

Abide in Me

John 15:4

*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 20

The Week of April 7, 2024

Dying to Live
Under New Management
Romans 6:1-14

Romans, chapters 6-8, is a power-packed section of Scripture that presents a captivating picture of every believer's freedom in Christ. These chapters follow Paul's exposition in Romans 1-5 detailing how God's grace saves us through faith from the wages of sin. In chapter 6, he declares how believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection, stressing our death to sin and new life in Him. He says that believers are no longer enslaved to sin, but have been set free to live in righteousness. In these three chapters, he emphasizes the transformative power of Christ's death and resurrection, urges us to embrace our new identity in Christ, and live in obedience to God's will—empowered by the Holy Spirit.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say?*)

Before meeting with your Growth Group, read through the passage at least twice and perform the following prompts:

- Circle all the question marks in verses 1-3.
- Place a complete box around the second question of verse 1.
- Circle each occurrence of the word *sin* in this passage.
- In the left margin, describe the Christians' relationship to sin—now that we are in Christ.
- Paul used the Greek aorist tense eight times in verses 1-10 to describe our union with Christ. The aorist views the action described as a past or accomplished fact. In the right margin, list each of them. For instance, *who died to sin* (v. 2).
- Double underline the last phrase of verse 14.
- Above each paragraph, write a brief phrase summarizing its main idea.

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we

will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Discussion Starter: Read the entire passage out loud. Then, without added comment, give your immediate impression or reaction to this passage.

INTERPRETATION (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. How might you answer someone who says that it's no big deal for a Christian to sin, since grace increases to cover that sin?
2. Why do you think Paul refers to baptism in verse 3?
3. What are some *results* of believers being united to Christ in both His death and His resurrection?
4. How does being united with Jesus affect our relationship to sin? (Refer to your notes in the **Observation** section above).

5. What does Paul mean by mandating us to *consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus* (v. 11)?

6. What are two reasons that Christ gave Himself for us as stated in verse 14?

APPLICATION (*How does the passage apply to our lives?*)

7. How would you counsel someone who says one of the following things?

- “Whenever we talk about the Christian as *dead to sin*, I immediately feel defeated and guilty. I lost hope for change a long time ago.”

- “I don’t actually sense any struggle with sin in my life.”

- “I have a particular sin that I just can’t overcome. How can I beat it?”

8. How can you regularly remind yourself of your union with Christ and that you are dead to sin and alive to God? In what situations do you find yourself needing this reminder the most?

9. What response does Paul call for in verses 12-14?

10. If we believe the truth of Romans 6:1-14, what kind of Church/Growth Group should we be?

