

Romans 6 - The Believer's Battle and Victory Over Sin

This chapter combines several **positional** as well as several **practical** doctrines for the believer. The theme is **CONSISTENCY** in with our **PRACTICAL** walk.

RIGHTLY DIVIDE THESE BIBLE TERMS

- **BELIEVER** → POSITIONAL (saved, born again, justified, redeemed)
- **CHRISTIAN** → POSITIONAL + PRACTICAL (saved + discipleship, works, service, surrender, follow, obedience, suffering for Christ/righteousness)
- **Believer** - John 3:16-18, 36, 5:24; Rom. 4:5; **Christian(s)** (3X in KJB) - Acts 11:26 (discipleship); Acts 26:28 (Agrippa); 1 Pet. 4:12-16 (suffering)

SUMMARIZE THE BELIEVER'S POSITION WITH CHRIST AND THE BELIEVER'S PRESENT POSSESSION IN CHRIST

(Psalm 103:2 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits)

All born-again believers are presently (and positionally):

1. Crucified with Christ - Gal. 2:20
2. Dead with Christ - Rom. 6:3, 8; Col. 2:20; 3:3
3. Buried with Christ - Rom. 6:4
4. Resurrected with Christ - Eph. 2:5; Col. 3:1
5. Ascended with Christ - Eph. 2:6
6. Joint heirs with Christ - Rom. 8:17

Psalm 116:12 - Through the power of God, start by gaining victory over sin.

v. 1-4 - The Christian's **new** relationship to sin.

v. 1 - Does maximizing a believer's sin bring more honour and glory to God by Him having to show us more grace? (Very Bad Question!)

- Since we learned in 5:20 that grace is greater than sin, should Christians continue to sin as much as possible so we can experience the maximum amount of God's grace? **Absolutely NOT!** - Rom. 3:7-8; 6:15

v. 2 - God's answer is "God forbid"!

- Believers are **positionally** DEAD to sin by being **in** Christ. - Col. 3:3
- Believers still sin, but we do so **against our new nature** of being **in** Christ.
- Here believers are exhorted to let our daily walk match our position in Christ.

v. 3 - This verse is often misused! There is **NO** water baptism here, but rather **Holy Spirit Baptism**, which occurs at the moment of salvation. Just like **Holy Spirit Baptism** is also found in: 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21

- Water baptism has/will **NEVER** put anybody "into Jesus Christ". - John 3:1-8
- Besides **Holy Spirit Baptism**, there are other types of "Baptism" in the Bible, (examples: water, unto Moses, fire, physical suffering & death). - Matt 3:1,6,11-12,

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Matt. 20:22-23, 28:19; Mark 1:4-5; John 1:31; Acts 1:5, 2:38,41;10:47-48;

1 Cor. 10:1-2 (**BAPTISM** - Being identified with, or being put into something).

- Since believers are “dead to sin” positionally (v.2); therefore believers **should not** continue to live in sin.
- We are **spiritually** baptized into one body by one Spirit. - 1 Cor. 12:12-13
- Contrary to what “Baptist Briders” say, the body of Christ is **NOT** comprised of many individual local churches. There is **one** and only **one** body of Christ, made up of **all born again believers**. - 1 Cor. 12:20-27; Eph. 4:4-5
- Believers have been **spiritually** baptized into Jesus Christ's death, i.e. believers have been put to death spiritually with Jesus Christ when He died, freeing believers from the **penalty** of sin (eternal death Hell). - Contrast John 3:1-8

v. 4 - Believers **SHOULD** walk in “newness of life”. - Phil. 1:6; 1 Cor. 9:26-27;

