

The Christian Manual: Study 8, Romans 6

Romans Studies for Teens by Mike Apodaca, MA



Begin with prayer for wisdom from God and for the presence of the Spirit.

Note: In a Bible Study, as much as possible ask the questions and let the students answer. Where they cannot, you supply the answer and keep everything flowing.

Introduction: Lewis Sperry Chafer wrote, "This passage is the foundation as well as the key to the possibility of a 'walk in the Spirit.'¹ Get ready to learn how to walk.

Chapter 6 Shall We Sin?

Section 1: Romans 6:1-11 Bang Bang, You're Dead

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We 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.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We 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. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

How should the Christians treat their sin? We are forgiven, covered by the blood and grace. All sin we commit was paid for on the cross of Christ. But we still carry around sin in our bodies. We will never be freed from it in this life. So why don't we relax, just go with the flow, and wait for heaven to walk in righteousness? After all, we all know Christians who drink and cuss and who spend their hours in various questionable entertainments. They live in jealousy, ambition, and pride. Why shouldn't we?

¹ *He That is Spiritual*, pg. 154

After all, how many really spend their lives outside church in Bible study, worship, and prayer? Should we be prudes?

This accommodating view of sin is not of God. Sin is to be treated as an enemy. It is an enemy within that once held us as slaves and now would rule over us, if we allowed it to.

But how can we have power over sin? How can we walk in righteousness? Paul explains the basis for walking in real holiness. The key is what happened to us when we accepted Christ. When we came into Christ, we were united with Him in His death. We are dead. Dead people do not sin. Paul says that the key to our being freed from sin is to come to grips with the truth that we really have died in Christ.

Archaeologists who study early Christianity were baffled when they saw that the early church baptisteries in different places had different shapes. And then they saw why. Many of the baptisteries were shaped like the crypts of their day in order to emphasize to the new believer that s/he was dying when being baptized. If we were to continue this practice, we would make all our baptisteries look like large coffins.

Andrew Murray wrote, "Like Christ, the believer too has died to sin; he is one with Christ, in the likeness of His death (Romans 6:5). And as the knowledge that Christ has died for sin as our atonement is indispensable to our justification, so the knowledge that Christ and

we with Him in the likeness of His death, are dead to sin, is indispensable to our sanctification."²

This is the great secret. Christians are no longer slaves to sin. We have been crucified with Christ and the bondage we had in Adam has now been removed in Christ. He died to sin and we died with Him when we believed. J. Penn-Lewis wrote, "If the difference between 'Christ dying for us' and 'Our dying with Him,' has not been recognized, acknowledged, and applied, it may safely be affirmed that the self is still the dominating factor in the life."³ In other words, the reason those who claim to be Christians are often so shallow and weak in holiness is not because holiness is not possible. It is simply because we are ignorant of our death to sin in Christ and have allowed our self, our flesh, to continue to control us.

Why should walking in holiness even concern us? It is so hard to do! God saved us to be with Him, face-to-face in worship and intimate relationship. This begins now and continues for all eternity. There is nothing—really nothing—on this earth that can compare to being in God's presence. It is what we were created for. To walk in this closeness with God, we must be holy people—holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:16). We need to take the same attitude toward sin that God has. It is the enemy to be eradicated at all costs.

² *Spiritual Secret*, pg. 116

³ *Memoir*, pg. 26

Now let's get something clear. I am not talking about other people's sin. Although we are, at times, to confront those walking in sin so as to bring them back into the fold, we are never to take a self-righteous posture pointing our fingers at others and pulling splinters out of their eyes. This section is talking only about our sin. We are not to tolerate sin in ourselves. We are to fight our bodies (1 Corinthians 9:27), and discipline ourselves (2 Timothy 2:4-5), not allowing the world, sin, or selfishness to rule within us. We are, instead to walk in Christ's righteousness and approach the throne of God with boldness, connecting with Him, completely satisfied in His presence. We are to be as Holy as the Spirit that lives within us.

Section 2: Romans 6:12-14 Don't Let Sin Take Charge

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³Do 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. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Our bodies are how we connect to the world and to each other. With our eyes we see, with our skin we feel, with our ears we hear,

with our brain we think and imagine, and with our mouths we taste. With our feet we walk and our hands can do so many things. We have sexual organs as well, that can bring about new life and bring pleasure.

