

1. Does Our Union With Christ Mean That We Can Just Keep Sinning?
 - a. If we have been united to Christ by God’s grace through faith, and since He answers for all of our sins, does that mean that we can “sin freely?”
 - b. Does sin matter? Does virtue (godliness) matter?
 - c. The question in v1 only makes sense if somebody doesn’t understand the teaching of our union with Christ.
 - i. Paul answers it by going back to our union with Christ
 - ii. He also takes the time to clarify the doctrine of sin and the doctrine of righteousness

2. No, Because We Have Died to Sin!
 - a. What does “died to sin” really mean?
 - i. NOT mean “no desire to sin”
 - ii. NOT mean simply that we shouldn’t sin
 - iii. NOT mean that sin is dying and holiness is growing
 - iv. NOT mean that sin is renounced by the Christian
 - v. NOT mean that we are no longer guilty of sin
 - b. “Died to sin” is both textually and rhetorically connected to v14, “sin no longer has mastery over you”
 - i. Covenantal relationship between me and sin, which ends at death
 1. V7 – “anyone who has died is freed from sin”
 - ii. Thus, when a person has died, they are freed from the obligations, or authority, to sin
 1. “Under law” and “under grace” are terms of authority
 2. In Christ, one moves from being bound to sin to being bound to grace, i.e. bound to Christ
 - c. This means that we no longer have to obey sin!
 - i. It is no longer our master who can dictate to us
 1. V12 – “Therefore, don’t let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires”
 2. V13 – “Don’t present your members as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those brought from death to life, and your bodies as instruments of righteousness.”
 3. You have been made dead to sin and alive to God – so live like it now
 - ii. This same transition of authority is mentioned elsewhere in the Scriptures, and always as empowered by our union with Christ Jesus
 1. Col 1:13
 2. Acts 26:18
 - iii. D.M. Lloyd-Jones

“...the moment we become Christians we are dead, completely dead, to the reign of sin. We are out of sin’s territory altogether... But now I imagine somebody putting forward an objection: ‘How can you possibly say such a thing? We still sin, we still feel the power of temptation and the power of sin; how therefore can you say honestly that you are dead to the rule and to the reign and to the whole dominion of sin?’ I answer

this way. We must differentiate between what is true of our position as a fact and our experience... what he says is that every person in the world at this minute is either under the reign and rule of sin or else under the reign and rule of grace... He is either 'in Adam' or 'in Christ'."

- iv. Your Position Predicates the Power
 - 1. "under law" or "under grace"
 - 2. "In Christ" or "in Adam"
 - 3. "freed from sin" or "slaves of unrighteousness"
 - v. Those who have died to sin can longer live in it
 - d. What does it mean to "live in sin"?
 - i. It is different than sinning, or committing an act of sin
 - ii. To live in sin means to embrace it as life-fulfilling, life-producing, and life-affirming
 - 1. Swim in it, breathe it in as what it means to truly live
 - 2. To not fight against it, does not consider it something which will kill him
 - 3. Tolerates it as life-affirming at best – or embraces it as life-producing at worst
 - iii. For one who has died to sin to live in it makes no sense
 - 1. This does not mean that a Christian will not sin, or even that he won't struggle with habitual sins, but that he cannot embrace it as good, right, or true.
 - 2. A Christian cannot go on embracing sin, abiding in it, counting it as valuable for life
3. How Does Our Union With Christ Transform Us NOW?
- a. The key to battling against sin is an assenting knowledge of our union with Christ Jesus
 - i. V3 – "Don't you know...?"
 - ii. V6 – "We know..."
 - iii. V9 – "We have known..."
 - b. Knowledge of Assent
 - i. Not merely facts, but faith in its veracity, its truth
 - ii. The difference between knowing the facts of the tensile strength of bungee cords and actually jumping off the ledge
 - c. Three Things to Know to Battle Sin
 - i. vv3-5 – baptized into Christ's death also means baptism into His resurrection
 - 1. Thus, the purpose of our union is not merely freedom from sin's guilt and judgment, but rather that we might walk in the newness of His resurrected life
 - 2. Newness of life is a character and quality of life consistent with future glory, His resurrected body
 - 3. Anyone who "knows" this will see this "newness of life" as the necessary result of our being united to Jesus
 - ii. vv6-8 – The purpose of our death with Him was "so that the body of sin might be done away with"
 - 1. Eph 2:10 – "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *for good works*, which He prepared beforehand in which we are to walk"

