

Transformed, Romans 6-8, Part 2

Romans 6:1-14 “Dead and Alive”

Once upon a battle... a marine who came under heavy fire.

Bullets were flying through the air as he dove into a foxhole. **Quickly this nominally religious soldier** pulled out the cross he wore around his neck - staring death in the face, he was desperate for any help he could get...

Suddenly, he was joined in the foxhole by another soldier.

This man too, was diving for cover. When the new occupant rolled over, the marine noticed he was a chaplain.

The relieved soldier **held up the cross**, and said, “Boy! Am I glad to see you! **Can you tell me how to get this thing to work?”**

That’s really a good question. How does the cross work in our lives?

A)How does the victory Jesus won 2000 years ago translate into victory in our lives today?

B)Many believers do not experience victory but struggle constantly in defeat –

1)Truth is just theory – but not reality -

They are living as a **sinner** trying to be a Saint rather than being a **Saint** who is learning how not to sin.

So How does the cross work in our lives?

A)How does the victory Jesus won 2000 years ago translate into victory in our lives today?

B)That’s the question we are seeking to answer in this series called **Transformed – in Romans 6-8**

1)How does faith work? How does the cross work? 2) How does **crosswork** effect changes in my life today?

C)I hope you know *the cross is the crux of Christianity.*

1)In fact, our words “**crux**” and “**crucial**” and “**crucible**” all come from the word “**crucifixion**”

D)The key to an overcoming Christianity is the cross and its impact.

We noted in our study last time – that Paul Sums up his teaching on the doctrine of salvation with this statement:

20 Moreover the law (10 Commandments) entered that the offense might abound. (Show us how sinful we really are.)

But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A)Where sin abounded – Grace super-abounded!

B) That statement – would get two potential reactions from Paul’s audience made up of both Jews and Gentiles.

C) To the staunch Jewish person who grew up in a system where they thought – you come into favor with God by keeping the Law –

D) Their reaction would be to accuse Paul of being **Antinomian** – or promoting lawlessness –

1) Basically saying – Paul, you are saying how a person lives doesn’t matter.

E) What about holiness – what about walking in Righteousness, Paul ?

I am sure that that is some of your reactions to the subject of grace –

A) When I was first saved – I didn’t really understand grace.

B) I still believed that **my standing with God** was based a lot on my performance.

1) I had a performance based acceptance Christianity

C) **The Athlete in me loved a Challenge:** –give me something to do/ something to change-

1) Don’t just tell me to believe and trust in God’s grace!

In fact when first was hired here, youth ministry –

A) I would listen to Pastor Brian teach on grace – I would be screaming inside – Brian – **tell them the rest of the Story!**

B) That is how those from a Jewish or a person with a religious legalistic background would respond to what Paul is saying – **TELL THEM THE REST OF THE STORY!**

C) The gentile on the other hand or the person who came from a non-religious background who lived a life of pleasing his flesh –

1) not thinking about God or the consequences – He could take Paul’s words to mean – Far out –

D) **If where sin abounds the grace of God SUPER ABOUND** – I am going to really go for it in Sin – so that the grace of God – Super abounds –

E) There were even those who would suggest – **our Sin actually brings glory to God** – so let’s really sin – so that God’s glory will be manifested.

Or the mentality of those today who rationalize continuing in sin with this kind of thinking - who think this way:

A) I know this is wrong – but I am going to do it anyway – **I will just ask God to forgive me** – His grace covers all sin.

Well, Paul seemed to anticipate these sort of reactions – by the way he opens the 6th Chapter
6 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not!

A)Pause here for a moment – to draw your attention to something that is easy to miss in the **English language** –

B)When Paul says shall we continue in Sin – need to put next to the word sin the article – the sin

C)**The sin** – he is talking not about sin in general but something specific – the sin is in reference to our evil sin nature that we inherited from Adam.

1)Continue to live –speaks of habitual – lifestyle of sin –

D)**V.21 – Sin reigned** – again in the original text – the sin reigned – The Sin nature reigned in us.

E)Adam sinned – the entire human race was infected with the sin gene

1)We inherited from Adam this sin nature – bound in sin – given over to sin, no power to change ourselves.

