

How Sin is Overcome (Part 1): Romans 6

Ever tried to overcome sin by using will power or determination? If we rely on our own strength, we will never be free from bondage--no matter how hard we try.

If we can't get free on our own, we need to understand what God has done to set us free. God designed redemption to free us not only from the penalty of sin but also from its power. To experience this freedom, we must understand both the substitution and identification truths of salvation.

Understanding **substitution** frees us from the _____ of sin.

Understanding **identification** frees us from the _____ of sin.

In **substitution** Jesus is punished in our stead. He takes our place on the cross. As our substitute, He is punished for our sins.

Identification is the means by which we receive a new identity through our union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. God has put us in Christ so that what happened to Jesus happened to us. We are not who we were. We are new creatures. The old has passed away.

Substitution/Identification Quiz

Please put an "S" next to the substitution scriptures
and an "I" next to the identification scriptures:

1) ___ "...we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, who is rich in mercy...made us alive together with Christ..." (Ephesians 2:3-5)

(KJV) ...we...were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy...quickened us together with Christ...

2) ___ "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities..." (Is. 53:5)

(KJV) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...

3) ___ "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

(KJV) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

4) ___ "we have been born anew...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..." (1 Peter 1:3)

(KJV) ...God...hath begotten us again...by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

5) _____ “For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died” (2 Corinthians 5:14).

(KJV) For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

6) _____ 1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,[a] that we might die to sin and live to righteousness....

(KJV) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness....

Study of Romans 6

“This sixth chapter has been to me, since I came to understand it, the most liberating chapter in my whole Christian experience.”

--D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Romans 6: The New Man, P. 144

Romans 5:20 Law came in, to _____ the trespass; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

(KJV) Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! **How can we who died to sin still live in it?**

(KJV) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Romans 6:3-4 **Do you not know** that _____ who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, we **too** might **walk** in newness of life.

(KJV) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Water baptism represents what happened to us when we accepted Christ. We died. Being laid under the water represents the burial of our old self. Being raised out of the water represents being raised as new creatures--with God's nature of righteousness within us.

“Do you not know...” It’s possible not to know!

Paul is asking, “**Do you not know what God did for you** that you might not continue in sin, that you might no longer be enslaved to sin? Do you not know the truth about who you are?”

Rom. 6:6-7 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin.

(KJV) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Paul is saying, “If you know the truth, your death with Christ changes everything!!”

Sin was the slave master of who you were; it is not the master of who you are.

Paul is seeking to correct their behavior (i.e. stop them from “continuing in sin”) **by showing them the truth** concerning their new identity. He’s saying, “Continuing in sin is inconsistent with who God has made you to be.”

All who are "in Christ" are dead to sin--freed from its power. THIS ISN'T FOR SUPER CHRISTIANS. Paul is stating historical facts about ALL who are “in Christ”.

If Christians don’t believe the truth about themselves, they are in unbelief. They thus **cut off God’s power** (just as Peter cut off God’s power when he walked on the water and then disregarded what Jesus had said.) **If they cut off God’s power, what’s left? Their own power...the strength of their own flesh.** They then try to resist sin by using their will power and determination, and you know how effective that is.

What Must We Do?

Note: There are no commands in Romans 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or in the first ten verses of Romans 6. Here Paul is explaining what is true: what Christ accomplished for us and who we are in Him. The first command in the entire book of Romans is Romans 6:11.

Many Christians never experience freedom from sin's dominion because they don't do their part. Many don't obey Romans 6:11.

Romans 6:11 So you also _____ yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ.

(KJV) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Is this a command to die to sin, or to affirm that we are already dead to sin?

Freedom From Slavery

Slavery throughout the U.S. was legally abolished by the 13th Amendment on December 6th, 1865. Every slave in every state was set free. No longer was one man the property of another. So...how many slaves were in the U.S. on the next day? _____

However, millions of people still thought they were slaves. Millions experienced the same bondage they had been in before. They were free, but they didn't know it.

What would have to happen for one of these former slaves to actually experience freedom?

- 1) Someone else must _____
- 2) The former slave must _____ and _____
- 3) The former slave must consider _____

- 4) The former slave must stop _____

Tale of Three Former Slaves

(Imagine three months have passed since the 13th Amendment abolished slavery.)

Former Slave #1 hears the good news and rejoices. His days of slavery are over. His life is completely transformed.

Former Slave #2 still hasn't heard the good news. He continues his work on a remote plantation. Although he is now a free man, his "master" somehow neglects to tell him.

Former Slave #3 hears the good news, but tries to figure out if it's true or not by checking out whether what he has just heard is consistent with his feelings and experiences. He has been told not only that he is free today, but that he has been free for three months! However, since he didn't feel differently after Dec. 6th and since he still experienced bondage after that date, he concludes that this declaration of freedom is absurd. The truth does not make him free, because he does not believe it.

Many Christians make the same mistake with regard to the truth in Romans 6. Romans 6 declares not only that we are free from slavery to sin today but also that we have been free since our salvation. Many Christians conclude that this cannot be true since it is inconsistent with their feelings and experiences since their salvation took place.

Note: All three of the former slaves were completely free--but only one experienced freedom.

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore _____ in your mortal bodies to make you obey their passions.

(KJV) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Often, the word “reign” refers to the dominion exercised by a king or queen, but that is not the case in Romans 6. Here the word refers to the dominion exercised by a slave master over his slaves. Paul says, “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies...” Why? Because sin is not your master anymore!

Sin was the master of who you were; it is not the master of who you are now.

Notice the word “therefore”. Paul is pointing back to the truths he just explained:

- 1) you died with Christ
- 2) you are no longer enslaved to sin.

