

*Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*" (Romans 8:11) We shall also have eternal life. Being in the likeness of His resurrection means having a supernatural, eternal body like that of Christ's after His resurrection.

### **The "Old Self" Is Dead!**

*"...knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;..."* (Romans 6:6) To emphasize the main point, this power of sin is described as the "old self" - the unconverted person we were before we came to Christ. This old self is then figuratively described as a "body of sin" which can be put to death. This truth must be personalized by each believer as they realize the death of their old self life. The Apostle Paul personalized it in Galatians 2:20 when he said, *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."* This old sinful life was put to death with Christ so that "...we would no longer be slaves to sin." In other words, the power to sin no longer is resident in our life, so we are no longer a slave to sin.

### **Dead Men Don't Sin**

*"...for he who has died is freed from sin."* (Romans 6:7) Those who are dead to the power of sin are freed from sin. Dead men don't sin! It is like putting temptation in front of a dead man - you will get no response. This is how we are to see our old life. Your old life is dead and you don't have to sin! *"Therefore do not let sin reign (rule) in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 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."* (Romans 6:12,13) *"Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning;..."* (1 Corinthians

15:34a) *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. No one who is born of God practices (makes a practice of) sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."* (1 John 2:1; 3:9)

### **You Mean I Don't Have to Sin?**

Such a thought would seem crazy. Right? We all know that we sin every day because we've been taught we do. We all know that it is a sign of good Christian humility to profess to be a sinner. And, we all know that the great Apostle Paul evidently had to sin because his old self never did die. All these are unscriptural excuses why we protect and defend our need to sin, which suggests that for us to believe otherwise might convict us about the way we live our Christian life. Instead of making sin the exception in our Christian life, we have made it the rule. According to God's word, you don't have to sin. *"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."* (1 Corinthians 10:13) With every temptation you encounter, God will give you the ability to escape from committing that sin. And remember, temptation is not sin.

### **Consider Yourself Dead to Sin**

*"Even so consider yourself to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 6:11) Instead of making excuses for your sin, consider yourself dead to sin. This is your first step in overcoming sin in your life and enjoying the fruit of a righteous life that is alive to God.

## **KNOW THE TRUTH**



**"...AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."**

# **DEATH THAT BRINGS LIFE**

**Overcoming Sin  
Through The  
Death of Christ**

**Pastor Lynn Kern**

## God's Provision for Your Christian Life

...and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) God has supernaturally made provision for you to successfully live the Christian life, especially in dealing with sin. God has provided this in the spiritual realm through the death of Jesus, His Son. Christ's death not only provided forgiveness for our sins, but also provided the way by which we can overcome sin in our life. Sin, in whatever shape or form, leads to destruction in a person's life. It is God's plan that your life be "saved" and "delivered" from a life of sin so that you can experience the purpose of His salvation.

## God's Purpose of Salvation

*"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem (buy back) us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."* (Titus 2:11-14) This is God's purpose for your life. Is this the intent of your heart?

## A Very Important Truth

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the church at Rome, teaches a truth that many Christians may not be aware of. In fact, in Romans 6:1-7, Paul uses the phrases "...do you not know" and "...knowing this" to suggest that the Christians in the church may not have been aware of this important truth or that they needed to be reminded of it. It is possible that you may not be aware of this truth. Or, that you, like the Roman Christians, need to be reminded again of its importance in your Christian life.

## What Is This Important Truth?

Christ not only died for you, but you died with Him. You participated in the death of

Christ by being identified with His death. Why? Because God wanted you to deal with your old sinful life by recognizing that it was dead, so that the power of that sinful life would no longer have influence over your new life in Christ. In this way, you would know that sin has no more power over you and that you can overcome the temptations to sin. Let Romans 6:1-7, 11 teach and confirm this wonderful truth.

## Should You Continue To Sin?

*"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be!"* (Romans 6:1,2a) Should a Christian continue to live a sinful life? Does a Christian have to sin? Does God's favor through His gift of Christ give us license to go on sinning? According to this scripture, the answer to these questions in each case is no! As a Christian, we come to God by faith in Christ's atoning work on the cross. We can't earn our salvation, it is a free gift of God. On the other hand, would God want us to take advantage of His grace by continuing to live a life of sin, which is contrary to His plan for us? Absolutely not!

## HELLO! Sin Is Bad For You.

*"The wages of sin is death;..."* (Romans 6:23) Sin not only leads to eternal death, but leads to destructive results in a person's life, Christian or not. Sin breeds addictive behavior, bad decisions, and negative consequences. It undermines spiritual growth, produces guilt and shame, hinders our relationship with God and with others, and limits the good things God has for us. Why would God want you, His child, to continue to live in a destructive lifestyle? Didn't He send His Son, Jesus, to save you?

## Did You Know, You Died Too?

*"How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know, that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"* (Romans 6:2b,3) Did you know that when you joined yourself to Christ, you joined yourself to His death? The

word "baptism" in this verse means to be put into, joined to, united with. You are to see yourself as participating in Christ's death. You died to the old sinful life you had been living. Though your sins are forgiven, God wants you to deal with the rebellious, self-centered life that caused the sin. We have all rebelled against God's authority and chose to live our own way. This had to die in order for you to really live a successful Christian life that God intended for you to experience. Jesus said it this way, *"He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."* (Matthew 10:39)

## Did You Know, You Were Buried Too?

*"Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death..."* (Romans 6:4a) There are two ordinances that Christians physically participate in as an expression of their faith in God. Both of them, communion and water baptism, are spiritual pictures of what Christ has provided for us through His death. Communion is to be a regular reminder of what Christ did for us through the offering of His body and blood. Water baptism is the spiritual picture of our participation in Christ's death through the burial of our old sinful life. Though Jesus and Peter both commanded that believers be baptized in water, it is here in this scripture that we get a picture definition of this important truth. Burial is the finalizing of a person's death. So it is in the spiritual realm. The death of your old sinful life is to be sealed through the act of burial in water baptism. Did you spiritually "know" this?

## Death That Brings LIFE.

*"...so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection."* (Romans 6:4b,5) If we participate in His death, we shall also participate in His resurrection. This means that we shall live in "newness of life" - in the supernatural power of His resurrection. *"But if the Spirit of Him who raised*