously). She would take all of that stuff and stir it all together, and I couldn’t wait to lick the mixing spoon! Can I get a witness?

Well, the simple truth was, that once all of those things were stirred together in the mixing bowl, you could never pull them apart again. For example you couldn’t remove the eggs from the batter or extract the sugar. Why? Because the ingredients were inseparably bonded together that’s why. They were no longer what they used to be, they had become an entirely different thing altogether. And by the way, it was wonderful! That is exactly what happens when a person is in Christ. They are forever changed and cannot ever go back to being what they were. They are made one with Christ. This is exactly what Jesus prayed for the night before He went to the cross:

***“I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their word. May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that they world may believe You sent me. I have given them the glory You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are one.”*** **John 17:20-22**

So you see, the child of God has been baptized by The Spirit into Christ. And as such, they will never be the same again. They cannot go back to being what they were (sinful). They have been given an entirely new nature. And it is so much better! This is why no one living in sin can claim to be “in Christ” while doing so. It is physically and spiritually impossible. Do not be deceived.

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”*** **2 Corinthians 5:17**

We have been made new because we are “baptized into Christ!

**Buried With Christ**

***“Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of The Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is free from sin.”***

**Romans 6:4-7**

Now, you must get this, because it is vital for you as a believer to understand what has happened to you. If you are baptized into Christ, then you have indeed become “one” with Christ. Therefore, spiritually speaking, everything that has happened to Christ has also happened to you! When Christ died on the cross for our sin, we, that is our sinful nature, died along with Him. Take a moment to let that sink in, because it is some pretty deep stuff. We, because of the death of Christ and our subsequent faith in Him, have been made “dead to sin”. The old nature that was within us has been crucified with Christ and buried.

***“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***

So... what exactly does that mean? It means, that if you have been baptized into Christ, and your old sin nature is dead, then it no longer has any power over you. This is why, when a person surrenders their life to Christ, everyone can see the change in them immediately. Because the person they knew before is dead and gone! The addict is set free. The thief steals no more. The liar becomes truthful. I heard an old time preacher say many years ago, “If your religion hasn’t changed you, then it’s time to change your religion!” What did he mean by that? He meant that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away (dead and buried), and all things have become new. That’s what he meant. If you are in Christ, then who you used to be... is dead, not dying mind you... but dead.

This is a reality that is also symbolized by water baptism. The old person is dead, and buried (placed under the water), and then the new person is resurrected (raised up from the water) to walk in newness of life. Have you ever considered that you cannot “baptize” yourself. The key to being baptized is for someone else to do it for you. They lower you into the “watery grave”, and then, they raise you back up! The only way for us to die to self and be raised again is to allow The Spirit of God to do it for us. We place our faith in Jesus, and we are “baptized into Christ” by The Spirit. And as such, we are never to be the same again. So, can a Christian go on living in sin? Absolutely not. Not if they have truly been buried with Christ!

Think about it for a moment. When is the last time you went to a funeral? Did the person in the casket get up and ask for anything? If he did... I’m certainly glad I wasn’t there with you! Dead people are just that, they are by nature... dead. The alcoholic who dies no longer longs for a drink. Why? Because he’s dead. Those who are dead to Christ have been set free from sin. Or as Paul says:

***“For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is freed from sin.” Romans 6:6-7***

The word that he uses there that is translated “rendered powerless” actually means to be “loosed”. We have been loosed from our old sinful nature, and sin no longer has control over us. Do Christians still sin? Of course, but they cannot be ruled by it. When a Christian does wrong, God’s Spirit convicts him, and he renounces his transgression. He cannot and will not live in sin, for to do so is completely foreign to his new nature in Christ. That nature is dead and buried. If you can go on living in sin, my friend, do not deceive yourself. You are not in Christ.

### **Becoming Like Christ**

***“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him, because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him. For the death He died, He died to sin once for all time; but the life He lives, He lives to God. So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6:8-11***

The newness of life that is the benefit of every believer is actually brought about by the sanctification work of Holy Spirit living within us. We are justified upon salvation, but then The Spirit begins a process of conforming us into the very image of Christ. If we are not being sanctified, then again, we have not been baptized and buried into Christ. Remember the cake I was talking about earlier? When all the ingredients (the church) are stirred in together in Christ, they are being made into something wonderful. When The Spirit is done “baking” us, we will all come together and become like Christ, a heavenly aroma and sweet savor. This is what sanctification does. And it is glorious.

In Christ, we live to God, dead to sin, and only concerned about how we can become pleasing to Him. Which fully explains the verse we read earlier.

**“I (My old sin nature) 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.”**

So, just how is it that we can live this life with Christ guiding our every step. By the very same way that we were saved in the first place. By Faith. Paul tells us that we are to “consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” The word he uses there that is translated “consider” in the CSB is better translated in the KJV as “reckon”. It is an accounting term. It means to add to your account basically. For example, every two weeks most of us get a paycheck on our jobs. Now, if we just carried that check around in our wallet, it wouldn’t do us any good. But when we deposit that check into our bank account, then we are able to spend it.

In the same way, The Spirit of God has placed within every believer, the means to live a life that is pleasing to the Father. But if we never actually use what has been given, then we end up living somewhere between justification and sanctification. But God has given us all that we need to live life to the full and bring glory to God. We just need to “cash the check” and thereby, “reckon” ourselves dead to sin and alive to God!

I know many people who still live their lives haunted by some heartless family member who is long dead and gone. They say things like, “My father said I would never amount to anything, soo...”, and so on. They let those words of discouragement have influence over them for all of their days. Even years after the one who spoke to them has died. Many children still carry the scars from wounds inflicted in a distant past, in a different lifetime. Can I get a witness? This is exactly what a believer does, when he lets the old nature entice him to sin. It’s only a ghost. It’s dead and buried my friend, you do not have to listen it anymore! You’ve been made new!

Your our old sin nature has been crucified with Christ. You have been baptized in Christ. You have a new nature, so don’t listen to the “ghost of your past”. The old man is dead, he no longer has power over you. Cash the check you have been given in Jesus and reckon yourself dead to sin and alive to God! Live out your faith in the power of the Holy Spirit. You have been given all that you need to do so. In Ephesians, we are told that the same power that rose Jesus from the dead lives in us! So go, cash that check, and live victorious.

So, there you have it. If you are still living in your sins, then you have never truly been born again. But if you have been born again, then stop listening to the dead guy... and live! For you have been Baptized in Christ, your flesh has been Buried with Christ, and you have been given the power to Become like Christ. Now that, my friends, is what the hymn-writer meant when he wrote that old song, “Victory in Jesus”. We have the victory over sin, thanks to The One Who loved us and gave Himself for us!

And let all those who have reckoned themselves dead to sin and are alive to God in Christ Jesus say... **TRUTH!!!**