When under the lordship of Christ and used for His glory, all these are appropriate and holy. The beautiful thing is that now, in Christ, we have a choice. Before, when we were in Adam, sin always won. We might try to outsmart it. We might make New Year's resolutions and try to be good, but these were always doomed to fail. Sin was king. But now, we have the ability to choose who we will allow to reign over us. We can choose sin. We can say to sin, "Here, take my hands and use them for vile things." We can say, "Here, take my eyes and use them for pornography or for senseless videos." We can say, "Here, take my sexual organs and bring me pleasure now." But we can just as easily say, "God, this body is yours. You purchased it and I gave you the deed to it when I came into Christ. I have now died with your Son. I choose to give my body over to righteousness. I choose to use these eyes to see the beauty you have made. I choose to use these feet to take me where You want me to be. Use my body to give you glory.

In the Old Testament, when a priest was ordained, blood from a sacrifice was rubbed on their ear, hand, and toe (Exodus 29:20, Leviticus 14:14). God was telling them to listen to Him, do what He tells them to do, and go where He tells them to go. We are now priests unto God (1 Peter 2:9) and we should also count our bodies

as dead to sin and belonging to God. "You were bought with a price, therefore honor God in your bodies." (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Section 3: Romans 6:15-23 Slaves of Sin or Righteousness? What's the Payoff?

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were

you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Outcomes. Everything we do produces them. With every choice we move closer to an ultimate destination. The key is what we choose to rule over our lives. Here Paul contrasts the two rulers we can have in our lives, sin and righteousness and their end results. If we present ourselves to sin, the result is slavery to sin with the final outcome of death. In contrast to this, in Christ we can choose to be obedient to God which will lead to righteousness and eternal life (now and forever).

Christians are often caricatured as being goodie goodies. We are naïve and out of touch, inexperienced in the things of the world, and prudish. We are shown in the media as the fools that are missing out on the fun in life. The truth is that we know what is really happening in this world. We know that man has fallen and that he is separated from God. We know that the enemy, Satan, will do everything to bend the culture away from God to keep people away from Him. We know that the supreme tool for blinding humanity from the grace of God is the lure of sin and sensuality and distractions, like entertainment.

In the face of these realities, Christians take the hardest stance possible. We stand apart from this evil world, apart from the hedonistic culture, apart from Satan and his schemes against us, apart from the sin that would rule over our bodies. This set apartness is called holiness. We also choose to walk in obedience to God's original design for humanity—to be like Christ, Who is like Him. As we walk in Him, the Holy Spirit will infuse us with His righteousness. It is not our righteousness (we have none), but His righteousness in us. Walking in this obedience will bring to us the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5), the joy of Christ (Philippians), and eternal life.

It is always harder to be a rebel, to bravely stand up against the tide. It is more difficult to stand against the culture and for God. It takes courage and boldness to be a Christian behind enemy lines. Christians are not wimpy saps who are too weak or stupid to do what is cool. Christians are those who see a higher purpose for their existence and are not willing to compromise the riches they have in Christ for the fleeting pleasures of this world which only lead to death.



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Holiness, sinlessness, is not optional for the Christian. The goal of the Christian life is not to be a better person with improved morals. It is not to go from a person who said the F word every day to a person who just used mild profanity. It is not to go from a person who has sex with anything that moves to a person who just looks at pornography. It is not to go from a person who tells big lies to a person who just tells white lies. The goal is not to get somewhat better. The goal is to be holy.

But this is impossible. In our fallen nature we cannot perform like Jesus. We cannot live with His level of righteousness. Paul is telling us that we can have this holiness—but we have to achieve it in a very particular way.

This holiness comes first because of what happened to us when we came into Christ. When we became Christians we died with Him. Our baptism symbolized this death. This is why we say we were buried in baptism. Buried because we died. We are no longer alive in Adam. Our connection to the old human race is dead.

Now we have a choice. If we present our bodies to God in faith and obedience, the Holy Spirit will give produce in us the righteousness of Christ. Notice, this is not our righteousness, but Christ's. The more we walk in this obedience, the more His holiness will be manifest in us. This holiness enhances our worship and allows us to present ourselves boldly before the throne of God in worship and to experience His holy presence. This entire process gets us ready for the age to come where we will live forever in the presence of God in His wonderful righteousness.



