**Lesson 13: You Have a New Master! (Part 1)**

Text: Romans 6:1-14

**Introduction**

In the previous lesson, we considered the fact that the reigning power of grace and life is greater than the reigning power of sin and death! Paul said it this way, “where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” (Romans 5:20) Since that is the case, some may wrongly conclude, “Well, I can sin, since there is always grace.” They like to sing, “Free from the law, O happy condition; Now I can sin with Jesus’ permission!” These clearly are not the words written by the song writer, Phillip Bliss. Rather, he wrote, “Jesus has bled and there is remission.” Praise the Lord! In this lesson, you will see that since the power of grace is greater than the power of sin, the believer does not have to live a life that is dominated by sin. Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection not only free us from the penalty of sin, but also from the power of sin. As a believer, you need to understand and apply the truth that you have a new Master!

1. **In this chapter, sin is presented as a master that rules over those who are “in Adam.”** 
   1. The following words in the text indicate that your life is ruled by something or someone: “serve” (v. 6), “freed” (v. 7), “dominion” (v. 9, 14), “reign” (v. 12), “obey” (v. 12), “yield” (v. 13) and “under” (v. 14).
   2. There are two units of thought in this chapter. Romans 6:1-14 emphasizes that the believer has been set free from the reign of sin. The remainder of the chapter (v. 15-23) exhorts the believer to live under the reign of grace. Rather than freedom to sin, grace frees us from sin!
   3. The believer has been transferred from the realm of sin to the realm of grace. He or she has been redeemed from the curse of Adam to the blessings of Christ.
   4. Although we have been transferred into this new relationship, we are not free from the influences of the old realm. Sin remains an ever-present threat to the believer. We still have the propensity to sin. We may very well fail to live in light of who we really are in Christ.
   5. This chapter begins Paul’s discussion on the matter of the believer’s sanctification.
      1. “Sanctification may be termed as the process by which we become what God has already declared us to be.” (Joe Temple)
      2. “Sanctification is the process by which God changes a believer to become more like Christ in his attitudes, ambitions, and actions.” (Jim Berg)
      3. Who you are in Christ Jesus needs to be lived out on a daily basis. It is for this reason that Paul emphasizes in this section the believer’s union with Christ.
2. **The believer’s union with Christ breaks the power of sin’s rule.** 
   1. Grace does not grant the believer liberty to sin, but rather the power to resist sin! (v 1)
   2. Paul emphatically answers his own question with a resounding “God forbid!” (v. 2)
      1. Those who are dead to sin should not continue in sin.
      2. The following verses explain what he means by the believer’s death to sin.
      3. It is important to note that it is not sin that has died, but the believer who has died with reference to sin.
3. **Paul emphasized that it was essential to “know” what took place at the time of your salvation. (v. 3-6)** 
   1. Paul said that the believers were “baptized into Jesus Christ.” (v. 3a) The word “baptize” means to immerse or to place one object into another. Upon salvation, a person is placed “in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:27)
      1. In a letter that has underscored and highlighted that a person receives Christ on the basis of faith alone, it is clear that this verse is NOT teaching baptismal regeneration! Water baptism does not save anyone. Rather, it demonstrates that a person has been saved.
      2. Believing and baptism are always presented as two different matters. In other words, baptism is not a part of a person’s faith. (Acts 2:41, 8:36-38, 10:47, 16:31-33, 18:8) It is a picture of their faith and new identity in Christ.
      3. Water baptism is an outward expression of that which has taken place spiritually. It is a visible expression of a believer’s union with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. It does not produce a person’s union with Christ.
   2. At salvation, we identify with His death. (v. 3b) He died for our sins that we might die to sin.
   3. At salvation, we identify with His burial and resurrection so that we might walk in the new life that He has given to us. (v. 4)
      1. “Just as we are identified with Adam in sin and condemnation, so we are identified with Christ in righteousness and justification.” (Warren Wiersbe)
      2. This truth has application to our lives immediately as well as in the future.
   4. We will experience the resurrection because we are in Christ. (v. 5)
   5. Since we have been crucified with Him we are free from the ruling power of sin. (v. 6)
      1. The “old man” is a reference to who we were “in Adam.” Thus, it is a reference to our old lives that were dominated by the reign of sin and death.
      2. The reference to the “body of sin” is best understood to refer to the whole person and not just the physical body.
      3. A change has been made! “The believer has been transferred from the old age of sin and death to the new age of righteousness and life….What we were ‘in Adam’ is no more; but, until heaven, the temptation to live in Adam always remains.” (Douglas Moo).
   6. Who you were in Adam has been crucified with Christ so that you would no longer be under the dominion of sin.
4. **Central Idea: Paul explained that a believer is free from the ruling power of sin because of his or her union with Christ.**
5. **Application: You are free from the ruling power of sin through your union with Christ.** 
   1. There are many ways you might attempt to break the rule of sin in your life.
      1. Rules are important and have a place, but they are insufficient to break the ruling power of sin and to keep sin out of a person’s life.
      2. Making resolutions is not the means to overcoming the power of sin in your life. How many resolutions have you made that have been broken?
      3. Religious exercises are not sufficient to break the power of sin in your life.
   2. The key to the Christian life is understanding and applying our union with Christ to daily living. You are dead to sin through Christ. You can live in the power of grace through Christ. In part two of this lesson, we will explore more of this wonderful truth!

**Conclusion**

There were two young ladies who were known to be the “life of the party.” They were invited to all the parties among their peers. These same young ladies were lovingly confronted regarding their need of Christ and the forgiveness of sin. They received Jesus as their Savior and began a new life! Shortly thereafter, some of their friends invited them to a party. They responded to the invitation in this fashion: “Sorry, we will not be able to attend the party seeing that we have died.” They applied the truth of Romans 6 to their lives. Every time you are invited to sin, just remember that you can’t attend because you have already died.