Therefore (i.e. because these things are true), **don't go on obeying sin as if sin were still your master!**

Conspiracy Is Born

Imagine one plantation owner informs another that the 13th Amendment passed:
"Terrible news! Slavery was abolished! We've lost the battle to keep our slaves."

"Not necessarily," his friend replies, smiling. "We don't have a legal right over them anymore, but they don't know that. As long as these free men think they're still slaves, the 13th Amendment will have no effect. Keep your workers from learning the truth, and your control over these people will not even be threatened."

"But what if the news spreads?"

"Tell your workers they're misunderstanding the 13th Amendment. **Tell them the 13th Amendment says they are *going to be free*, not that they are free already.** If they come to see their freedom as a future event, it will be something they can look forward to, and they will continue to obey you today. "

Getting the Tense Right

Many Christians think, *When I die physically, then I'll be free.* That's what millions believe, but is that what the Bible says?

Romans 6:6-7 says, "our old self was crucified with him so that...we might **no longer** be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin."

It's not our *physical* death that frees us from bondage to sin; it's our death with Christ. And that death has already occurred.

Our part is to see ourselves accurately (Romans 6:11) and to stop obeying our former master (Romans 6:12).

God says "Consider yourself dead to sin" not "Consider that you will be dead to sin one day in the future--when your physical body dies."

Millions of Christians are crying out to God, asking Him to deliver them from addictive sin, but it's all in unbelief--even if they believe God will do it. Why? **Because they don't believe He has done it already.**

Perhaps a Christian believes he will be free one day during his earthly life. Perhaps he believes he will be free only after his physical death. In either case, he obviously doesn't know he's free already. Because the truth is not in him, the power of God is not in him.

A friend of mine once said, "**There's a life-changing difference between believing 'God will do it' and believing 'God has done it'.**"

Romans 6:13 Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God **as men who have been brought from death to life**, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

The NASB says "yield yourselves to God **as those alive from the dead**".

(KJV) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

(KJV) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

This is not a command; just a statement of fact.

In Romans 7:14-25 Paul will describe the bondage of being under the law, but here he describes life under grace.

Even though sin no longer has dominion over us, if we don't understand what Paul is saying, we will still live as though sin does have dominion over us.

It's possible to yield yourself to someone who is no longer your master.

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that if you yield yourselves to **any one** as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey,...

(KJV) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Because we died with Christ, we have been set free from sin's dominion. However, we will not experience that wonderful freedom until we believe what God says is true about us.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ: If I really died with Christ and no longer have a sin nature, wouldn't my life change automatically?

(If I'm dead, I'm dead. I shouldn't need to renew my mind or consider myself a certain way. If it were true, I would be free--automatically.)

When the 13th amendment abolished slavery, did all of the former slaves experience freedom *automatically*? In the days following Dec. 6, 1865, most didn't even know it had happened. Their status had completely changed, but they didn't experience freedom

until they heard the truth about their new status, believed it, and stopped submitting to their former masters. Experiencing freedom was not automatic; they had their part to play.

Likewise, when a person is saved, the Bible says that person becomes a new creature, the righteousness of God, free from sin's dominion, but the Bible never says that a change in that person's behavior is automatic. In fact, the Bible says just the opposite.

1) Romans 6:11 says we "MUST consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God". We have a role to play to actually experience freedom.

2) Romans 12:2 commands us to be "transformed (metamorphosized) by the renewing of our minds." If we do not learn to see ourselves accurately, we are likely to "be conformed to this world". In this case there will not be agreement between our outward form and who we really are on the inside. We can be "the righteousness of God" and still behave unrighteously.

3) Hebrews 4:2 says, "For good news came to us just as it did to them, but the good news which they heard did not benefit them because it did not meet with faith in the hearers."

(KJV) For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Likewise, when we hear good news from God—like this wonderful, life-changing truth in Romans 6--we must mix faith with it in order to benefit from it—even though the good news is already true.

4) Romans 6:16 says, "Do you not know that if you yield yourselves to any one as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey,...?"

(KJV) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey...?

It is still possible to let sin reign over us—even though sin is no longer our master. We can experience slavery even though we are actually free.

FAQ: If I don't have a sin nature, then why do I still sin? How is it even possible for me to sin?

Obviously, you will continue in sin if you don't understand Romans 6, because if you are ignorant of your new status as one who is "no longer enslaved," you will continue to obey your former slave master.

But also consider a couple other interesting points:

1. Eve had no sin nature before the fall, yet she still sinned. Why?

Eve was _____. She listened to the enemy and concluded that God's will for her was not the best plan. Christians today—including those who understand

Romans 6--can still believe lies about God's character. Once they do, the results are predictable. They lose their trust in God, and disobedience follows.

2. Adam had no sin nature before the fall, and yet he sinned. Why?

The _____ ____ _____. (Or woman, in this case). Do you think it is possible for Christians (even those who understand Romans 6) to love the praise of man more than the praise of God? Is it possible to get into sin because we are seeking acceptance or seeking to impress other people?

Answers for Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

How Sin is Overcome (Romans 6)

penalty

power

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- 2) S "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities..." (Isaiah 53:5)
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- 4) I "we have been born anew...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..." (1 Peter 1:3)
- 5) S & I "For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died" (2 Corinthians 5:14).

increase

all of us

must consider

zero!

1) ...tell them

2) ...hear...believe

3) ...himself no longer a slave, but a free man

4) ...obeying his former master

reign

deceived

fear of man

Please note: We only have time to cover about 1/3 of the “Freedom in Christ” series during the Regional Conference, but the entire series is available on CD in our conference book store.

Ministry and Speed Reading Resources by Jamie Lash:

- 1) Freedom in Christ (There is No Chain that Can't be Broken)—CD only
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- 3) Time Management: Reduce your Stress, Multiply your Effectiveness!—CD only

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Ministry website: www.LifeGivingWords.com

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