

Our Sanctification in Christ ...

Romans 6

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider (**reckon**) yourselves to be **dead** to sin, but **ALIVE** to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is **death**. ²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the **FREE GIFT** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.

We've come to the end of chapter 6 ... but we've traveled a wee bit ... so let's look back briefly to put things in perspective.

We started with an introduction by the apostle Paul to a church, a newly formed, infant church, local church family, in Rome, that Paul did not help to start in any way, shape or form. It is composed of Britons, Romans, Jews, Greeks, barbarians, etc. ... an eclectic group of people who've been Born Again in Christ and came together and became a local church family. Paul wrote to them to raise Missionary support for his mission to Spain and beyond. He wrote them, so that they would understand the "Gospel of Christ" Message that he preaches that results in churches being planted.

His hope is that they will be convinced to partner with him in reaching beyond themselves (i.e. Great Commission Missions) toward Spain and beyond (England? Maybe?).

The rest of the book of Romans rests on the statement/premise in Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Then Paul proceeds to recap our horrible history of sinfulness and rebellion against God from Adam until the time that Paul is writing (which is still applicable to Today's world, BTW, maybe more so)

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who SUPPRESS THE TRUTH in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known about the existence and reality of God has been made fully and plainly manifest to them, for God HAS SHOWN IT TO THEM.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are CLEARLY seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are WITHOUT EXCUSE,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile (empty, stupid, foolish) in their thoughts (in their logic, in their reasoning process, in their thinking processes, in their ways of thinking), and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools

Paul proceeds to show how progressively sinful any people group, nation, society can become, step by step, until it is at the point of no return (and our western cultures are pretty close to this stage) when they reject the only Living and True Creator God (read the rest of Romans 1:18-32)

Then Paul shows in Chapters 2 thru 4, that no human, no matter who they are, those who are descendants of Adam and Eve ... all of us are sinful, fallen, ... all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Abraham, David, Gentile (non-Jew), Devout Religious Jewish people, etc... all are under sin's judgment, penalty and power. God must judge sin.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:19-20)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

²⁴ being justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation (i.e.: an atoning sacrifice) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, (Romans 3:23-25)

God DEMONSTRATES His own LOVE toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8) → Even though we are sinners, God Loves us...

We've seen over and over again, Paul mention and explain how horribly devastating SIN is ... the impact of SIN ... the Power of SIN ... how God must Judge SIN ... that SIN is our Problem ... and it must be dealt with or we will suffer the Wrath of God on the Day of Judgment and then forevermore.

Since chapter 1, Paul has not stopped talking about our main problem of SIN. He will not stop talking about sin until the end of Romans 8 (yes there is a mention of it in Romans 14:23, but it is in a different context). Paul talks about our problem of SIN so much for, 8 full chapters, because it is so powerful, so intertwined within in our old sinful nature ... we were born with this nature, it is our friend ... we are so familiar with it, more than Christ (especially to new believers in Christ ... as time goes

on, the longer we are in Christ, He wants us to be more familiar with Him, than with our old sinful nature, just so you know.) Sin is just so powerful, but God is MUCH MORE Powerful.

Sin is deceptive... when you are deceived, in the midst of deception, you actually don't know you are being deceived until the truth confronts you. When truth confronts you while you are in the midst of being deceived you will react irrationally ... emotionally, attacking the person bringing the truth. You will not, initially ponder the truth challenging your deception, but you will DEFEND your deception, your stronghold (what we talked about last week). You love your deception, your stronghold, and you will defend it. You cannot believe that your deception is NOT True ... because you believe that the LIE you've embrace (your deception) is True (but, of course, it isn't). Therefore, you will react emotionally and hate the messenger of Truth, and you will hate the Truth itself, etc.

God has allowed us to recognize certain warning signs that will allow us to escape the strongholds of deceptions to allow us to break free ... because Jesus said, "if you ABIDE (live, make your home in) in my Word, you are Truly My Disciples, you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you Free..." John 8:31. God's Truth in God's Holy Word, the Bible will set up Free from the lies and deceptions of sin, of Satan. Our old sinful nature is very similar and sings the choruses along with Satan himself. Our old sinful, fallen, selfish, self-centered, self-exalting nature is very similar to that of Satan's sinful nature. That is why he can have Power of over us ... and lead us like puppets without us even knowing. We want to do his bidding, as unthinking lemmings ... because sin is that deceptive and powerful. **SIN ENSLAVED** us **BEFORE** we came to Christ

Sin is so deceptive, it tries to convince us, even after we are BORN AGAIN in Christ and SIN is NO LONGER our SLAVE MASTER ... to "sin all the more" with faulty reasoning ... → ¹⁵ **What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!** ¹⁶ **Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? [sin wants to enslave us to itself]** We know that Paul is echoing Jesus' teaching in John 8:31-36 in which Jesus says, basically the same thing. This is not a new teaching, it is bedrock DOCTRINE.