So Paul is saying, shall we continue living bound to that sin nature so grace may abound? – Certainly not

A)We noted last time - No way – Are you nuts – God forbid – what a Ghastly thought –

B)Why so strong? –

Reason: **How shall we who died to sin (the sin) died to the evil sin nature that we inherited from Adam –**

C)How shall we who died to that, live any longer in it?

D)Note, Paul is speaking in the aorist tense – something that has already happened – Past tense
1)it is a finished work – not are dying – but we have died. Finished work

I think everyone would agree that death constitutes a very significant change.

A)Radical alterations take place when a person dies.

B)Of course physical death produces changes most people try to avoid.

In the days of the French Revolution three men were sentenced to the guillotine - *a pastor, lawyer, and engineer*. The pastor was first to meet the executioner. **He was asked if he preferred to die *face up* or *face down*.**

The pastor said, “**Face up, so I’ll be looking to God when I die.**”

He was placed in the guillotine and the execution pulled the lever. The blade was flying downward, but jammed inches from the pastor’s throat.

The executioner took it as a sign from God and set the pastor free.

Next the lawyer was asked whether he wanted to be executed *face up* or *face down*.

The lawyer, hoping for the same plight as the pastor, asked to die face up.

Again the executioner pulled the lever, and the blade came screaming downward - only to jam inches from the lawyer's throat.

This was also interpreted as a sign from God. The lawyer was set free.

Finally, the engineer was led to the guillotine, and asked if he wanted to be executed *face up* or *face down*. He also chose to die facing upwards.

But just as the executioner was about to pull the lever the engineer shouted, **“Wait a minute! I think I see your problem...”**

Now most people see death in a negative light, unless you happen to be an engineer.

A) And here Paul is acting as a spiritual engineer.

B) He's describing what happens to us when we come to Jesus.

C) “Died to sin” is a good thing – a positive state.

1) Paul says if you're **“dead to the sin”** you won't **“live any longer in it.”**

Died to the sin nature – now made alive in Christ, given a new nature.

A) Died to the penalty of sin, (Jesus paid)

B) Died to sin's claim on me – brought out of Adam and placed into Christ –

C) Died to Sin's Power – no longer have to be reigned by my sin nature anymore

D) Sin loses its stranglehold. When a Christian “dies to sin” it puts an end to sin's governing influence over that person's life.

1) Sin no longer *calls the shots* and *sets the pace*.

E) Now we **have been brought to life in Christ – and given power to walk in victory over the old sin nature.**

1) Why do some Christians still struggle with habitual sin?

Harry Houdini was perhaps the greatest escape artist of all time.

A) He broke out of every prison, every set of handcuffs, every straight jacket that ever tried to hold him – except... a tiny jail cell in the British Isles.

B) A simple cell stumped Houdini.

1) Usually it took Houdini a couple of seconds to pick a lock, but he worked on this particular, innocent-looking cell-door for more than two hours.

C) Houdini scrambled at a furious pace and became more and more frustrated as his efforts proved futile.

1) Finally in utter exhaustion he collapsed, and fell against the door - *and surprise!*

2) The door swung open, for it had never been locked!

D) The Great Houdini had tried to break out of a door that wasn't even locked!

Some of us this morning have gone to tremendous extremes to do all we can to free ourselves from the sinful habits that keep us in bondage.

A) You're a believer in Jesus, but you just can't seem to break out of sin's straight-jacket.

B) You've tried *self-help, support groups, twelve steps.*

1) You've been to the *psychiatrist, therapist, hypnotist* - you've tried *will-power, pill-power, and positive-power* - but you can't break out.

C) The reason for your futility is that the door is already unlocked. Jesus has already won the war that you're now fighting!

D) God's plan for victory over sin is not a *twelve step approach*, but a *one step approach*.

1) It's not a *couch*, but the *cross!* Jesus has already done the work.

For a believer in Jesus, the prison door of sin has already been sprung.

A) On the cross Jesus freed us not only from *the penalty of sin*, but from the claim of sin and *the power of sin*.

B) Our part is to believe - to recognize what Jesus has already accomplished.