1 Cor. 6:19-20; 15:31 (more detail in v. 6)

- Therefore believers “are buried with him by baptism into death”. - Gal. 2:20
- In the judicial reckoning of God, the old man is crucified and buried, **positionally**.
- Our new spiritual nature **does** walk in newness of life.- 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20
- **Salvation** is receiving the free gift of Jesus Christ by faith; **Discipleship** is letting Jesus Christ control the way you live...**SALVATION** always comes **first!**
- Therefore, a believer's daily walk ought to match his new nature.-1 Peter 2:1-5; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16, 25; Col. 1:10, 2:6-7; Eph. 4:1-3; 1 Thess. 2:9-12
- It is **our free will choice!** God has given us the Holy Spirit, but God does not make believers into puppets on a string! - 1 Pet. 4:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18
- If believers fail to walk in the Holy Spirit, God **WILL** chasten us! - Heb. 12:6
- Believers should NO LONGER serve sin, we can be free from the power of the bondage of sin as we yield to the control of the Holy Spirit!

v. 5 - **THEME: Gaining Victory Over Sin** (v. 5 thru Chapter 7) (“Knowing” - vv. 6, 9; “Reckon” - v. 11, “Yield/Yielded” - vv. 13, 16, 19)

- Believers have been planted together in the likeness of Jesus Christ's death (past).
- Believers shall participate in Christ's resurrection.- John 12:24; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; 1 John 3:2
- The believer's fruitfulness is directly tied to living in the Spirit. - John 15:5, 8; Rom. 7:6; 2 Cor. 3:6

v. 6 - Knowing the “old man is crucified” with Christ makes victory over sin possible.

- “is” = present tense “we” = the new man (not the body).
- God sees the believer as already dead (positionally).
- Believers have two natures, but must reckon our old nature as dead. - 2 Cor. 4:13-16
- Believers have been saved for the purpose of (or unto) good works. - Eph. 2:10
- Some things need to be “put off” and “put on”. - Col. 3:8-17; Eph. 4:22-25

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- v. 7 - Dead people are free from sin.- Gal. 5:24 (Christians should not be hypocrites!)
- Believers no longer need to be servants of (or be in bondage to) sin, we're **FREE!**
 - When believers reckon themselves dead to sin, victory over sin is available.
 - God's will is that you live a sanctified life (set apart for God). - 1 Thess. 4:1-7; 2 Cor. 6:14-18
 - But it's not automatic, we must make a daily (moment-by-moment) decision to surrender. - 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Tim. 2:19-22; **EXAMPLE:** (Moses) Heb. 11:23-26
- v. 8 - Since we are dead with Christ, then we are to live unto Christ. - Gal. 5:16
- There are 3 crosses in the believer's life:
 - 1. Cross of **Calvary**, where Jesus paid our sin debt and brought us salvation. - 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Gal. 6:14; Col. 1:20
 - 2. Cross of the **world**, which must be crucified if the believer is to gain victory over temptation and sin. - Matt. 26:41; James 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:10; 1 John 2:15-17
 - 3. Cross of the **believer**, where the believer denies himself and reckons himself dead to the world. - Matt. 16:24-25; Luke 14:27
 - Nailing the flesh to the cross is to deny sinful desires. - 1 Cor. 9:27; Rom. 8:12-13; Gal. 5:24
- v. 9 - The dominion of death has been conquered by Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ's resurrection brought victory over sin and death. - 1 Cor. 15:50-58
 - Physical death will come (if the Lord tarries), but believers never die spiritually. - John 11:25-26; Prov. 12:28
- v. 10 - God required **ONE** perfect blood sacrifice for mankind's sin...Jesus Christ!
- Jesus Christ died once and will only die one time. - 1 Pet. 3:18; Heb.9:28; 10:10-12
 - Jesus came to do the will of God the Father. - John 17:4, 19:30
 - The believer is called to live for God in this present life. - Titus 2:11-15
- v. 11 - Believers must reckon (account to be so, consider, regard) themselves dead to sin and alive unto God through Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ wants to live His life out through each believer! - 1 Thess. 2:13
 - We must **believe God**, since this reality already exists, we must reckon it as so!
 - "dead" - First we must know that all believers have **two natures**. - Cf. 1 John 3:9 & 5:18 with 1 John 1:8, 10
 - To deny 2 natures would require getting saved over and over each time we sin.
 - God sees us as **already dead** in the flesh, it just hasn't happened yet. - Rom 6:2; Rom. 8:9a; 1 Pet. 2:24; 4:1-2; Col. 3:3
 - "alive unto God" - Believers must also reckon being alive to our **new nature** by yielding to the Holy Spirit and living with Jesus Christ as our Lord. - 1 Cor. 6:20
 - Whichever nature you feed will dominate the life you now live. - Gal. 2:20

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v. 12 - When believers reckon (that is, believing God and counting it to be so) ourselves as being dead to sin and alive unto God through Jesus Christ, victory over sin is the sure result.

