

"The Doctrine of Sanctification"

Romans 5:12-8:13

Part 8

Introduction: In our study of Romans we are currently in chapter 6 and Paul is explaining how when we were saved we became one with Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 6:3-5

When we placed our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation we were immediately baptized/placed into the body of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

¹² For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many.

Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

The words "PLANTED TOGETHER" in Romans 6:5 literally mean "TO BECOME ONE". The idea is that when we were saved we became one with Jesus Christ. So, when we became one with Him His death on the cross was applied to our lives and just as Jesus died to sin on the cross then we also died the day we were saved.

Last week I gave you the example of the crab apple tree. Picture Adam as a crab apple tree and we as the branches of that tree. The life of Adam flowed through us and we were only able to bear bitter crab apples. Then when we were saved God cut us off the tree of Adam and He grafted us onto the tree of Jesus Christ. We are still crab apple branches/sinners but now we are dead to the Adamic nature and the life of Jesus Christ can now flow through us to produce the fruits of righteous.

John 15:4-5

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ **I am the vine, ye are the branches:** *He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Notice Romans 6:6

Again, I will remind you that the word "destroyed" does not mean that our sin nature has been destroyed. The word means "To render powerless". The cross of Jesus Christ has stripped the sin nature of its power. Before we were saved we were under the control of the flesh and the flesh dictated how we lived and what we lived for. We sinned because we were sinners and we had no power to cease from our sin. But now that we are saved we have a choice. The sin nature has been stripped of his power by the cross and therefore we have the power to say, "NO" to temptation.

Notice Romans 6:7

This is the very point of this verse. We are dead to sin and therefore we are free from the power of the Adamic/sin nature.

This now brings us to where we are tonight in our study.

I. The Illustration of Sanctification

Romans 6:1-8:1

Part 4

Notice Romans 6:8

The very first word of this verse tells us that Paul is pulling together the thoughts from the previous verses. The words "WE BELIEVE" here are very important in understanding the key to living the victorious Christian life. It starts with knowing the Truth just presented to us in Romans 6:1-7 and then believing that very Truth. What we believe truly affects to way we live.

- ✓ We believe we are justified by grace through faith.
- ✓ We believe we are kept saved by the grace of God.
- ✓ We believe we are baptized into the body of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ We believe we have died with Him for we were crucified with Christ.
- ✓ We believe we have been resurrected with Him to walk in newness of life.

We must believe these Truths every single day. Every day that we live we must believe (adhere to, allow it to impact me) that Christ's life is in me and that's what enables me to keep my life free from sin day by day.

Notice Romans 6:8 again.

The phrase "*we shall also live with Him*" is both a reference to our future resurrection state when we will receive our glorified bodies and for all eternity we shall be with Jesus Christ. But it also has another meaning which is Paul's thought here: Right now, at this present time, His life is our life. This is pointing back to verse 5.

Romans 6:5

⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

There are other verses which carry the same spiritual Truth.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Notice what McDonald says concern Galatians 2:20:

"The believer is identified with Christ in His death. Not only was He crucified on Calvary, I was crucified there as well—in Him. This means the end of me as a sinner in God's sight. It means the end of me as a person seeking to merit or earn salvation by my own efforts. It means the end of me as a child of Adam, as a man under the condemnation of the law, as my old, unregenerate self. The old, evil "I" has been crucified; it has no more claims on my daily life. This is true as to my standing before God; it should be true as to my behavior. The believer does not cease to live as a personality or as an individual. But the one who is seen by God as having died is not the same one who lives. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. The Savior did not die for me in order that I might go on living my life as I choose. He died for me so that from now on He might be able to live His life in me. The life which I now live in this human body, I live by faith in the Son of God. Faith means reliance or dependence. The Christian lives by continual dependence on Christ, by yielding to Him, by allowing Christ to live His life in him. Thus, the believer's rule of life is Christ and not the law. It is not a matter of striving, but of trusting. He lives a holy life, not out of fear of punishment, but out of love to the Son of God, who loved him and gave

Himself for him. Have you ever turned your life over to the Lord Jesus with the prayer that His life might be manifest in your body?"

