

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 13 “Dead to Sin, Alive to Christ”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on the book of Romans today. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the church in Rome to bring reformation to this church in 57 A.D. We are studying verse by verse through the book with our focus being on “Reformation.”

A. The main problem Paul wanted to reform with the church in Rome was the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles. They were in strife about beliefs and practices associated with their faith and trying to impose their will on each other.

1. Paul did not want to revive this church. He wanted to reform it.
2. This is what God wants to do with church in America. If He sent revival that didn't lead to change in belief and practice it would just accelerate our idolatry.

B. Last week we talked about our identity in Christ. We are in Christ and it is all done by grace and not works. We became a sinner based on Adam's sin and we are saved based on our believe if in the second Adam's obedience.

1. This can lead to an important question. If it's all by grace, why should we live holy? Can't we just live in sin that grace may abound? NO! This whole concept needs to be vastly reformed in the church.
2. Today we are going to talk about “Dead To Sin, Alive in Christ.” We will learn grace isn't a license to sin, but it's an empowerment to live holy.
3. We are going to talk about how to actually do that!

II. Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

A. **Romans 5:19-21** These verses give us a running start into where we are going today. They make it so clear we are righteous apart from good works that it can make you wonder if we are free to live in sin. **I would submit if you've never asked this question, you probably haven't understood the depth of the grace of God.**

B. **Romans 6:1-14**

1. **Verses 1-2** Paul poses the question we are all asking and gives the answer. Certainly not or God forbid!
2. **Verses 3-11** say we were baptized into Jesus's death and we are DEAD to sin. They also say we are alive in Christ!
 - a. Sometimes people think we are supposed to die daily and quote **1 Corinthians 15:31**. This pulls it out of context. We must also include **verse 32**, which talks about the persecution Paul faced. ex: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

b. These verses explain what happened to us at the cross. When Jesus died, we died (we were on the inside of Him), when He was raised to newness of life, we were raised, where He is seated, we are seated (heavenly places).

c. The key to these passages is what we know (*verse 3, verse 6, verse 9, verse 11*). We have to know who we are and that the old man died and the new man has been raised to life in order to walk in the power of this truth. **This isn't something we feel, it is something we know!**

d. *Verse 7* None of us have ever seen a dead person sin!

e. Example of Lazarus - when He died, Jesus raised Him from the dead.

John 12:1-2 The next time we see Lazarus he is seated with Jesus at a table. This is a position of authority! A lot of us have the problem that we are seated, but still have the grave clothes on.

3. *Verses 12-14* Paul makes it sound like its a choice to sin. He tells us to not let sin reign in our bodies. We have this ability because of **Romans 5:17** (*we are called to rule and reign with Him*).

a. We are not to present our body as an instrument of sin, but as an instrument of righteousness. This means we obey whether we feel like or not. While we are not feeling like it, we cry out to God for grace and God changes our feelings (ex: tithing, Bible reading). **One the definitions for grace is the divine influence on the heart.**

b. You are not under the law, but under grace - Grace is what gives us the capacity to live free from sin. This means grace isn't a license to sin, it is an invitation and empowerment to live holy. **Philippians 2:13.**

III. Conclusion - The key to walking in holiness is knowing you are in Christ. The old man is dead and you are alive in Him. From there the grace of God empowers you to do things you couldn't do in your own strength.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer