

LEADER NOTES – Romans 6:1-10 – 4/22/07

6:1-10 – We've come a long way in God's truth. In Romans chapters 1-5 we have learned why we need salvation, what God has done, by His grace, to make this possible and how we can receive His salvation by faith. Peace with God is now within reach as we who have been born in to the sin nature of Adam are now placed IN CHRIST! Our POSITION is changed and our position in Christ is RIGHTEOUS – as righteous as our STATUS will ever be. That is reality!

But, how do we live in Christ? We still have to struggle with sin and we know that our daily state of condition is not perfect. How will we become like Jesus? How will we who have been justified, now be sanctified? We who have been pronounced justified (righteous, now and forever) will also now be set apart by Christ to engage in a PROCESS by which we will be progressively made more like Jesus because of His supernatural involvement in our daily lives. This too is reality!

These two realities will intersect on the day when you die or when Jesus returns to take you home. Then you will leave behind your earthly body and the struggle against sin and the remnant of your sinful nature. Then the actual state of your life will have reached the end of the process we call SANCTIFICATION and the condition of your life will conform to the position of your life (your status) you were given at salvation when you were justified by Christ!

Facing these issues, the church has tended to fall into any one of three unhealthy approaches to following Christ. 1) *Moralism* is view of Christianity that applies the teachings of Christ to all society without emphasis on repentance (turning away from sin) and the faith that leads to justification. 2) *Legalism* holds tightly to justification by faith, and manufactures disciplines, rules and regulations to isolate the believer from the threat of spiritual infiltration or infection. In the process the focus becomes less on Christ and the enjoyment of life in Him and more on the rules which load down the believer in joyless restriction. 3) *Cheap Grace* is what Paul focuses on here. It refers to the attitude of the believer who says "anything goes" because he's been forgiven and will continue to be forgiven by Christ for whatever he does. It leads a believer to lose his godly distinctiveness and undermines the church in its witness for Christ.

6:1-10 – Paul answers the question that may be raised by the truth he just shared with respect to God's abounding grace. (5:20) Should we keep on sinning so that God will be glorified when He pours out more grace to cover our sin? No way! He is partly answering those who have accused him of abandoning the Law. He does not say that sin has died to the Christian, he says that the Christian has died to sin. To live IN CHRIST and continue IN SIN is a logical and spiritual impossibility. The issue is control by sin, not deliverance from sinning at all. Our death to sin happened at salvation, when we were BAPTIZED. Paul is not talking about a physical ceremony, he is referring to a supernatural reality that has already taken place. It is only as Jesus drew near to His death (John 14 – 16; Luke 12:50) that He moves beyond the discussion of discipleship to addressing our union with Him. Ceremonial baptism illustrates REAL baptism, it does not accomplish it. The reality of our baptism is our death to the old life that occurred

when we were taken out of Adam and placed in to Christ, thus making new life possible.

5 – 7 – The issue here is union and mastery. As we are united with Christ in His death for the defeat of sin, sin's mastery is defeated. Paul is not saying that the body is sinful. Scripture makes it clear that sin arises from the heart. (Mark 7:21) As new creations in Christ we no longer are in bondage to sin, though sin is still a negative factor to be wrestled against. The old order still seeks to dominate our lives and must be resisted (Eph. 4:22) and can be successfully resisted because of our new life IN CHRIST.

8 – 10 – Death had only a very temporary hold on Jesus Christ, and that only because of OUR sin. Christ will never die again, nor ever be under the influence of death. Because "He died to sin, once for all," we will live in Christ. It is important that the believer have confidence that he will never come under the mastery of sin again. As God, Jesus died for us and now "He lives to God" - back in face-to-face fellowship with the Father. He only He relinquished His union with the Father for awhile for the sake the completion of God's eternal purpose...that, as His children, we will live in Him forever.

