

“AN OFFER YOU CAN’T REFUSE”

New Me, Part 3
August 16th, 2009

If Christ is in my life and the power of sin in me has been broken, why does it seem in everyday life I feel I’m still a slave to sin?

Last week, asked to consider this truth, this reality: “I’m dead to sin, but alive to God.”

Romans 6:10 (NIV) “The death he [Christ] died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God.”

When Christ died, the power of sin was broken, that power has been given to us because we’ve been placed in Christ.

Romans 6:11 (NIV) “In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 6:11 (NLT) “So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.”

A Different Way To Think About Sin

Not – “IF I believe it enough, it will become true.” But, “Because this is true, I need to believe it.”

Romans 6:12-13 (NIV) “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.”

Begin to personify and treat sin like it’s a separate entity, i.e. like it’s a thing

When dealing with sin in my life, if I think it’s “me vs God,” sin has deceived me

It’s God and me against sin; so stop letting sin Rule in your mortal body

You can say “NO” to sin, i.e. “no sin you can’t borrow my mouth, eyes, thoughts, etc.”

You have the opportunity to make practical what God has done in reality or “actually”

Romans 7:14 (NIV) “For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”

Romans 7:15-16 (NIV) “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?”

Paul, the writer, doesn’t question their salvation, but he questions their Knowledge

When I do what I want, I’m not acting independently; I’m making myself a slave to sin again

Romans 7:17-18 (NIV) "But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."

We think because we're Christians we should feel different about temptation

Here's the deceit: Sin says, "Since you feel you haven't changed, might as well do it."

You continue to function as a slave to sin because you continue to present members of your body to sin – but you don't have to. In Christ you are a new person; you've been set free.

Romans 7:19-22 (NIV) "I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."

Wherever there is sin, there is death. Death shadows sin

We should want what is actually true to become practically true in everyday life

If you are a Christian, but don't want to give up your sin, i.e. "I like my sin," you won't go to hell when you die, but you will bring hell into your life on earth

You must obsess over these verses; saturate your mind with them

Pick a member of your body & dedicate it to God this week as a member of righteousness

Learn to talk to sin out loud - verbalize "sin – no"

When you do, you are saying "sin you are not me," and there is something about the spoken word that minimizes the power of sin

Grab this truth and don't let go of it until God helps you understand and apply it to your life

My Next Step Today Is:

- I want to take the class "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Christianity but Were Afraid to Ask" to learn more about this new life I can have through Christ
- I will pick one member of my body this week and dedicate it to God as an instrument of righteousness
- I will memorize Romans 6:18
- I can help at the Kids Festival on Saturday, September 19th