March 31, 2024 Rev. Art Cotant

The Greatest Letter Ever Celebrate Freedom Romans 6:1-13

Introduction: Jesus Takes Over

Where We Finished On Friday Night

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:20-21 NLT)

Note: Where sin and death have dominated the scene, Paul declares how Jesus launches a takeover where grace brings eternal life. Jesus' takeover delivers us from death to life.

Three Phases of Salvation In Romans

- 1. Justification: Set free from the penalty of sin
- 2. Sanctification: Set free from the power of sin
- 3. Glorification: Set free from the presence of sin

Note: The possibility of being set free from the power of sin is anchored in the resurrection!

And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. (Romans 6:8-10 NLT)

The Bridge: A Rhetorical Question... or Two (vv. 1-4)

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? (Romans 6:1 NLT)

Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? (Romans 6:2)

The Point: If you have connected yourself to the death of Christ and died to sin, there is no way you will want to continue a lifestyle of sinning when you have also been given new life.

The Illustration: Baptism

Romans 3- 5 Romans 6-8

Substitution: He died for me Identification: I died with Him

He died for my sins
He paid sin's penalty
He died unto sin
He broke sin's power

Justification: Righteousness imputed Sanctification: Righteousness imparted

Saved by His death Saved by His life

What We Know (vv. 5-7)

Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. (Romans 6:5-7 NLT)

The Point: You can't break the power of your sinful tendency on your own. If you could, you wouldn't need Jesus.

What We Believe (vv. 8-10)

The Point: We are changed by Jesus. It is impossible to continue living an unchanged lifestyle.

What We Consider (vv. 11-13)

I need to consider this as true for me (v. 11)

So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11 NLT)

I choose to no longer participate in sinful activities (vv. 12-13)

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. (Romans 6:12-13 NLT)

I dedicate my life to pleasing God (v. 13)

Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. (Romans 6:13 NLT)

Conclusion: Living Like We Are Free