God, when He caused us to be BORN AGAIN, at the very instant we were saved, BORN AGAIN in Christ, when we fully surrendered to Christ, we Repented of Our Sins, and Received Jesus Christ as our LORD, KING, GOD, and SAVIOR ... when God's Holy Spirit came into our heart, took up residence and place Christ on the Throne of our Heart ... **that instant** He gave us a **NEW HEART** with New Desires (**see Ezek. 11:19-20; 36:25-27; Jeremiah 31:31-33**) ... to Worship God, to Love God, to Want God, to Want to know God's Word (the Bible), to want to Obey and Please God, to want to tell others about Jesus Christ (the Gospel of Christ), etc. This does not mean that we do everything perfectly, but we have new wants and desires from God Himself in our New Heart, created brand new in Christ. Our old sinful nature was dealt a death blow and Christ became our New MASTER, and we were set free from our old master, sin, our old sinful nature was no longer our MASTER that we had to obey, anymore. But, now we must COOPERATE with Christ in our New Relationship with Him. Although we have been forgiven of all of our sins (past, present and future), justified before God as if we never sinned and never will, have been given Eternal Life, have received God's Holy Spirit in our lives, etc... although this is all true, practically, our day-to-day behavior and habits, our thinking, our ways of relating to people, our decision making processes all need to be changed and transformed, step-by-step over a period of time as we Grow in Christ. This process of becoming more like Jesus Christ is called "**Sanctification**"

Sanctification means → the **Process of becoming Holy**.

This is not an overnight miraculous happening, but a day-to-day, moment-by-moment miraculous process of change by Christ in our lives. It is a changing process initiated by the Holy Spirit (notice "HOLY" Spirit) and He leads us onward in growing in Christ, getting to know Him, falling in love with Him, obeying His Word, etc.

It is a **COOPERATIVE Process** ... in which we **MUST Obey God** in the Process in order for us to be transformed and changed more and more being conformed more and more into the image of Christ. If we want to change, to become more like Christ, to have certain strongholds uprooted, we must OBEY God's Word and follow Christ more and more ... as we do this, we are changed more and more. When I submit the members of my body (my hands, arms, legs, mind, brain, eyes, etc...) to Obeying God's Word (surrendered to Him, being in LOVE with Him) ... I am become more like Christ. When I seek to know, read, study, meditate upon and obey God's Word ... God's Spirit implants His Word in my heart and mind, and God uses His Word to transform me from the inside out. That **Perfect LAW of Liberty** (Perfect LAW of **Freedom** – James 1:22-25) is God's Word, it reflects God's Glory as if we are seeing Jesus Christ in a mirror and we catch a glimpse of who will be in the future - 1 John 3:1-3)

2 Corinthians 3:14-18

¹⁴But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same **veil** remains unlifted, because it is **ONLY removed in Christ**. ¹⁵But to this day whenever Moses is read, a **veil lies over their heart**; ¹⁶but whenever a person turns to the LORD, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the LORD is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is liberty (**freedom**). ¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding **as** in a mirror the Glory of the LORD, are being **transformed** into the same **image** from glory to glory, just as from the LORD, the Spirit.

OUR PART:

So, we see a consistent Chorus of the apostles in Christ saying the same thing ... God is in the business of changing us, in transforming us ... by His Word, by His HOLY Spirit in our Lives. Our PART is to surrender, to submit, to commit to God AND His Holy WORD ... to Obey Him according to His Word, Alone. Not according to Traditions, but according to His Word alone, ONLY. His Holy Spirit uses this to transform us. We must INTENTLY LOOK, Intentionally Study, set aside time to read, study, meditate upon God's Word ... spend time in personal, individual times of study of God's Word and Prayer. This is how we cooperate with God. It like when we flip the switch on the wall and the light comes on. Our part is to turn on the light, Electricity's part is to supply the POWER to make the Light Glow. The Power is waiting there, ready to be used, all day long, 24/7, 365 ... but our part is to flip the switch. That is an illustration of FAITH. Trust and OBEY. I will not Obey God, unless I Respect Him, Believe in Him, Trust Him, and Love Him. Respect = the Fear of the LORD. Trusting God and Obeying Him go hand-in-hand.

When God says in His Word, the Bible, for me to Pray, I obey and set aside times, **daily** to Pray. When God says for me to Know His Word, I obey and set aside times, **daily** to read His Word. When God says for me to spread the Gospel of Christ to those around me, I seek to find ways to do that with the folks I come in contact with (either in normal every day routines, through Social Media, through conversations that I intentionally start, etc. - see Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15). We are commanded by our LORD, KING, GOD, and Savior to spread the Gospel of Christ. When God says "do not forsake the assembling of yourselves as is the habit of some, and do this all the more as you see the DAY (of Christ's return) approaching ..." I do this ... both in Public and smaller (in-home) private gatherings. (Hebrews 10:24-25 – it is a **command** not an option)

Obeying God, because I am in Love with Him, I Trust Him, **IS the Cooperation** He requires for me to become more like Jesus Christ... more and more as time goes on.

But now having been FREED from sin and ENSLAVED to God, you derive your BENEFIT , resulting in SANCTIFICATION, and the outcome, ETERNAL LIFE. (Romans 6:22)