

ROMANS: PART 27
FEBRUARY 11, 1996

Dead To Sin
Romans 6:1-2

Overview of Romans 6:1-11: The Doctrine of our Death & Resurrection in Christ.

1. The question & the answer: Shall we sin? NO! We died to sin! Vs 1,2.
2. How we died to sin: Baptized into Christ's death & resurrection. Vs 3-4.
3. Explanation of our dying & rising in Christ. Vs 5-10.
4. Application. Vs 11-14.

"Dead To Sin" Explained:

1. All Christians have *died* to sin.
 - ◆ "Died" in the Aorist tense. A completed action in the past. It is clear cut, it *really* occurred
 - ◆ "Died" isn't in the present tense: "We are dying to sin".
 - ◆ "Died" isn't in the imperfect tense: "We have died and are continuing to die to sin."
 - ◆ "Died" isn't in the future tense: "We will die to sin."
2. All Christians have died to sin.
 - ◆ "We" is all inclusive. It includes all those justified (not just some Christians).
3. All Christians have *really* died to sin.
 - ◆ "We" is in the emphatic position. It is *unthinkable* that we who died to sin should live in it!
 - ◆ "We" is in contrast to others who are *not* in Christ & our old selves when we were lost.
4. We have *completely* died to the reign of sin & we are now under the reign of grace
 - ◆ We died when we were justified. 5:12,21. We changed kingdoms once & forever.
 - ◆ Col 1:13; 3:1-3; Acts 26:18; Phil 3:20; Gal 2:20; Eph 2:19; Mt 12:22f; I Jn 3:9; Jn 8:34-38
 - ◆ "But I still sin!" Our status has changed -- not necessarily our experience.
 - ◆ "How come I still sin?" We're not sinless, but free from sin's dominion. I Jn 5:18; Ja 4:7

Wrong Interpretations of "Dead To Sin" in Rom 6:1,2

1. The Christian has died to sin's guilt. (R. Haldane)
 - ◆ True! But here Paul is dealing with the question of sin in the Christians *life*.
2. The Christian renounced sin at his conversion & therefore shouldn't continue in it. (C Hodge)
 - ◆ True! But here Paul is describing a "death" not a "renouncing"
 - ◆ Also "dead to sin" describes something that *happened to us* -- not something we now do.
3. The Christian is dying to sin day by day (Many contemporary teachers)
 - ◆ *True* that we do *grow* in holiness. It is not instantaneous!
 - ◆ *But* the verb is Aorist tense (past complete event) *not* Present tense (continuing event).
 - ◆ Also Paul is going to call us to a present life *on the basis* of this past event.
4. The Christian ought to die to sin. (Hannah W. Smith, H.C.G. Moule, William Boardman)
 - ◆ False! It is *already* true.
 - ◆ There is no formula to die, no steps, no act of faith or consecration to make it true.
 - ◆ There is no imperative (command) here to die -- it has happened.
 - ◆ Paul wants us to understand the truth of it -- and act accordingly.
5. The Christian is no longer responsive to sin's temptation. (JB Phillips, C Vaughan, H Liddon)
 - ◆ False! But at least this takes the verb "dead" at face value.
 - ◆ The exhortation to not let *sin reign in us* wouldn't be here if we were no longer tempted
 - ◆ This is incompatible with Christian experience. We *struggle* with sin Cf. 6:11-13, 7:14-21.

Application:

1. It is impossible for a born-again person to continue a life *characterized* by sin.
2. This guarantees our final salvation. We persevere because of Him.
3. We need to believe what He has said about us. E.G. Abraham. Rom 4:18-21