The cross actually gets rid of selfishness and brings righteousness.
William Wallace

ROMANS CHAPTER SIX

Prayer Study #446
First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia USA

Romans 6 - Amplified Bible (AMP)

6 *What shall we say [to all this]? Are we to remain in sin in order that God's grace (favor and mercy) may multiply and overflow?*
2 *Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer?*
3 *Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*
4 *We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life.*
5 *For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be [one with Him in sharing] His resurrection [by a new life lived for God].*
6 *We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin.*
7 *For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men].*
8 *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,*
9 *Because we know that Christ (the Anointed One), being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him.*
10 *For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him].*
11 *Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus.*
12 *Let not sin therefore rule as king in your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies, to make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts and evil passions.*
13 *Do not continue offering or yielding your bodily members [and faculties] to sin as instruments (tools) of wickedness. But offer and yield yourselves to God as though you have been raised from the dead to [perpetual] life, and your bodily members [and faculties] to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness.*
14 *For sin shall not [any longer] exert dominion over you, since now you are not under Law [as slaves], but under grace [as subjects of God's favor and mercy].*

There was a false doctrine of grace, (which has reared its head again in our generation under the name of hyper grace), which taught that the more one sins, the more he or she can experience the grace of God. Nowhere in the writings of Paul or other New Testament writers is it taught that does the Bible allow for one continuing to live in sin. Jude states in Jude 4 that there were those who had perverted or twisted the grace of God so that they could live lustful and lewd lives. Paul teaches us that grace can only reign through righteousness (Romans 5:1), and he tells his spiritual son Timothy that true grace causes men to deny ungodly lust, to deny ungodliness, to live soberly, to live righteously, to live godly lives in this present world, and to look for the blessed hope (Titus 2:11-14).

Starting in verse 2 and going forward, Paul shows us three types of death for the believer: The death of the physical body, as illustrated in the lives of Abraham and Sarah, the death of Christ as a substitution for us (Romans 5), and the death now for the believer so that our identity is in Christ.

Throughout Chapter Six, Paul uses the words *death* or *dead* over and over. In a general sense there are three specific types of death. Death in each instance does not mean a state of non-existence or annihilation or even soul sleep as some teach. We know that there is physical death when the physical body is separated from the soul and spirit. Adam was told that he in the day he ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would surely die. The scriptures tell us that a day is as a thousand years in the Lord's sight and a thousand years as a day (2nd Peter 3:8). Adam died instantly spiritually but it took almost a thousand years for him to die physically (930 years) simple because he had walked with God and was full of the life and light of the Spirit of our God.

There is also spiritual death which is the separation of the soul and spirit from God, the source of life. Ephesians 2:1-3 tells us, "*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whim also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."* Thus, we can be alive physically but dead spiritually and will be unless we have come into relationship with Christ, and He has made us alive.

Finally, there is eternal death, often referred to as "the second death." This is a permanent separation from God and His presence. This separation is of the soul and spirit. Those who die eternally are disembodied and are in hell.

Verse 3, 4 and 5 show us that not only did Christ die for us, we also must die with Christ by being united with Christ through baptism or immersion into His death. So when we are being water baptized, we are going down into death and the grave and burying the old life, but coming up out of the water as a new creature full of the life of Jesus. We walk in newness of life meaning that our walk is habitual conduct. Thus, we are baptized into His death (the Cross-Romans 6:3, buried (in the tomb-Romans 6:4), and resurrected (the empty tomb-Romans 6:5).

Now would be a good time to share Kevin Conner's explanation of the expression of Paul used in Romans in relationship to the believer:

1. **"In Adam"** refers to the first Adam, the old man, the body of sin, the flesh, the living soul.
2. **"In Christ"** refers to the Last Adam, the second man, the Lord from heaven, the new man, the Spirit quickening.
3. **"The old man"** refers to the Adamic man whose nature is passed on to all men (Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10) or the old, unrenewed self.
4. **"The new man"** refers to Christ or the new nature.
5. **"The Body of Sin"** signifies a corpse, the body in which sin expresses itself. Sin is the master which the body belongs as a slave. We were born as slaves to Satan until we are redeemed by accepting Jesus and becoming servants of Christ.

