

Free

April 5, 2020

Romans 6:1-14

People appreciate freedom - being free to speak, free to work, free to worship, free to disagree, etc. But until Jesus came, people had no way to be free from the consequence of sin, that is death.

Faith in Christ produces a new birth as a free person. As citizens of the kingdom of God by faith in Christ, believers are born free. Our freedom in Christ means we don't have to live in guilt, and we don't have to live in bondage to sin.

The new life of the believer isn't so much about what we can or should no longer do as it is about what we are finally free to do!

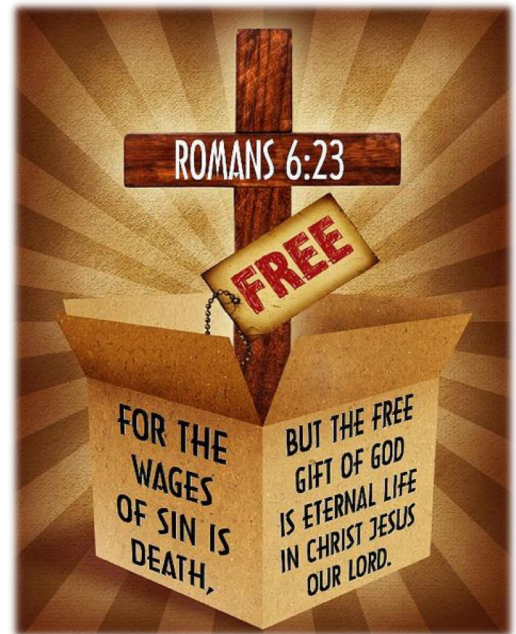
Living free in Christ makes us alive to God in Christ (Rom. 6:11). Freedom in Christ is not a license to sin but a license to serve in love for God (Gal. 5:13).

The question Paul asks, "Should we continue in sin?" becomes rhetorical. We serve a new master, which is not what we want or desire but is instead governed by the same grace that saved us.

Free describes our status before God through faith in Jesus Christ. *Free* also describes the gift of everlasting life in Christ to those who believe. Salvation is a gift, a priceless gift, freely given to all who will believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (Excerpts by Don Schuman and Glen Schmucker)

Dead To Sin (Romans 6:1-7)

- Paul used a series of questions to demonstrate the flaw in logic about sin.
 - In fact, some accused Paul of encouraging a life of sin as a way to multiply God's grace.
 - **"Should we continue to sin... God forbid!"**
 - Believers cannot live in sin because they are dead to sin.
 - Sin no longer has rule or power over the believers' lives.
 - **"Baptized into Jesus ... baptized into his death"**
 - Being saved is to be fully immersed (*baptizo* in Greek) into Christ Jesus.
 - Immersion in water portrays our death to sin through His atoning sacrifice.
 - The purpose of being buried with Christ is that we might walk in a new kind of life.
 - Jesus overcame death by the glory of the Father.
 - The believer's ability to live changed lives is empowered by the Father through Jesus.
 - **"in the likeness of His resurrection"**
 - Those who by faith unite their lives (their heart, soul, mind, and strength) with Jesus Christ can anticipate without any doubt to experience His victory over sin, death, and the grave.
 - The "old self" is put aside and the "new man" is put on.
 - Through faith in Christ the sinner is set free from sin.
 - Sin's power over us was broken at the cross.
- **Is sin a problem in the world today?**
- **How does sin affect believers?**



DEATH BURIAL
RESURRECTION

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 a **new way of life**.

ROMANS 6:4



"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Galatians 5:13-14



Alive in Christ (Romans 6:8-11)

- Paul demonstrated that believers died with Christ. Now, the implication of that is ***“we shall also live with him”***
 - Since Jesus was raised from the dead, death has no power over Him. He died to sin once and for all.
 - Paul draws a comparison between Jesus’ situation and that of Christians. Since Christians had died to sin (through faith in Jesus and symbolized by our baptism), we are alive unto God through Jesus Christ.
 - The believer gains eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus!
 - ***“with Him”*** - The new life believers have “with Him” refers not only to our future dwelling with Christ in heaven but also to the Christian’s life here and now. We have spiritual victory!
 - Jesus victory over death was final and complete.
 - He ***“lives to God”*** meaning His life is that of God and for God.
 - ***“Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”***
 - When believers take into account their situation in life, they mark two realities:
 - They are dead to sin.
 - They are alive to God for eternity.
- **If sin has no power over us, why does guilt for past wrongs haunt so many?**
- **How is being alive in Christ demonstrated in the world today?**

Tools of Righteousness (Romans 6:12-14)

- In light of the Gospel truth about who we are as believers of Christ, Paul concluded:
 - We should not let sin reign in our physical lives. The body is not sinful, but we must beware of the temptations common to the world today and avoid them.
 - Refuse to allow sin to have authority in our lives – power, greed, pride, lusts, ...
 - We should yield ourselves to God. Paul urges us to actively use our whole selves as weapons of righteousness in the battle against sin.
 - Our choices and decisions should not be instruments of unrighteousness unto sin.
 - Paul says not to be passive about sin, but to actively be weapons for righteousness against sin.
 - We are not to obey sinful desires but instead make our lives a daily offering to the Lord.
 - But how? This seems nearly impossible for people to do on their own. The answer:
 - ***“Because you are not under the law, but under grace.”***
 - In Christ, we are under a different authority, the authority of God’s grace!
 - Being under grace does not mean we are free to sin but rather we are free from sin.
- **During the COVID-19 pandemic, how can you share the truth of God’s grace with others?**

Biblical Truth:

All who accept the gospel find freedom from the guilt of sin.