Leaders Notes:

Everett F. Harrison, The Expositor's Bible commentary, Zondervan Publishing
John Stott, Encountering the Gospel's Power, Intervarsity Press
D. Stuart Briscoe, The Communicator's Commentary

Devotional/Group Questions:

Who We Really Are, Romans 1-7, Serendipity House
Romans, Life Change Series, NavPress
Find Freedom, Romans, Bill Hybels, Willow Creek Resources
John Stott, encountering the Gospel's Power, Intervarsity Press

Romans 6:1-10

Weekend Message: *iLiving*

Group Leader Guide

Important preliminary details:

- Update your **roster** and return a copy to Kirsten@cvcwired.com. – make sure everybody in the group has a way to contact you and vice versa, so that you can share leadership and know who is coming or who needs help/prayer.
- Pray for and encourage your group to grow spiritually and numerically (you may have to become two groups – so begin to develop an apprentice leader).
 - KNOW - help people know each other better and more personally, but don't rush this.
 - CHALLENGE - give people permission to raise the bar of commitment for each other, without judgment.
 - ENCOURAGE - Help each other adopt spiritual habits that will strengthen your faith. Be creative, encourage manageable next steps and consistency, not perfectionism.
- **Don't** feel you need to discuss every question for the week in your Life Team gathering. Cover the ones you consider most important, including some of the application questions. Allow questions and be willing to research the questions you can't answer.
- **Pray** – as a group with simplicity, honesty and no pressure to perform.
- Have fun – laugh and be relaxed as well as disciplined. Plan something social as the group needs it.

Pray each day, before you ***Dive In*** to God's word, that God the Holy Spirit, will be the teacher of your mind and heart. Pray for the ***friends*** in your Life Team to be faithful to study and receive God's truth for themselves today.

ICEBREAKERS – Don't feel you have to use them all. Using at least one helps people get comfortable with each other and opens them up to sharing.

- **Think back to when you first moved away from home. What did you most appreciate about your freedom? What were the drawbacks of that freedom?**

- **What is one bad habit that presently, or in your past, gained control over you?**

DAY ONE

In this passage Paul does not say that sin has died to the Christian, he says that the Christian has died to sin. To live IN CHRIST and continue IN SIN is a logical and spiritual impossibility. The issue is control by sin, not deliverance from sinning at all. Our death to sin happened at salvation, when we were BAPTIZED. Paul is not talking about a physical ceremony, he is referring to a supernatural reality that has already taken place. Ceremonial baptism illustrates REAL baptism, it does not accomplish it. The reality of our baptism is our death to the old life that occurred when we were taken out of Adam and placed in to Christ, thus making new life possible.

1. Read Romans 6:1-10 – What are the key words that seem to stand out in this passage?
2. When Christ was crucified, why was death given mastery over Him? (II Cor. 5:21; Isaiah 53:4-6, 11-12; Romans 4:25; 5:21)
3. When Christ died and rose from the dead why didn't either sin or death have mastery over Him any longer? 6:7,9-10

DAY TWO

4. Think of someone you have encountered recently who believed they were truly free, but who was actually enslaved in bondage.

What caused this major difference between the way you saw them and the way they saw themselves?

5. Why did death have mastery over us? Vs. 6 (Romans 5:12,17; 6:23)
6. When and how did you come to the realization that you were enslaved to sin and in need of being set free?

DAY THREE

7. What is the difference between REAL baptism and ceremonial baptism?
8. Explain in your own words what happened to us when we were "baptized into Christ's death" (6:3)?

We were "buried with Christ (4) _____

We were "united with Him in His death" (5) _____

Our "old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with" (6) _____

We were made "no longer slaves to sin" (6) and "freed from sin" (7) _____

9. In your own opinion, why is it important for believers to be baptized? Why is it important that they be mature enough to understand the meaning of the ceremony?

DAY FOUR

10. Vs. 5-11 - How does Paul use the image of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection as a picture of our changed relationship to sin?

11. Why is it possible for a Christian who has been "buried" with Christ to still hear "voices" out of the past?

12. Case Study: Your friend from church is still troubled by crippling fears and "voices" from the past. He/she can't seem to get past them and move forward. It's affecting his/her diet, job, relationships – even his/her marriage! He calls you at 3:00 AM – from a bar. What will you do?

DAY FIVE

12. What is one attitude you would like to "bury" with Christ?

13. How might focusing on "the new" help you let go of "the old?"

14. In what way have other Christians (those in your Life Team) been a help or an encouragement to you recently? Have you expressed your gratitude?

- **Pray for the Giving Hope Campaign – How will God call you to a new sense of ownership of the vision of your church.**