CONNECT: Icebreaker

Cut a youth advertisement out of a magazine. Ask the students what the ad is promoting. What is it saying about what will bring them identity and wholeness? What are the overt messages and what are the more subtle ones?

Have the students brainstorm and share about the messages in their favorite commercials (they can do this anonymously on 3x5 cards, if you like). Emphasize that there are always two levels in these ads. They want to introduce a product, but they also want to connect this product to something bigger and more important, something like identity, popularity, or meaning of life. If they can successfully make this connection, they have you hooked.

Ask the students how many dates the average character on a sitcom has with someone before they have sex. What message is being promoted here?

Why do you think that our society tries to make sin so attractive? What kind of a person would be able to stand against all these pervasive influences?

Big Idea: The world will push us toward sin, encouraging us to give our bodies to it and to become enslaved by it. God calls us to be radically different and to present our bodies to Him and to walk in His holiness.



WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Section 1 Romans 6:1-11

Paul poses the question, “Should we continue in sin?” Can we still do the evil things we did before we came into Christ? Absolutely not. It is unthinkable that we, who have died to sin when we came into Christ (symbolized in our baptism) would continue to practice those evil things. Because we have died in Christ, sin no longer has rule over our lives. It cannot claim us as its own. It has lost the legal deed to our lives. In Christ we have died to sin to live for God.

Section 2 Romans 6:12-14

This changes everything for us. We are no longer slaves to sin. We now have choice as to who will rule over us. We can give our bodies over to sin (which would be ridiculous, dishonoring to God, and degrading to our souls), or we can give our bodies to God, becoming obedient to Him and making Him the lord over our bodies.

Section 3 Romans 6:15-23

What is the end result of each of these rulers? If sin rules over us, we may get immediate pleasure, but the end is death. Our consciences become deadened, we grow more and more selfish, our relationship with God becomes dead, and we may even walk away from Him. The end result of faithful obedience is eternal life. If we walk in obedience the holiness of the Spirit, the righteousness of Christ will become ours. It will manifest itself in our lives resulting in a clear conscious and real intimacy with God. This growing loving relationship with God will grow until we leave this life and it continues for all eternity.



HOW DOES IT APPLY?

So many voices scream at us at once. Our families, our friends, the media, social media, etc. all tell us what to do and what to be. They model for us how to be happy and fulfilled. Some say it comes through acquiring things. This is usually promoted by those selling these things. Just buy this face cream and your acne will disappear, you will be beautiful, and you will be popular, have friends, be desirable, and end up finding love and a happy life.

Movies and television programs tell us to have casual sex before marriage. It seems that this is the end result of first dates in the media. It is expected. The hope is that the intimacy of sex will somehow translate into intimacy of relationship. Then, when I am with someone, then I will be happy and loved.

There are so many examples where outside forces dictate to us with booming voices what we must do to be happy.

In the midst of this din of lies, the Holy Spirit quietly tells us the truth. True happiness comes from my relationship with God. And key to this relationship is walking in the holiness of Christ. To do this, I need to reckon myself dead to sin and alive to God. I have to admit what is real about me with regard to Adam and this world. My membership card has been torn up. I am an outsider—a stranger. I no longer fit. I am a child of God in the midst of children of Adam. I am headed toward heaven, they are headed toward hell. I am living for my God, they are living for themselves. I want to please God, they want to please themselves. I have presented my body to God, they have presented their bodies to sin. So, Christian, stop sinning. Just stop it. Stop making excuses. Be holy.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Section 1 Read Romans 6:1-11

1. Should Christians sin? Can we actually stop sinning?
2. What do we have to realize before we can stop sinning?
3. What symbol do we have that reminds us of what happened to us when we came into Christ?
4. What was sin's position in our lives before we came into Christ? How has this position changed now? What caused this change?
5. What does Paul mean when he says that we will also live in Him?

Section 2 Read Romans 6:12-14

1. What two things does sin want to do with us? What does Paul mean by instruments for unrighteousness?
2. What are we supposed to do with our bodies? What does Paul mean by instruments for righteousness?
3. What is the relationship between sin and the Law? What is the relationship between sin and grace? Since we are now under grace, what is the relationship of sin to us?

Section 3 Read Romans 6:15-23

1. If we choose to give ourselves over to sin again, what will be the results? Consider specific sins and their consequences in our conscience, our bodies, and our relationships. Other than immediate pleasure, does anything positive come from sin?
2. What are the consequences of obedience?