C) All that's needed, for us to experience the power and freedom of an overcoming life, is to become fully convinced that what God has *promised* He has *performed*.

The whole issue is about Identification!

A) A great exchange- brought us out of Adam and placed us into Christ!

B) Big idea last week was this: **Be who or what you are now in Christ – rather than what you once were in Adam.**

C) We were linked – joined to Adam – but now we have been linked to Jesus!

**That is what Paul wants us to see here in Chapter six
Two analogies –**

V.3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

Two analogies – first Baptism

A)Not talking water baptism but – immersed into – the body of Christ 1 Corinthians 12:13

B)Fused – linked to Christ – We were immersed into his death and His Rez –

C)V. 5 United = The term means “to grow together or graft.”

1)When a twig is spliced into the trunk of another plant, and the two begin to grow as one, we call it a “graft.”

Likewise, we get spliced into Christ - grafted into Jesus. We share in all that *He has* and all that *He’s done*.

A)So We have been immersed or grafted into His death but also into His Rez Life

B)In the old westerns the bad guys are wanted “dead or alive.”

1)But Jesus seeks out bad guys like you and me, and vows to bring us back, “*dead and alive.*”

C)Big idea today is we are both Dead and Alive !

1)We’re dead to sin and we’re alive in Christ!

D)We don’t just share in the cross. We also share in His resurrection.

Dead to Sin and made Alive in Christ – so that now we might now walk in a newness of life, quality of life

A) new sphere – no longer in bondage or controlled by our old sin nature

B)Our old Sin nature no longer *calls the shots* and *sets the pace*.

1)Sin loses its stranglehold and it’s governing influence in our lives.

D)we are now free to walk in the power of this new nature.

There’s an old bumper sticker that reads, “Christians aren’t perfect, just forgiven”?

A)The message conveys a nice sentiment.

B)Christians don’t want to be seen as holier-than-thou hypocrites who look down their noses at unbelievers.

C)None of us are Captain Perfect, and can do no wrong!

1)The slogan has a good intention, but biblically it’s

inaccurate.

The bumper sticker implies the only difference between a Christian and non-Christian is that the Christian is forgiven and the non-Christian is not.

A) Other than their status before God they're essentially the same.

B) *Certainly not!* Jesus not only delivers us from *the penalty of sin*, but from *the power of sin*.

1) He changes us radically and dramatically. NEW LIFE!

C) A believer doesn't just get a new paint job. God installs a new engine!

He works in us, not just for us... And in the rest of Romans 6 Paul pops the hood on our inner life and reveals the work God does in the Christian...

A) Paul will answer two questions:

#1 How do we make this truth the reality that we are living in as a follower of Christ!

#2 And if we have died to our old sin nature – then why do we still struggle at times with Sin?

B) Paul is going to answer those two questions in the remainder of the chapter.

C) Paul says there is something we need to know – and two things we need to begin to do.

3 key words – Know, reckon and present

D) #2 questions first - if I have died to my old sin nature – then why do I still struggle at times with Sin?

Know this:

A) Paul tells us in verse 6, “**Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with...**”

B) Paul states, “Knowing this...” I'm sure you've heard the old expression, Ignorance is bliss “What you don't know won't hurt you.”

C) I hope you realize that's not true.

Don't tell it to the guy in Bristol, England who dove headfirst 25 feet off a pier into the ocean. He didn't know it was low tide and the water level was 18 inches... **What he didn't know had a profound impact on his life...**

D) And the same is true for a Christian who fails to understand that he's dead and alive,

1) Ignorance of that truth will radically stunt his spiritual growth.

Paul says we need to know “our old man was crucified with (Christ).”

A) Once a little boy came home from Sunday School, and said he'd learned that Paul's father was one of the thieves on the cross.

B) His mom wondered where he'd gotten such a wild idea... He quoted Paul in Romans 6:6, "my old man was crucified with Christ..."

That's not what Paul meant! But it's close...

A) Paul's father had a father, who had a father, who had another father... all the way back to Adam.

B) And what did Adam do? Adam sinned. He bombed. It was *the original Adam bomb*.