Philippians 1:21

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Let me show you a very familiar verse that many can quote but few see what Jesus is saying in the verse:

John 14:6

⁶ *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Jesus told His disciples that He is THE LIFE. This is exactly what we are talking about in Romans. Being a believer is surrendering our lives over to Him and allowing Him to live His life through us. Let me show you what Paul wrote to the Colossians:

Colossians 3:1-4

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

² *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

³ *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

⁴ *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

It was no longer Paul that lived this life but Christ in Him living His life through him. So, we cannot continue in sin because we have His life within us. Mark it down as true beloved: Christ does not merely give life. He is our life. The key to living the risen life, the "Christ life", is to believe that I am in Christ and in Him I have been crucified and risen to walk in newness of life. The Son, not this present world, is the center of the believer's universe, now and throughout eternity!

There is a picture sprinkled throughout the Old Testament that is one that we need to see. Let me show you some verses from Exodus. Remember the tenth plague that came upon Egypt? It was the death of the firstborn.

Exodus 12:28-30

²⁸ *And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.*

²⁹ And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the **firstborn** in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

Have you ever wondered why God killed all the **firstborn** in the land of Egypt? Let me give you some reasons that other writers have submitted then I will tell you what I see in all of this. Here are some thoughts from other writers:

1. God killed the firstborn because Pharaoh killed the innocent baby boys of Israel.
2. It was a last resort to get Egypt to let Israel go.
3. The firstborn were below the age of accountability and would immediately go to Paradise. (This is not accurate for the firstborn could have been in their 80s and 90s.)
4. The God who took the firstborn son gave up His firstborn Son.

These are all interesting theories, but I do not believe that either of them is why God killed the firstborn of Egypt.

Let me give you my thoughts on this. This is a picture for us. Egypt was a type of the world and so Egypt in this text represents all of mankind in his lost sinful condition. Egypt was in rebellion against God just like we were before salvation. The reason for our sinful condition and our rebellion was our first birth/our physical birth/the firstborn. It is because of our first birth/physical birth that we have received the Adamic nature. As sinners we were enemies of God. Throughout the Bible the firstborn was to be consecrated to the Lord or in other words it was to be given to Him. This is what God desires in from each of us personally. He wants us to surrender our first birth/sin nature over to Him so that it can be put to death in Christ on the cross. You see in the Adamic nature/flesh there is nothing good, so it must die so that we can receive the new birth or so that we can be born again, and we can walk in newness of life. Until our first birth dies there can be no new life in Christ. So, the firstborn died in Egypt because it is a picture of how God views our old Adamic nature and what He desires to see happen to it. Let me also remind you that freedom for Israel did not come until after the firstborn died. So, it is in our lives also, there is no true freedom until our Adamic nature dies in Christ.

Now as we move on to the next two verses I want you to keep in mind that we are in Christ and we have died in Christ to sin.

Notice Romans 6:9

Because Jesus Christ rose from the grave He was victorious over sin and now death has no more dominion over Him. Jesus conquered death for you and me. There are several thoughts to consider here.

1. **You and I do not need to fear death. It has absolutely no power over us. Death is but a door way for you and me to pass from this life into our eternal home.**

1 Corinthians 15:52-57

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall 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 shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because we are in Christ we can be sure that death has no power over us anymore.

2. **Because Jesus conquered death we can be sure that we will NEVER be separated from God for that is what death is, separation. Because we are in Christ and because He will die no more we will never experience eternal death/separation.**

John 10:27-29

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

***²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,** neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

John 11:25-26

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. *Believest thou this?*

Notice Romans 6:10

Jesus died for us to set us free from the penalty and the power of sin and therefore we should live for Him just as He lives for God. We are in Him so if He lives unto God so should we.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

¹⁴*For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

¹⁵ And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Notice the words of Barber on these verses:

*"There are two aspects of Christ's death to sin: "One, **He died to the penalty** of sin and it is no longer affecting us because the penalty for the sin of Adam and his race was death. So, He came under the race of Adam, under the Law, went to the cross, bore our sin upon Himself, and now that He is dead, that death is gone, and when we put our faith into Him, that death never bothers us anymore. That's the penalty of sin. But then secondly, **He died to the power of sin**. When He rose, He rose victorious over anything that sin could ever do over you and me. When His life is in us, that's how we live daily—with victory!"*

Conclusion:

I know that each of the past several weeks we have looked at many of the same thoughts in this passage, but it is because this Truth is so important. This is the Truth that we must understand so that we can live it out in our lives. We will dig back into the Truth again next week.