- The body is fleshly, mortal, and full of lust, always craving to be satisfied, and there is nothing good in it. - Rom. 7:18; Gal. 5:16-17
- "Let not" clearly shows that victory over sin is **not** automatic, it is a **choice** that believers make, and then the believer can only be successful by yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit living within us.
- Believers are responsible and will be held accountable at the JSOC for choices made about obeying sin and its lusts. - Rom. 14:12

v. 13 - How? By yielding our members (body) to God rather than sin.-Rom. 7:5; 22-23

- Success in the Christian life is governed by the **WILL** and **CHOICES** of each believer. Examples: Eph. 4:22-32
- The closer your walk to God, the further away from sin you'll be (and vice-versa) - James 4:7-8 "The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible!"
- To reckon ourselves dead to sin, we must "mortify" the members of our bodies - Col. 3:5-10
- The power to yield unto God comes from reckoning ourselves as being spiritually resurrected with Christ. - Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:3, 5:15-18
- Believers' must say "**no**" to the flesh and "**yes**" to the Holy Spirit, in all things.
- Believers must obey the scriptures to live pure, clean, and holy lives. - John 15:3

v. 14 - Victory over sin's dominion is available when we yield to our new nature.

- Trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation puts believers under the love and grace of God, i.e. we are no more enemies of God (positionally). - Eph. 2:11-18
- Believers have the Holy Spirit and may live **above** sin. - Rom. 6:2
- By being "under grace", believers are GIVEN Jesus' righteousness at salvation.
- If a believer will **yield** to the control of the Holy Spirit, he will also GIVEN the power to live righteously after salvation, and be free from the dominion of sin.
- The Law demanded perfect righteousness, but without any power to produce it.

v. 15 - Since believers are under grace, do we then have a license to sin? GOD FORBID! - Gal. 5:1, 13, 25; 1 Pet. 2:16

- Similar to 6:1-2, believers have **no excuse** for living an ungodly life right now.
- If a believer lives an ungodly life, he still **does not** and **cannot** lose his salvation; it's a gift based solely on trusting Jesus Christ as his Saviour. - Eph. 2:8-9, 4:30-32; Rom. 6:23; 1 Pet. 1:3-5
- All believers are **just as capable** (simply by yielding to the old man's sinful nature) of committing **any** sin that a lost man can commit! God **NEVER** takes away a person's free will (saved or lost)!
- Ungodly living by a believer causes him to suffer loss of eternal reward, but not loss of his eternal salvation. - 1 Cor. 3:11-15

