

Romans 6

Study 6

Dead Man Walking

REVIEW

So far, Paul has been making the incredible claim that our salvation really is "something for nothing." The very thing that religious Jews have worked so hard to attain, says Paul, is actually a free gift - the Jewish Law has done nothing to make them right with God. In fact, all the law did was highlight more and more sin, which shows more and more how generous God's free gift really is. The law works with sin to produce death. But as we saw last time, the death of Jesus brings forgiveness, and his resurrection brings the promise of new life and new righteousness.

So does that mean SIN DOESN'T MATTER? If the LAW doesn't help, and God's forgiveness is free, can we just do what we like? That's the questions Paul addresses in Romans 6.

READ THROUGH Romans 6. Make a note below of the two key objections or questions Paul is answering here. (You can almost imagine he's answering hecklers in the audience...)

OBJECTION 1 (v1):

OBJECTION 2 (v15):

RESPONSE 1 (v2-14)

1. Paul's response to the first objection is to compare our lives with the death and resurrection of Jesus. First, notice in very simple terms his answer to the question "shall we go on sinning?" How does he put his reply in v2?

DYING THE DEATH HE DIED

2. What do you think Paul means when he says "we died to sin"?

3. Turn back to the words of Jesus in Mark 10:38. What is Jesus talking about when he talks about "being baptised with the baptism he is baptised with"?

4. What does it mean to be baptised into 'his death'?

5. How seriously did Jesus take the problem of sin? What was HE prepared to do about it? (v6)

6. In what way is our "old self" crucified with Jesus? (v6) What are the results of this in verse 7?

7. How does this mean we should treat the sinful desires of "the flesh" (ie the part of us that wants to run things our own way, without God)

8. How (in real-life terms) can we put the advice of verses 11 to 14 into practice?

LIVING THE LIFE HE LIVES

Putting aside, or dying to sin, is one part of the comparison Paul makes between us and Jesus. There's also the positive side, expressed in verse 5.

9. In what way does Paul say we can already be united with Jesus in his resurrection?

10. What do you think it means to "live to God"? (v10,11)

11. How should we view ourselves, according to verse 11?

RESPONSE 2 (v15-23)

Remind yourself of the objection Paul is answering in verse 15. The questions are similar, but with a slightly different focus. This question raises the thought question that if we're not living under LAW, then it doesn't matter if we sin. But perhaps there are other reasons not to sin than the fact that there's a law against it!

THINK ABOUT IT...

- In your own experience as a Christian, have you been more or less likely to sin than you were beforehand. Why?
 - What part has LAW had in your decisions to sin or otherwise?
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12. Paul says that as Christians, we're set free from an old master to follow a new one. Who is our new master? (v18, v22)

13. What was the old master? What were the results of serving him?

14. What are the benefits of serving our new master?

Think it over

Sin DOES MATTER. As it always was, it's the road to death. Jesus has turned us around and set us on the road to life - so why go back? Just because our salvation comes FREE, doesn't mean that it came CHEAP! Jesus thought sin was so important that he paid the ultimate sacrifice for it. Can a genuine Christian be easy-going about sin? In the light of this study, what's your attitude to sin?