

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

February 12, 2023

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Series: Romans

Sermon title: Dead to Sin

Scripture reading: Romans 6:1-14

### **Introduction:**

In 1996 I was working for the year at our church's camp facility in the wilderness. It's 1 hour from the nearest hospital. My job was to take care of the facilities and property, along with my boss.

We had bears, deer, wild pigs and rattlesnakes.

We hosted camps for kids and teens every week of the summer.

One particular week, the camp was full of 6-12 year olds. I was on the tractor working and some kids ran up to me and said that they had found a snake.

Now, there were lots of snakes. Most of them were 'good' snakes and some of them dangerous.

I was shocked to go over and find that the kids were near to a very large Timber Rattlesnake.

I couldn't risk a child dying from a bite from one of these, so I shot the snake's head off with my gun.

This all happened in the morning.

I put the snake in the tractor bucket and lifted it up so no one could see it and left it there all day till I showed my boss later in the afternoon.

Well, I got the scare of my life later than day when I took my boss over to the snake. There it lay with no head. He touched it to see what it felt like and the snake quickly started shaking its rattle, curled up and acted like it was going to bite us.

It had no head!!!!!!

But it sure seemed like it was alive.

Not matter how much you knew in your head that the snake was dead, you just couldn't bring yourself to treat it as such- because it seemed so powerful.

Well, Paul says that is what sin is like.

Sin has been decapitated but it seems so present and powerful.

I guess we just need to remind ourselves that it really is dead until it stops moving all together.

**Let's pray.**

Niels did a good job last week on **Romans 5:12-21**. One thing he said really stood out to me.

In light of God's abounding grace he said, "We can relax and rest in grace."

Well, when we come to **Romans 6**...it doesn't seem like we are encouraged to 'relax' at all.

What's going on here?

Here is the outline of today's sermon.

We will look first at the:

**I. Objection**

**II. Doctrine**

**III. Exhortation**

The main point is clear in Romans 6:11:

**Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Let's look first at the objection.....

**I. The Objection**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

What do these verses point to?

Well, we need to look back at **Romans 5**.

**Romans 5:2** told us that we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand.

We mentioned weeks ago that in Christ, believers stand in the realm of grace. They have access now freely to God and to his mercy, grace and forgiveness.

**Romans 5:15** says that the free gift and the grace of God abounded to believers.

**Romans 5:17** says that believers receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness.

**Romans 5:20-21** says that where sin increased or abounded, grace super-abounded.

So, **Romans 5** has accentuated and magnified the grace that we have in and through Jesus Christ to the point that Niels could say last week, "Relax and rest in grace"...and this is true!

Grace is greater than all our sin.

Then in **Romans 6**...he goes right in to....

**1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

He says this because he is presuming an objection to the wonderful grace of God to sinners.

If the Law of God shows us how much we are sinners....and if when we sin...grace increases...then why not increase grace by sinning?

This may seem strange to us but I am sure that we might do this too.

Let's not confuse this too much.

Focus on this part...."Are we to continue in sin" as believers? Are we to live in cheap grace?

By no means!!!!!! Which means, "*May it never be*", or "*No way*"...."*Are you nuts?*"

There are those who might say that grace is too easy. "*Grace that super-abounds will only lead to free sinning.*"

"*People will not live very moral lives under this grace.*"

"*They'll just abuse God's grace.*"

So, to solve the objection he turns to doctrine, which is point #2.

## **II. The Doctrine**

**2** How can we who died to sin still live in it?

**3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again, death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

There is bit of repetition in **Chapter 6** in order to make a point so let's just jump to exactly what it means.

### **1. You died with Christ.**

When you were converted and baptized....when you went down into the water....it symbolized something. It symbolized that your old life....your old habits...your old desires....and the power that sin had over you... died. Something changed when you were born again.

Sin stopped being able to enslave you and it was 'brought to nothing', which literally means 'destroyed'.

Key words here are 'united with Christ' and 'death' and 'dominion'.

Because you believe in Christ and are united with him, there is a transformation that took place. Your old self, old life....your sinful life....and the power of sin....died there with Christ when he died for sinners.

Death and sin have no dominion over Christ and because we are united with him (through belief) then we also are no longer under the control, rule and dominion of sin.

## **2. You are alive with Christ.**

**4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

I love this passage. You know what it means when it mentions newness of life and resurrection?

It doesn't mainly mean that when we get to heaven... when we are resurrected that we will be done with sin...though that is true.

It means because Christ is alive and rose from the dead, he has given us the power to not be enslaved to sin. Resurrection power to live differently.

Sin is still present but sin has been dethroned by grace, Christ's General.

Therefore, we are not to 'continue in sin' now that grace has super-abounded to us. We can relax in grace but not relax too much!

Which is why we have this exhortation...Point #3.

### **III. The Exhortation**

There is a major change here in **verses 11-14**.

You can see it clearly. It goes from instruction in doctrine to direct commands.

And this exhortation is really our APPLICATION as well today.

**11** So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Let not sin reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. **13** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and



your members to God as instruments for righteousness. **14** For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

We are not helpless victims when it comes to sin.

We can say 'no' to sin.

Oh yes the presence of sin is still a reality but the power of sin is broken.

Sin used to reign...it was on the throne of your life.

It doesn't reign anymore. It doesn't define us.

Christ reigns. Christ defines us.

Sin still exists but it must not reign.

We are not to obey its passions.

We are not to give ourselves to unrighteousness but to righteousness.

Members here means our body parts. It doesn't take rocket scientist to figure this out. We may have some rocket scientists in the room!

Our brains, our eyes, our ears, our hands, our hearts we are to offer to God as 'weapons' (literally) for righteousness and not weapons for unrighteousness.

Christian, [consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.](#)

One of the tools that the devil uses to keep us trapped in sinful patterns and behavior is to convince us that we are powerless to defeat sin.

This is true. We are powerless.

**Jesus** is not powerless though. He defeated sin.

If you're a Christian, sin has no power over you either.

Oh yes, it is still present but powerless.

You are dead to sin and alive to God.

You remember the snake?

Jesus shot the head clean off of the snake called sin.

It seems like it is alive but it's not....it's still moving around but can't kill you. It'll keep moving around a bit till one day it'll be gone.

Today would be a good day to ask yourself simply....is there any sin in my life that I need to turn away from?

Any where you have grown comfortable and relaxed too much....maybe taking grace for granted?

As we prepare to take the Lord's Supper, let's examine our hearts and consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.