

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 6:6-20)

Lombardi: champion. Every season begins w/ basics: "This is a football." *Champions never outgrow fundamentals*
Paul, in Chapter six, is practically teaching us the fundamentals of Christian life: How do we deal w/Sin/habits/Tempta

MAIN POINT: As Believers who are walking in new life, we are to remember that our sin nature is restored to a holy nature – but we live in a weak body & in a weak world. Victory??

-IN Christ, as Believers we no longer "Have" to sin; we are no longer slaves to sin/sinful desires
-BUT, though Christ declared us forgiven, justified (saved), righteous, & holy....we still have to live that holiness out/live our new holy nature out in this life (daily) & in these bags of skin which we call our body (weak);=we are frail;we are easily distracted,we are easily tempted when unfocused

-I don't have to do X, fall into X sin; I'm no longer bound/enslaved to...*but at times I'm tempted to.*

-Child you played with toys; didn't have tremendous responsibilities; no one depended on you (BUT as an adult, if you took a day off to play barbies; GI JOE; or x-box all day ignoring your responsibilities – that would be unhealthy; = weird) =Ep 4:15 "we are to grow up in all aspects

-Which dog are you feeding? Which muscles are you exercising? Which disciplines are you daily?

Let's remember what Bible says is true about our old nature/new nature/how to defeat sin:

READ Romans 6: What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² [a]Far from it! 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, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become [b]united with *Him* in **the likeness of His death**, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, =(NEW, restored, perfected, holy & uncorrupted, pwrfl)

A. As Believers who are walking in new life, we are to remember our death to our old life -and how we were **TRANSFORMED** into NEW LIFE.

B. Salvation was not simply a transaction, but a **TRANSFORMATION** = we WERE spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1,5); Christ made us spiritually alive (Eph. 2:5); As we began a NEW life, we died to our old life of sin/idols/habits/destruction/pain/loss/suffering=these habits which only led to death.

C. Our own **baptism** is a symbolic reminder of our death, burial, and resurrection to walk in new life *IN* Christ. Baptized? (As we witness others' baptism it reminds us of our death to our own sin)

D. Our **Union** with Christ is our daily assurance and reality of His grace and help when we struggle with sin/temptation/loss. =We go where He goes. Follow where He leads. (We begin to see what He sees and to love what He loves =Holiness, Glory for His Father, rescued lives, & risk)

Vs.6: knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with [made powerless], so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for the one who has died is freed from sin [acquitted].

A. The image is that **we** have nailed **our** own sin to Jesus' cross (**name that sin in your life**)
-AND our whole desire to sin; our body of sin; our sin nature; willful sin; old life/self/corpse = we are nailing that entire old life of decay, destruction, and death (old self) **TO** Jesus' cross.

B. Sinless Jesus **became** sin for us. **Image:** We are actively submitting our sin/old self to death on the cross **AND** Jesus is actively taking our sin & becoming SIN in order to die/punishment/judgmt

-What is the effect of nailing our sin to the cross & Jesus' sacrifice of becoming sin/dying?

Vs.8: Now *if we have died with Christ* (old self), 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 *time*; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

-Jesus conquered **sin** once for all on the Cross: As a sinless substitute, He paid for all sin.

-Through His glorious resurrection, Jesus conquered death for **ALL** time. = **Victorious !!!**

-John Owen: "*This is the Death of Death through the Death of Christ*"

-This is the very GOOD NEWS for a hopeless, dark, lost world.

***So what do we do now? How does this Good News affect us????**

Vs.11: So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Great news; awesome; helpful; victorious.....BUT....why do I still struggle with sin daily???

[When Jesus came to this earth, He inaugurated the KINGDOM of God, here & NOW.

