

To summarize, we have been justified by faith, by grace and by the blood and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have been born again so now are of the new race of human beings headed by the Man, Jesus Christ our Lord. Individuals of this new race have with peace with God, eternal life, new promises, new teaching (doctrine) to believe and hold, a new (sure) hope of eternal life, a new standing before God (in Christ), are indwelt by the Spirit of God, are full of the love of God liberally shed into each heart, and have a new nature that cannot sin, 1John 3:9.

But we do sin!. Despite the new nature we have received we have remaining in us the same old nature and propensity to sin we received from our parents. What now? Since we are so safe and so blessed shall we simply continue in sin, the sin nature that is continually urging us to sin? Surely this grace wherein we stand, ch. 5:2, will continue to abound. Won't these sins glorify God because they make His grace continually abound more and more. No!!!! It is true if we sin His grace does abound. But God forbid we should entertain any thought of continuing in sin once saved. As other translations put it, Far be the thought! May it never be! By no means! Let it not be! Certainly not! Clearly that is not an option.

Therefore Paul presents the truth of **Identification**. This is what we call a **Positional truth**. It has to do with how we are looked at by God now that we have been justified. We are entitled to look at ourselves in the position in which God sees us, in the **position, or standing**, in which He has righteously placed us. Not only are we a new race headed by Christ (instead of Adam), we are now in the **standing or position** of having **died to sin**. How so? Christ died on the cross after having borne our sins in His own body there, 1Peter 2:24. Having been buried and then rising again He has not only conquered death but He has died to sin.

2Corinthians 5:21 *He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*

Made to be **sin**, not made to commit sin, but to be **SIN**. **Sin**, as in the nature we have inherited from Adam. Having suffered and bled for our **sins**, He died. He died after his triumphant cry "**IT IS FINISHED**". The spear in His side was proof of His death. His shed blood paid for our sins. Our **sins** all paid for, He died to **sin**. And, three days later, He arose from the dead thereby conquering death. His resurrection is also proof that payment for our **sins** was accepted by God.

We read here in Romans 6 something truly amazing. "Christ has died to sin." Not only died for our sins so we could be justified, but died to sin itself. Died to that sin principle that resides in every heart from birth (excepting His). Having risen, death has no more dominion over Him. How could it if He was able to rise again. Death could not hold Him in the tomb. Did it once have dominion over HIM? God says so. Yet no man could take His life from Him, John

10. But having been authorized by the Father, He laid it down of Himself and He took it again, as authorized by the Father. He allowed death's dominion over Him from the cross to the tomb so He, going through it, could conquer it once and for all by rising from the dead..

Dead men don't sin! Can't sin! But as Christ died to sin and rose again, so we are viewed by God as having died with Him and having risen with Him. A baptism service plays out a silent but graphic picture of our having died to sin, died in Christ. (Incidentally, while baptism is primarily a portrayal of our having died to sin, one cannot miss the subsequent resurrection life portrayed by the immersed person instinctively bursting out from under the water very much alive and very glad to be out from underwater. So beyond speaking of our death it also portrays our rising again, as Christ was raised by the glory of the Father. But our rising is not the subject of Paul's discussion here. Our having died with Him is.) The body of sin is **annulled, rendered useless**. (Some translations state the body of sin is "done away with" or "destroyed." These imply a believer will no longer be **able to sin**. But it is my mortal body of sin that is rendered powerless to dominate me.)

Furthermore, we are viewed as having been **crucified** with Christ. Not only dying to sin, but as sharing the injustice, rejection, suffering and shameful ignominious execution He experienced at the hands of His own people and their Roman oppressors – His crucifixion. Perhaps the newly justified soul begins here to realize the nature of the world he always lived in. We are now each a temporary resident, an alien visitor, a foreigner, unwelcome, discriminated against, of a different race and different commonwealth or country altogether. Crucified, dead bodies don't sin and are certainly no longer part of the present world system.