1) And worse, sin passed down to Adam's descendants – to all human beings who've ever lived. We're all born with Adam's sin nature.

C) This is what Paul calls "the old man." (old sin nature) It's who you were before you came to Jesus.

1) It's the part of you that was governed by sin.

D) It was an inclination to sin and rebel - a tendency to be selfish and stubborn.

But when you died with Jesus "the old man" (old sin nature) was crucified with Christ. – Grafted into that

A) **that the body of sin** (all encompassing- like a body of water *that is this my old fleshly tendencies*) **might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.**

B) This answers the question of why we still struggle with sin and why we still get tempted – why there is still a battle in our flesh.

1) 1 John – apostle tells us that our battle is with the world – our flesh and the devil –

C) Satan uses the things of this world to entice our flesh – appeal to our flesh he appeals to that old sin nature.

D) But if it was crucified with Christ – how does he still appeal to it?

V. 6 clears it up – *Done away with* in the greek is **Katargeo** it doesn't mean annihilated or completely destroyed -

It means – rendered inactive or inoperative. it was just paralyzed

See, as long as we are in these bodies we are going to battle w/ the body of sin our flesh- that was formally dominated by our old man

A) This body has been trained to sin, trained to react in the flesh, trained to give into fleshly tendencies, - **OLD HABITS DIE HARD!**

B) Ever wake up in the morning on a Saturday start getting ready for work

1) Graveyard shift

C) The Flesh that has been dominated by the old nature for so long is the same. – **Re-trained**

D) But victory starts when we understand that the old man has been rendered inactive !

Coach Matthews –mean, throw balls – Run until we threw up!

A)Run into him at target – 20 lapses – throw up.

B)Not doing that – why ? His power is dead to me – no longer on his team -

1)He can Yell at me all he wants {Power has been rendered inactive – no longer on his team.

C)Friend / bully intimidating / 13 bully was paralyzed from neck down in an accident /

1) went to the Hospital - he was no longer intimidating

D)The same is true for the believer in Jesus – **Sin's power, the old man, old sin nature**

1)Power has been paralyzed – Satan will still try to use it to **intimidate us** – WE ARE FREE!

SO when a believer is struggling in a habitual sin –

A)the issue is NOT that the sin more powerful than Christ or that the believer is incapable of victory –

B)What it means is that – he is forgetting **He is not knowing** - that He has Died to that sin nature–

1)the power of that old man has been rendered inactive

Two old country boys were playing with a turtle they found crossing the road. One fellow pulled out his knife and chopped off the turtle's head - yet the turtle's body kept walking along the blacktop.

It caused an argument...

The first fellow said, "That turtle is dead, it doesn't have a head". The other guy replied, "No, how can a turtle be dead when it's still walking?"

Just then up came Bubba. They asked him to settle the issue. "Bubba, is that turtle dead or not?" Bubba pondered the situation, then he replied, "Well boys, it seems to me the turtle's dead, he just don't know it yet!"

Too often that is our problem – We don't know it – Not appropriating – the Truth of who we are in Christ.

A)So consequently – what we do is we focus on the sin – we focus on trying to change ourselves –

B)Forgetting that - **Now you are joined to Christ – you have a new nature – Jesus now wants to control your flesh.**

C)Rather than try to change myself - in Christ, God's Spirit has worked His changes in me.

This is the point- Paul wants us to grab a hold of the truth of who we are in Christ – Effectual –

A)Joined in His death – Sin's power destroyed – Sin's claim on us – broken

B)Joined in His Rez - Power of the resurrected life is in me – So walk now in that reality!

1)Don't be enticed and intimidated by sin any more!

C))Know it – Jesus said – You shall Know the truth and the truth will make your free – Know it

Rom 6:8-11

Now if (Since) we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more.

Death no longer has dominion 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.

Jesus died and rose – He doesn't keep dying – Died once and for all to purchase our redemption –

A)He rose to give us life – He is our example and our energizer – He rose to live for God –

B)We have been brought to life to do the same – No longer be controlled by our old sin nature – **Dead – rendered inactive –**

C)Now we have been given new life – we can now live for God – no longer being dominated by our Flesh – **KNOW IT –**

2nd Reckon it

A)In verse 11 Paul reiterates this point, "**Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord...**"

B)Now the way Paul uses the term is not how a person from the South uses the expression.