-God IS in control; He IS sovereign; He is making all things new; BUT... slowly (by our count)

=["**The Already and the Not Yet**"] – on this earth, there is STILL pain, loss, suffering, sin & unexplainable evil in all corners of the world. God's design is to change lives first before He wipes out all sin/corruption/Death and the Devil (which He will one day) =**Promise** (Rev. 21:4)

-BUT today, NOW - **This is** God's glorious plan...that we LIVE on this earth (sin-stained/tainted world) while trusting Him (**FAITH** Heb. 11:6), and growing daily into His likeness (w/real temptation & real loss)

= This broken world & pain is God's loving **tool** to prepare us for eternity/worship

A. In your salvation, Jesus paid for & then declared YOU forgiven, justified, righteous, & Holy

B. BUT, Jesus also left you in this feeble, frail, easily broken & tempted body of weakness -**WHY?**

(we cannot withstand fire/drowning/too much O₂, too little O₂, too much sun/too little sun)-tempt

-Most men are leveled by a splinter; stubbed toe; broken pinky toe; kidney stones; virus

IN Christ, we are already victorious, powerful, conquerors, overcomers, fruitful, useable

-BUT...most of us struggle to get out of bed each day tired, worn-out, frustrated, discouraged!

****This is God's good & glorious design. Though we have all power IN Christ, via Spirit ...**

-We are all still (temporarily & temporally)= for a time/season...STUCK in weak bodies, prone to disease, temptation, and eventually death.

-Though the Lord promises that we will never taste death eternally, we have to taste death spiritually in order to have spiritual life; and we will taste death temporally (on this earth/in this body) in order to taste Eternal life. BUT WHY???????

-Why can't we just get saved & get automatically upgraded to heaven; saved & raptured immed.?

-God's good, righteous, and perfect design for us is that **THROUGH** weakness /loss /pain /temptation/failure/loss/& ultimately death on this earth – **this is HIS process to grow us into His likeness**; this is His process to mold us into His image – holy, glorious, dependent, desperate

=**God uses our sin/failure/conviction/repentance/forgiveness/restoration TO change us into men/women who are completely dependent upon the Lord for every breath/sp. power/hope!!**

*This is GOOD for us; **this is our BOOTCAMP on the earth;**

-What does God promise us?? Happiness & prosperity??? (**Prison?N.Korea/Iran/China/India?**)

-No! He promises us eternal life; His presence near us; hope; Truth; & persecution (2 Ti. 3:12)

-OUR weakness; our temptation to sin; our failure in these weak bodies = daily process to grow us into men/women of spiritual substance where HE continues to transform us into spiritual

maturity (Eph. 4:13 “until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the ^[f]knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature ^[g]which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

-Romans 5:3 “And not only *this*, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

-1Peter 4:1-2 “Therefore, since Christ has ^[a]suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because the one who has ^[b]suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh [our daily lives] no longer for human lusts, but for the will of God.”

-So what is Paul's encouragement on how to live in these weak skin sacks called our body?

Vs.12: Therefore sin is not to reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, [you are not given to that anymore; no longer a slave; no longer HAVE to]¹³ and do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your body's parts *as* instruments of righteousness for God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under ^[c]the Law but under grace.”

-So as Believers who have been declared righteous and holy, but are also still living daily in weak and broken bodies where God is using our weakness and dependence solely on Him to grow us into Jesus' likeness (holy, pure, perfect, useable, grateful, joyful, consistent...) – NOW what??

-We are called (in our weakness and temptation) to run to Jesus and the Spirit's help daily to conquer temptation and sin in our life – and present our hearts and bodies as tools of righteousness!

APPLICATION

-Paul is helping us realize that the practical steps to DEFEATING SIN HABITS in our lives is to really understand...

- 1) What has happened to us when we were saved/transformed. =Old life died
- 2) Who we have now become as Believers in Christ; We are UNITED w/ Jesus =ONE w/Him!!
=we go where Jesus goes and Jesus is not & does not lead us into sin and temptation.
Our identity is one who is ALIVE in Christ and NOT acting like i'm living in death; living in slavery
- 3) What sin-crushing power is readily available to us; resurrection power (death/life; sin/holy)
- 4) Who is with us every step of the way in life & in temptation; -Holy Spirit living w/in us!
- 5)What are we called to do until we go to heaven. = To LIVE for God, holy, separate, useful, avail..