Back to our subject. Having died with Christ we now sin only if we choose to sin. We may be tried and tested, and the devil will try to ensnare us or allure us into sin. But we now have a truly free will. Independency and freedom are craved by every human being from very early in life. These are applauded by others as success, as maturing and taking control of our lives. Yet all the time they are (and we were) but slaves of the principle of sin in the flesh that feeds that lust for free will. For in an unsaved soul, so called "free will" truly is simply lawlessness with a nice sounding name. Those who think they have a "free will" are simply unknowing, self-deceived slaves of sin. How wonderful to have been brought in under the protection, direction and correction of the Lord of the Universe, that great Shepherd of the sheep portrayed for us in Psalm 23. No longer "on our own," but His own, bought with a price, the price of His blood shed for us.

Truth is, we now can walk in newness of life! That is our position in Christ. Our right. Our charge. We no

longer have to serve sin. And we, having risen up out of the waters, are now seen in the likeness of His resurrection. Not dead! But having died! Having died and risen. Now alive! Now in Newness of life! Now enjoying a real and sure Hope. The Hope given us to soon live with the Lord in glory.

Just as death has no longer any claim on Christ, it has no claim on us. It no longer has any power over us. No one can dominate us using a threat of death. Not Satan, not persecutors, not common criminals, not anarchy, not mishap, disease or aging. Our time on earth ends now either "asleep in Jesus," or with the assembling shout from the air.

Hebrews 2:14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

1Thesalonians 4:13:*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*
1Corinthians 15:53 *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

How do we actuate and take advantage of this standing, sin having no more dominion over us? Is this standing just a nice sounding slogan with no real change in our daily lives? Or can we actually put it to work to deal with sin in our daily lives? For a believer the knowledge of our position in Christ is the first step in what God calls our deliverance from the power of sin, here and now on earth. Now having this knowledge we may feel like boldly forging ahead and setting some objective for ourselves to avoid sinning. We might naturally focus on certain sins we are aware that sorely tempt us. Next thing we know we will find we have indeed failed. If we attempt to conquer sin in the flesh on our own we are bound to fail. We are simply attempting to use our sinful flesh to avoid gratifying our sinful self. Doesn't work! Won't work! The flesh is no better in me saved than in me

unsaved.

Paul gives us the key to deliverance. Reckon yourselves dead! As having died. As having died unto sin. Sin has no more dominion over a dead person. Simple! Too simple? Mind games? No, finally living in reality. God's reality by faith. God's version of the popular "The power of positive thinking"? Actually it may seem more like the "power of negative thinking." Reckoning ourselves as having died doesn't sound very positive. But that's just it. We are not capable on our own of avoiding sinning. Christ is the answer. A Christ who is the head of the race of the redeemed. The Christ who has died and risen again and we with Him. The Christ who is no longer under the power of sin that He allowed Himself to be under those three hours of darkness when on the cross. Made sin!

John 3:14 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

Philippians 2:8 *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

We, knowing our standing, are to **reckon ourselves** as having died unto sin and alive (in resurrected life) unto God. If we think of ourselves as having died with Christ, and risen with Christ, then we can begin to walk in newness of life. We will no longer be focusing upon ourselves and upon certain sins while seeking to avoid them. But we will be walking as having died, risen, and now alive unto God. Leaving self out of the action entirely. Thinking about self, sinful self or born again self, but diverts our gaze from Christ. The risen Christ, who was dead. He is the fond object of God the Father's heart. He is to be the sole object of our hearts as well. **He** is the key to deliverance from the power of sin.

There is more. Don't stop here. Don't try to assemble your new self on your own. Read the Directions. They are ample, plain and literally at your fingertips. Don't get halfway then attempt to go on your own. Positional truth is essential. Knowledge of our standing in Christ is crucial. The concept of identification with Christ and His death and resurrection is central to deliverance from the power of sin in us. **But these are not sufficient to complete the job.** We will get to the Power to implement the truth of deliverance in Romans 8. He is Christ through the Holy Spirit. But before giving us that truth, we are first given further instruction on how these basic truths apply to ourselves (the rest of ch 6). Then we will be given a warning (Romans 7) on the inadequacy of the principle of law as a means of deliverance from the power of sin in our lives. Keep tuned. Or, better yet, read ahead.