

WINNING THE WAR WITHIN

OCTOBER 29, 2023

WORSHIP

God is Here, This Is
Amazing Grace, With All I
Am, Living Hope

WELCOME

How have you changed for
the better from last year?
Name 1-3 character growth
areas that you have
intentionally worked on
and others have seen
change in you.

WORD

ROMANS 6:8-14 (READ VERSES 1-7 ALSO)

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, 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; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Since our sins are all forgiven, does it matter how I live? Paul anticipated that wherever the gospel is preached, the usual logical question is about continuing in sin so that more grace will increase. The Apostle Paul corrects that notion in **Romans 6:1-2**. Paul was not intimidated by that question. He did not change the gospel! This theological issue was addressed by Paul. To die to sin doesn't mean you do will not be tempted anymore – it means that the power of sin cannot run after you.

We enter a new season in our study of the book of Romans, this time focusing on **SANCTIFICATION** in **chapters 6-8**. Some churches teach that it does not matter how you live because it is all by grace. Antinomianism, a belief that states we no longer need to obey God's laws because it's all about grace, affects many people today. In a way, that wrong belief says "it doesn't matter how you live, since all sins are forgiven and you are already saved".

The Bible is very clear on this matter. In **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, Paul reminds his readers that none of the sinners he has listed can enter the kingdom of God – that is the trouble we all face – but then he gives the good news in **v.11** – he reminded them that they were washed, sanctified, and justified in Jesus Christ. However, this does not mean perfection for them. In **Jude 4**, we see a certain kind of people that will "**turn the grace of God into licentiousness**" – they are never saved, and they want to destroy Christians by turning grace into a license to sin, denying the Lordship of Christ. But Jesus He is not just a passport to heaven – He leads us to **VICTORY** over sin here on earth!

Let us first differentiate **SALVATION** and **SANCTIFICATION**:

SALVATION	SANCTIFICATION
JUSTIFICATION	CONSECRATION
POINT IN TIME	PROCESS
BY GRACE	BY GRACE
WHAT JESUS DID FOR YOU	WHAT JESUS IS DOING IN YOU
PENALTY OF SIN	POWER OVER SIN
CHRIST DIED FOR US	CHRIST LIVES IN US (HOLY SPIRIT)
BY FAITH	SANCTIFICATION

Many Christians are ignorant of this truth, so they live a life with no power. The following are important things for us to **KNOW**:

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1. KNOW YOUR NEW LIFE

Aside from constantly repeating the word “knowing” in **Romans 6**, Paul also repeats a truth: we have died to sin, and we live a new life in Christ (**vv. 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11**). Paul even reminded us about what baptism portrays to us (**Romans 6:3-4**). Baptism (**Gk. baptizo, meaning immersion**) is an illustration of what happened to us when we surrender our lives in Christ. Baptism into Christ is a symbol of dying in your old life and rising into a newness of life. It is an identification with Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:17** and **Galatians 2:20** are great reminders for us – if we are IN CHRIST, it means we are a new person. Shame about our old life can affect us, but we need to be reminded that we are renewed in Christ. It is like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly inside a cocoon! That is why Paul would usually call the believers “saints” (**1 Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 1:1, Philippians. 1:1, Colossians. 1:2**). This new identity also reminds us that we have access to a new kind of freedom.

2. KNOW YOUR NEW FREEDOM

Romans 6:5-6 reminds us that we are united with Jesus Christ – we are not to just think of ourselves as mere humans failing and stumbling, but the greater identity is that we are children for God! Remember that every time we give in to habit, it becomes a necessity. That is why many of us are in bondage. But **vv. 7-9** reminds us that dying with Jesus means we have a new freedom in this new life with Him. The complete identification in the picture of baptism is that there is something spiritual that happened at salvation – we were set free from sin’s power! Many of us are imprisoned by ourselves – we give in to our lusts and appetites, and we become prisoners of ourselves. Yet we have new freedom in Christ! It becomes our choice if we want to become enslaved again to sin – but why would we want to go back to these things that Jesus saved us from? When sin knocks at the door of our lives, we don’t have to respond– we are children of the holy God!

3. LIVE OUT YOUR NEW LIFE

Romans 6:10-12 continues with the reminder for us to do something – for the first time in the book of Romans, we are given an imperative command – **CONSIDER YOURSELVES DEAD TO SIN** – it has the idea of appropriating – to live it out and ‘encash’ it, meaning, living in that sense of victory! **Verses 13-14** reminds us not to present our bodies to sin. It means to stop giving in to sin, and to “**present ourselves**” as “**instruments of righteousness**” – being under our new Master, God! His grace will bring about our sanctification! **Galatians 5:16-17** is a great instruction for us to “**walk by the Spirit**” so that we will “**not carry out the desires of the flesh**”. Because Christ is in us we are victorious,!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on the message, how do you see yourself?
2. How can you have a proper view of yourself? Why is this important?
3. Is there any habitual sin God is asking you to surrender?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for friends and loved ones to come to genuine faith in Christ and understand that grace is not a license to sin, but a means for us to live a renewed life. Live out your own new life in Christ, doing good to others around you to show them God’s love for them. Share the gospel of Jesus Christ and let others know how they too can experience winning over their battles within.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines and Canada.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to end; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.
- Peace and protection of God’s people, Israel. Wisdom for Prime Minister Netanyahu and all the govt. officials.

III. Church

- That CCFE Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCFE Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Retreat Centre, Shelter

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 6:14

¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.