C) Ask him if it'll rain tomorrow, and he responds, "*I reckon so!*"

1)he is saying, "*I guess so*" or "*it might*" or "*I hope so*",

D)but if Paul said, "*I reckon it's going to rain*" he'll be taking an umbrella with him.

The Greek word translated "**reckon**" means "*to consider it so*" - "*to treat it as if it's true*".

A)a term used in accounting which means to add up the numbers or the facts & see that they are so !

B)See that this is a fact ! He's saying, consider it a **done deal. Act accordingly.**

1) I have Died to Sin / raised w/ Christ / Old man rendered in active !

C)Appropriation

1)Example lost your Job & you are in Debt - 10,000 dollars Living in poverty barely surviving / old clothes / little food /

D)Friend writes you a check for \$25,000 / Now to appropriate the Check - you have to cash it ! /

1)Then use it to pay off your debt

E)The rest to live on / you could buy some new clothes / get some food / go out to the Chart house if you wanted to

1) But lets say you didn't think the Check was any good so left it in your wallet, never cashed it

Now if that was the case / the reason for your poverty would be because you didn't appropriate the check ! Didn't put it into the account !

A)Your poverty would be due to your failure to really believe what your friend did for you !

B)So too w/ appropriation / Jesus who was called the friend of sinners paid the entire penalty for our sins / and slew our old nature in the process

C)The question is not whether His provision is sufficient but whether or not we reckon it to be true !

God wants you to change the way you see yourself.

A)Don't just see yourself as a *struggling sinner* - see yourself as a *victorious saint*.

B)This isn't mental gymnastics, or the power of positive thinking.

1)Paul is not telling us to think into existence something that's really not true.

D)Considering it so doesn't make it so. We consider it so because it is so!

E)The real you, is indeed dead and alive. You're spotless on the inside.

1)You've been given a new nature that's always in tune with God - always desiring what He desires!

2)Our new nature loves God and loves others.

This is what John means in 1 John 3:9. **"Whoever has been born of God does not sin, (Practice sin)for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."** New nature

A)When you become a Christian the inner man is perfected.

B)You're cleansed completely - made fit for God's presence.

1)Nothing else needs to happen to you to get you ready for heaven, other than what Jesus has done for you on the cross and in your heart.

C)"To reckon it so" - is to learn to see yourself as God sees you.

Remember the story of the ugly duckling?

He was actually a beautiful swan, but he was bred a duck. The other ducks considered him strange, and odd, and always put him down.

He was an ugly duck... and every afternoon he would look across the lake at the elegant swans on the other shore, and wish he was a swan.

Until one day he noticed his reflection in the edge of the water - and for the first time he saw himself as he truly was. **He wasn't an ugly duckling after all, but a beautiful, elegant swan.**

The realization changed his life.

If you're a Christian you're a beautiful swan, not an ugly duck.

A)It's time you looked in the mirror of God's Word, and saw yourself as you truly are!

B)Then act accordingly – this is the 3rd word Present: Rom 6:12-14

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Application: Come back to next week!

A)Idea - I present my members – my body, my mind, my flesh, my faculties –

B)The things I used to constantly present to unrighteousness now I present them to Christ - as members of Righteousness.

C)Instead of being what I once was in Christ – I am now being who I now am in Jesus!

Meant to be positive:

A)Instead of trying not to sin and obey lustful desires

B) Because I believe that I am a new Creation in Christ –

1)Died to that sin nature – the power of the old man has been rendered in active

D)Now I am going to make choices that reflect who I am in Christ. **POSITIVE**

1)Jesus in me gives me the power to do that.

Ephesians 4:22 tells us, "Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind... that you may put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness."

You cultivate a new identity by *putting off* and *putting on*.

Put off the *old habits* - and put on some *new habits*.

Next week – talk more about – what presenting our members looks like. Very specific

New Creation- Free –

Old man – rendered in active –

Start presenting yourself to Jesus – Surprised