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- v. 16 - To whom believers yield is whose servant they are. - Rom. 8:10-13
- This verse is **not** dealing with whether we are saved or lost, the context is believers who need to **YIELD** to God in their daily lives!
 - No servant can serve two **conflicting** masters, it is only possible for us to be loyal only to one at a time. - Luke 16:13; James 1:8
 - When believers yield to Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the scriptures, we live in obedience to Him and do what is right in God's sight.
 - When believers yield to sin, sin is served and can lead to 1) God's chastening - Heb. 12:5-11, 2) severe consequences - Gal. 6:7, and 3) even a premature physical death. - Prov. 4:10, 9:10-11, 10:27; Eccl. 7:17; Rom. 8:13
 - This term "death" has a dual application, referring to either: 1) a believer's **physical** death (**not spiritual death and damnation with the lost**) or 2) the death of the believer's ability and opportunity to bear fruit for Jesus Christ, i.e. functionally dead and having no usefulness to God.
- v. 17 - God **deserves to be thanked** for 1) sending Jesus Christ to die in our place, 2) paying for and forgiving all our sins, and 3) imputing to believers His perfect righteousness so that believers will go to heaven and be with Jesus for all eternity.
- Salvation is a matter faith and trust from the heart, **NOT** an intellectual agreement to a set of facts, **NOT** reciting a 1-2-3 "repeat after me" prayer, but simply calling on the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and trust from the heart! - Rom. 10:9-10, 13
 - Salvation is fully trusting in (believing on), relying upon, and depending on the crucifixion, shed blood, and resurrection (D/B/R) of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ is something to be **obeyed** (not in the sense of us doing something to earn our salvation); i.e. **but rather receiving Jesus on His terms, not our own.** - Rom. 1:5; 10:16-17 (in v. 16 "obeyed" is defined as "believed", **not good works to earn salvation!**); 2 Thess. 1:8; 1 Peter 4:16-17
 - Salvation is **not** our best efforts to keep the Law, but rather expressing our faith by **believing in** Jesus Christ by grace through faith without any works. - John 6:28-29; Rom. 1:16; Tit. 3:5
 - Today, any form of salvation doctrine **other than** salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (as a free gift) is heresy. - Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 John 1:9-11
- v. 18 - Doctrinal truth of the new man in Christ.
- Believers are "made free from sin," having been placed in Christ's death and resurrection, therefore eternal life and freedom to be a servant of righteousness is a **present possession**.
 - If we are free from sin through Jesus, we are free to serve the Lord. - John 8:32-36
 - We have a new Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom we are **now** free to serve.
- v. 19 - Practical daily walk of the new man in Christ...it is a choice we make many times each day!

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- God speaks through Paul to them as **common men** because the flesh is weak and there will be times that our daily walk (practice/behavior/conduct/lifestyle) will **not** match our positional standing in Christ. - Matt. 26:41
 - Christians, above all other people, ought to be able to see how wrong sin is and seek to live a godly life in this present world. - Titus 2:11-14; Phil. 3:13-14
 - Compare "**for as ye have yielded**" (past tense) with "**even so now yield**" (present tense). We ought to serve God, righteousness, purity and holiness with **much more zeal** than we used to serve our flesh & sin! - 1 Cor. 14:12; 1 Thess. 2:2
 - Upon salvation, if it were true that believers no longer sinned in the flesh, there would be no need for the NT to constantly admonish believers to walk after the spirit so as not to fulfill the lust of the flesh.
 - It requires an **initial** yielding to the will of God, and then a **moment by moment** yielding to the will of God each and every day.
 - The believer's struggle (inner war) for who we will serve is between our saved soul and our unsaved flesh (the members of our bodies). - James 4:1; Gal. 5:13-17
- v. 20 - When believers serve sin, we are **not** serving righteousness. - 1 John 5:17a
- Serving sin has **no** connection with serving righteousness, therefore serving righteousness **should not** have any connection with serving sin.
 - The more believers serve righteousness, the less we'll serve sin and the more fruit we'll bear.
 - But doing righteous works does **NOT** benefit the lost man. - Prov. 21:4
- v. 21 - The believer's fruit of serving sin is physical death.
- The old sin nature will get a person in trouble every time. - Prov. 14:12
 - The fruit of serving sin leads to loss of eternal rewards at the judgment seat of Christ, i.e. only to wood, hay, and stubble that will be burned up. - 1 Cor. 3:15
- v. 22 - The believer's fruit of serving God is holiness and ends in everlasting life.
- The believer's fruit is unto holiness; our lives should reflect God in all areas.
 - All believers have everlasting life as a present possession. - Gal. 6:7-8
 - Everlasting life is **not** an earned reward for living a holy life, but God's **gift** that is given to all believers who trust Jesus Christ by faith. - John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:15-18
- v. 23 - Summary verse of the life of the believer. (memorize)
- Physical death (and loss of reward) for believers is the result of yielding to sin. - Rom. 8:13
 - When a person gets saved, he is given eternal life in this new relationship with Jesus Christ and has the opportunity to bear good fruit, holiness, and righteousness in his daily life.
 - Death is **earned** ("wages of sin"), but eternal life is **not earned** ("the gift").
 - If we are believers, let's be sure and live like believers. - 2 Cor. 7:1