**We Are Dead to Sin**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 6:11-17**

**Wednesday Evening**

**June 19, 2024**

**Romans 6:11-17**

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

**11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Saints, if we have identified with Christ, what is true for him can be true for us.

This identification starts in our minds by an act of mental reckoning or accounting. We can consider ourselves dead to sin.

In other words, just as a dead body cannot respond to temptations or enticements, neither can we respond to them.

Thus we are able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus because we have been given new life, a new lifestyle, and the sure promise of eternal life.

**Ephesians 2:5**

even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)…

**Colossians 2:13**

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses…

**12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.**

Saints, if we are dead to sin, how can sin still control us? We have died to sin, but we are constantly being freed from sin.

**Romans 7:23-25**

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Saints, when sin is in control, people have no choice but to give in to its lustful desires because they are its slaves.

Believers have died to sin, but as long as we live in our mortal bodies, we will have the compulsion to sin.

But only because we have died to sin do we have the power to no longer let it control us. We are, in fact, free from our slavery. But each day we must reject our old slave ways.

**13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

Saints, while we are in our bodies, there will always be the chance that some actions will be sinful or used as a tool to distort our relationship with God or with others.

Because our bodies are mortal (decaying and dying), we should not yield to sinful desires and temptations.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Why yield to a decaying master? Why offer the parts of our bodies to sin, something to which we have died?

Instead, Paul tells believers, give yourselves completely to God and use your whole body as a tool to do what is right. We have a choice.

We have been given new life by God; thus, our bodies are to be given to him to use for promoting righteousness.

We are to refuse sin and instead be wholly committed to living for God. We make these choices moment by moment.

**14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

Saints, sin cannot and will not ever again be our master because we are no longer subject to the law. What does it mean that we are not under the law?

**1. We are not under the law’s demands, as were the people of the Old Testament**

**2. We are not under curse implied by the impossible standard of the law**

**3. We are not under its system of requirements, the ceremonial laws that had to be meticulously kept**

**4. We are not under the fear of failing the just standard of the law**

**Galatians 3:10-14**

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Saints, if believers were still under the law, then the sin would have to be master.

By itself, the law produces both the proof and the acute awareness of sin but cannot direct or motivate a person to do what is right.

Instead, believers are free by God’s grace because only grace can overcome sin. Only by living in that grace can we defeat the power of sin in our lives.

When our lives are under the law alone, sin is our master. But when we live under grace, our master is God.

**15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!**

Saints, Paul’s wording in verse 14—that seems to set the law against grace—probably surprised his readers.

It would look as though Paul was replacing the law with grace, thus giving people no law and, therefore, freedom to sin.

This almost repeats the question in verse 1, and Paul’s response is the same: Of course not! As the argument develops, however, there is clearly a different matter at stake.

In verse 1, Paul was challenging the crude assumption that sinning will give God the opportunity to exercise more grace.

Here, Paul is guarding against the assumption that because sin is no longer our master, we can indulge in sin without fear of being controlled by it.

Being under grace and under the mastery of Christ allows us the freedom not to sin.

Any attitude that welcomes, rationalizes, or excuses sin is not grace, but slavery to sin itself.

**16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?**

Saints, all human beings are enslaved. While this idea clashes with our goal of independence, the fact is that we were created for interdependence.

Paul is using an “illustration” to make an important spiritual point: You are a slave to whomever or whatever you commit yourself to obey.

This means that friendships, goals, employment, citizenship, membership, education, career, debt, and marriage all include aspects of slavery.

We should choose our slavery wisely. When sin is our master, we have no power except to do what it bids us, with the end being death.

But when we choose to obey God, the one who created us, we become slaves to obedience and will receive God’s approval.

There are only two choices and no middle ground. This is as Jesus said,

**Matthew 6:24**

“No one can serve two masters”

To refuse to allow God to be master over your life is to choose slavery to sin.

While service to sin leaves us powerless and leads to death, service to God leads to righteousness and eternal life.

**17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.**

Saints, before accepting the salvation offered through Christ, all believers were slaves of sin. But now they have a new master because they have obeyed the new teaching from God, referring to the Good News of salvation.

**1 Corinthians 11:2**

Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.

**2 Thessalonians 2:15**

Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle

**2 Thessalonians 3:6**

But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

Saints, this message abolished the slavery to sin that they had lived under, and it outlined a new way of living—under grace.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**