

Resurrection Life – *Romans 6:5-14*

Introduction – Christ is risen! Years later, Paul tells the Christians in Rome that this truth has personal and practical application for them in the here and now. And the same message is for Christians today. It is to change the way your past sins have an effect on you; it is also to change the way your present temptations are to be handled. This is resurrection life: these things are so; you are to live as if they are so. The carnal heart loves a check-off list for godliness, but that is not how we learn godliness. And so when we talk about our sanctification, it is as offensive to the flesh as is the work of justification. You are not to strive for your sanctification outside of the free gift of God any more than you were to strive for your justification. What is resurrection life? We do what God did. We do what has been done.

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ – This chapter begins from a question in Paul's audience, "Hey, if this grace thing is so great, can't we just go ahead and sin away? Won't this just make grace abound more and more?" (vv1-4). Since we have been "united" (planted, joined together) with Christ in His death, so we are also united with Him in His resurrection life (v5). Our "old man" was crucified in Him, for that old man was a slave to sin (v6). We got out of that prison by dying; but we got out with the promise of a resurrection (v7). For there is no way to be joined to Christ in His death without also being joined with Him in His resurrection life (v8). And the resurrected Jesus has nothing to do with death anymore (vv9-10). We are to reckon ourselves, consider it true, impute it upon ourselves, that we to are just as dead to sin but alive to God in Christ (v11). The mortal body still has impressive passions and temptations, but we no longer let sin reign, or be the overarching master, of our mortal body, that we might obey the lusts of that mortal body (v12). Likewise, there is no aspect of our lives (our members) which are presented as weapons of unrighteousness to reigning sin, but rather all of our lives are presented as weapons of righteousness to God (v13). Sin is to no longer rule over us because we are now under grace and not under law (v14).

Doing What Has Been Done – "Likewise you also (*because it is true for Christ in Whom you are united*), reckon yourselves to be dead indeed (*actually, really*) to sin, but alive (*living in a new humanity, a new way*) to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (v11 – italics are my commentary-additions). Dead to sin has many aspects and practical applications.

Dead to the Guilt of Sin – Jesus Christ died for your sins, paying the penalty in full. Death no longer has dominion over Him, which means the guilt of your sin is gone. "Not Guilty" is posted on the Cornerstone of the new temple, of which you have been added as one of the living stones. This means in Christ, you are really forgiven. God absolutely knew what sins He was sending His Son to die for; He is not surprised by any of yours, nor does He change His mind regarding you because of your sin.

Dead to the Shame of Sin – Sometimes the consequences of our past sins haunt us and cause us to be ashamed. In Christ, like the wounds in His hands and side, they are simply memorials to the glory of the resurrection. By faith, they may be reckoned as symbols of what we have been saved from. Sometimes there is shame because of sin committed upon you (abuse, humiliation, wicked neglect). The Cross and the Empty Tomb cause us to see what God did for Christ and all who are in Christ when He was publicly despised, rejected, humiliated, spat upon, flogged and crucified like a common thief. The resurrected Christ bears no shame, reigns free from bitterness, freely forgives those who strove against Him, and is fully vindicated as He rules in the power of His grace. His resurrection is yours spiritually today and completed totally one day in the general resurrection.

Dead to the Power of Sin – Not that temptations are not present or that we no longer struggle with sin. But the old man's reign is over. You have been transferred from the first to the last Adam. And having been set free in the power of the Spirit, that Spirit resides in you to empower you to reckon yourself dead and freed from the reign of sin and to reckon yourself alive in Him – in His resurrection life.

Is That Old Man Really Dead? – The illustration of a weed patch is often used. God declares the weed patch "dead" and plows it all under, planting and declaring it now to be a garden, His garden. The flesh, or your mortal body, is like the weeds that still grow up in the garden. Because it is a garden, you are to go and regularly pull out those weeds – and there will always be weeds – every day of your life. But they are now alien to this piece of land for it has been declared a garden.

Under Grace and Not Under Law (v14) – Finally, this verse does not mean that grace lowers the standards (go ahead and sin now because we are under grace). Once, we were under the law, which meant you could not stop sinning and were under condemnation. Now, we are under grace, which means we have been set free from sin (not "to sin"). Grace doesn't change the definition of holiness. Grace provides the way to holiness. This is resurrection life.