Christ's death was by crucifixion, a criminal death that was necessary because He took on all the sins of the world. It is one of the most painful and terrible deaths ever invented. It also is a slow death. A crucified man may live for three days or more. But the Romans considered the man dead on the same day he was crucified giving us the phrase "reckoned dead."

If we be dead with Christ, we shall live with Him. This is a major theme of Romans. We are:

- **Crucified with Him** (Romans 6:6)
- **Died with Him** (Romans 6:3,8)
- **Buried with Him** (Romans 6:4)
- **Planted Together with Him** (Romans 6:5)
- **Raised with Him** (Romans 6:4-5)
- **Alive with Him** (spiritually, bodily, and eternally) (Romans 6:8)

Kevin Conner puts it this way: "As a sinner 'in Adam' man died in sin and inherited 'in Adam' all that Adam brought in sin, sickness, and death. As a believer 'in Christ,' man can die to sin and inherit 'in Christ' all that Christ brought in righteousness, health and life. Men are either 'in Adam' or 'in Christ.'

The physical body still contains the law of sin and is subject to physical death. In fact, physical death is the last enemy to be destroyed. But mortality will, one day, put on immortality (2nd Corinthians 5:1-8). Christ, of course, has already conquered death and has the keys of death and hades (Revelation 1:18), and He ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:10).

Verse 13 contains the word *yield.* The same word is translated *present* (v.) in other passages. So Paul is saying here in 13 that we are not to *present* our bodies and our body

parts to sin , or we are not to yield to our old nature, the nature we had before we became new creations in Christ (2nd Corinthians 5:17). We are to yield or present ourselves and our members as instruments to God instead of our old nature, and we can do it through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 14 tells us that the Law was given to control our old nature but through the grace of God we have been given a new nature.

15 *What then [are we to conclude]? Shall we sin because we live not under Law but under God's favor and mercy? Certainly not!*
16 *Do you not know that if you continually surrender yourselves to anyone to do his will, you are the slaves of him whom you obey, whether that be to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness (right doing and right standing with God)?*
17 *But thank God, though you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed.*
18 *And having been set free from sin, you have become the servants of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in thought, purpose, and action).*
19 *I am speaking in familiar human terms because of your natural limitations. For as you yielded your bodily members [and faculties] as servants to impurity and ever increasing lawlessness, so now yield your bodily members [and [faculties] once for all as servants to righteousness (right being and doing) [which leads] to sanctification.*
20 *For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.*
21 *But then what benefit (return) did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? [None] for the end of those things is death.*
22 *But now since you have been set free from sin and have become the slaves of God, you have your present reward in holiness and its end is eternal life.*
23 *For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Paul is telling us in this passage that we once were the slaves of sin and thus righteousness had no claim on us. Now through Christ we have been made righteous by His blood and are therefore servants of righteousness. We have the power of the Holy Spirit to walk in right doing and right standing with God. But we also have a free will and can choose to sin which always leads to death in some way. If we sow to sin, we will reap death. If we sow to righteousness, we will reap holiness and eternal life.

The passage ends with a very familiar verse stating the fact that the wages of sin is death and Satan, your paymaster, will eventually see that you are paid. But the gift of God through Jesus Christ is eternal life, and that gift is received by faith. Notice that sin has wages while eternal life is a free gift of God.

J. Vernon McGee summarizes this passage: “He [Paul] sets before believers now the golden and glad prospect that is theirs as slaves of God. They are freed from sin which leads to death, and they can have fruit which will abide into eternity. Life eternal is in contrast to death.”

‘TIS SO SWEET
LOUISA STEAD
1882

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, “Thus saith the Lord!”

Refrain:
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
’Neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Yes, ’tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.

I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.