2. What is this “body of sin” that must be “brought to nothing?”
 - a. It is the body under the mastery of sin
 - i. Our bodies are “working wounded” – for sin’s mastery has been crucified, but still works to deceive us, like the faithless thief on the cross
 - b. Romans 7:22-23
3. My truest self now is in Christ, and to sin is to act against it, where I once acted consistent with it
- iii. vv9-11 – We know that since Christ lives to God, never to die again – so we live to God as He does
 1. We are united to His life as well – and His life is lived towards God, not towards death
 2. This quality of life is ours, too
- d. Thus, for the Christian sin comes from a lack of knowledge, appropriated by the heart, of our union with Christ
 - i. We have been bought by the blood of Christ
 1. We don’t belong to ourselves
 2. He *wants* us! (He doesn’t need us)
 3. His great love for us compels us to love Him in return, to seek to do the things pleasing to Him
 4. This leads to an ownership by Him which leads to human flourishing, and whose fruit is not death (v21), but eternal life as the gift of God (v22-23)
 - ii. We have been set free from the domain of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of His beloved Son
 1. The Spirit of God indwells you with authority
 - a. Domain and Kingdom are authority terms again
 2. God’s purpose in uniting us to Jesus is to purify a people for Himself who are zealous for good works
 - a. Titus 2:11-14
 3. Sin is not too powerful to resist – we resist it out of our union with Christ
 - a. Phil 2:13
 - b. Note that he does not say “work for”, but rather “work out of”
 - i. This means that our works of righteousness are worked out of our already completed salvation, i.e. our union with Christ
 - ii. And “God is working in you both to will and work His own joy”
 - iii. GOD IS WORKING IN YOU!!
 - iii. When we see these graces, we are not operating under law, but under grace, and we have a new incentive for a holy life: Christ-centered love!
 1. “So present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life!”
 2. “Reckon yourselves dead to sin and alive to God!” (v11)
 - a. This reckoning, this accounting, empowers God-centered obedience and thus true human flourishing consistent with the resurrected Christ.

- b. This reckoning, this knowledge, is vital to walking in a manner pleasing to the Lord (2 Cor 5:9)
- c. D.M. Lloyd-Jones again:

“All slaves, young and old, were given their freedom, but many of the older ones who had endured long years of servitude found it very difficult to understand their new status. They heard the announcement that slavery was abolished and that they were free: but hundreds, not to say thousands, of times in their after-lives and experiences many of them did not realize it, and when they saw their old master coming near them they began to quake and tremble, and to wonder whether they were going to be sold... You can still be a slave experientially, even when you are no longer a slave legally... Whatever you may feel, whatever your experience may be, God tells us here, through his Word, that if we are in Christ we are no longer in Adam, we are no longer under the reign and rule of sin... And if I fall into sin, as I do, it is simply because I do not realize who I am... Realize it! Reckon it!”

4. The Greater We See Grace is the Greater We Grow in Godliness

- a. You are not under law, but under grace – this is the motivation for resisting sin and walking in holiness!
 - i. Galatians 5
 - 1. To walk according to the Spirit is to be led by the Spirit
 - 2. Those who do so “will not gratify the desires of the flesh” and are “not under law”
 - 3. To walk in the Spirit is to be out from under the law
 - ii. The Law draws out obedience out of fear of punishment, but Grace draws out obedience out of grateful love, it has cast out punishment upon the cross of Christ to whom we are united
- b. To the degree which I behold God’s holy perfect requirements, my desperate failure of His Law, and the sufficiency of the Christ to whom I am united, is the degree to which I am motivated to live rightly
- c. The key to overcoming sin is to see the Law of God expose our great need for mercy – and THEN to see the great and precious provision of God for you in Christ through our union with His death to sin and resurrection to God.
- d. Grace Generates Godliness – See it! Reckon it! Walk in it!