

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

November 11, 2020

Part 12 of 36: Facts and the Acts of the Christian Life Romans 6:1-14

REVIEW:

There are five major divisions in the book of Romans. We can summarize these five divisions by the words Sin, Salvation, Sanctification, Sovereignty, Service. We've looked at the first two sections.

Section 1: The basic message of the first three chapters of Romans is everybody has sinned and we're all to be condemned because of that.

Section 2: This is the good news -- Salvation. Paul says, There's a way out! The way out is that we're justified, not through works; but we get right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

THREE GREAT PHASES OF YOUR SALVATION

_____ -- has to do with your past. Justification means being free from the penalty of sin. We looked at this from chapter 3 to 5:21. We have read about how to be accepted by God, how to have a right relationship with God. Justification is not by doing good works, going to church, having religion, keeping the law. Justification comes by faith in Jesus.

_____ has to do with right now. Sanctification is being set free from the power of sin. That's the here and now. Even though we knew what we were doing was wrong but we still did it anyway and we didn't feel like we could change to do what was right. Sanctification is the key to overcoming that problem. How do I break the power of sin in my life?

_____ is being set free from the presence of sin. One day we're going to be in heaven. There will be no sin there. As a result, there's no sorrow, no tears, no problems, no worries – thus we experience GLORY

Paul says that in order for us to break the power of sin in our lives, the temptation to do what's wrong, we have to _____ some things and we have to _____ some things. That's why I'm calling this "**The Facts and the Acts of the Christian Life.**"

Romans 6:1-14. (key words/patterns)

1. **v. 3 "know"** "*Don't you know*"; v. 6 "*for we know*"; v. 9 "*for we know*".
In order to become the Christian God wants you to be there are some things you have to know.
2. **v. 11 "count"** or "*consider*" or "*reckon*" or "**believe**"
3. **v: 13 "offer"** or "*present*" -- it's used three times. Don't offer yourself to sin but offer yourself to God. Present or render or give yourself to God.

My friends we have to _____ it, we have to _____ it, and then we have to _____ on it.

THE "FACTS" OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

God wants us to know three truths that help us find freedom from sin.

FACT #1:

First Paul begins this section with a question. **v. 1** *"What shall we say then? [Paul is referring back to the previous chapter in v. 20.] Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?"*

Paul is talking about continuous deliberate sin. Why does he bring this question up? In the previous chapter in **v. 20** *"Where sin increases, grace increases."* Wherever things get real bad God pours out more grace. Some smartie pants took this and thought *"Every time I sin that shows God's grace. I'm going to do God a favor. I'm going to let Him really show super grace."* If grace is shown every time I sin then let's just go for it! Be super sinful and then God can show how much grace God has.

That is misusing what God has said. Paul says, Should we continue sinning to show God's grace? His answer is very short, **v: 2** *"By no means!"* A different translation: *"God forbid!" "Absolutely, certainly not!" "No way!"* That is a misinterpretation. You don't sin so God can show His grace. The New English Bible says, *"No, no, no!"*

A person cannot say, "I'm a Christian" and there's no change in his/her life. He's not really a Christian. The most miserable person in the world is a Christian who is trying to sin and get away with it.

How do I break the power of sin in my life?

v. 3 *"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. We are therefore buried with Him through baptism in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead to the glory of the Father we too might live a new life. If we have been united with Him in His death we will certainly be united with Him in His resurrection."*

Baptism illustrates this truth. Baptism represents a burial and resurrection. Whenever you see an adult baptism, think of it as a funeral. It's saying, "I died with Christ." When we take the person and put them under the water it shows they're dying to an old way of life, dying with Christ. When we bring them up they're being resurrected with Christ. This is why I wish we practiced more emersion in our church.

FACT #2:

When Christ died my old sinful nature was crucified with Him. **v. 6-7** *"For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless that we no longer would be the slaves of sin because anyone who has died has been freed from sin."*

Paul says that when we were crucified the body of sin might be rendered powerless. Circle "powerless". You do not have to sin any more. You can choose not to sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. I'm not saying you can be perfect. I am saying that you can choose not to sin. There are times in your life that you said, "I can't help myself. I just

can't stop." Before you became a Christian you had no power to stop, no power to change. Sin had a power over you. But now that power has been rendered powerless and you have been freed from the power. Why are so many Christians defeated by sinful habits? Because they're looking at the wrong thing. Instead of looking at the circumstance they ought to look at the cross where we are set free.

FACT #3:

v. 8 "Now if we died with Christ we believe that we will also live with Him for we know that since Christ was raised from the dead He cannot die again. Death no longer has mastery over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all, but in the life He now lives, He lives to God."

Those are the truths, the facts. What good does all of this knowledge do for me? It doesn't do you any good unless you act on them.

THE "ACTS" OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

There are three things you must _____ with your knowledge, knowing that I died with Christ. When I died, my old sin nature died but that doesn't mean it was destroyed. We still have a sinful nature. But it is rendered powerless. That means you now have a choice. We can now choose to do what's right.

- 1) _____ ***v. 11 "In the same way count [reckon] yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."***

Reckon is a business term. Reckon or count means compute, calculate, consider, count on it, believe it. We're not pretending that sin doesn't have any effect on us. Paul is saying that sin does not have to have any affect on us. You start acting the way God says. But you don't feel it so... What are you going to trust? Your feelings or God's word? God says that the way you take something that's true and put it into your life is you first reckon it, you count on it. It's not pretending but believing what God has said in this verse.

- 2) _____ ***v. 12 "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Don't offer the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness."***

Don't let sin go unchallenged in your life.

Review: v. 12 the first word is "therefore". What is it there for? Paul is saying we are coming to a conclusion. The bottom line: If I really believe (a) I am in Christ; (b) My old sin nature was crucified on the cross; (c) I no longer have to give in to sin. I can choose. I have a new power in my life to quit giving in to temptation. Then I realize I do have the power to resist temptation. Paul is saying, Resist it. No longer let it go unchallenged in your life.

- 3) . This means to give, to offer, to give yourselves. **v:13** *"...but rather offer yourself 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."*

Render means to put at one's disposal, to offer voluntarily.

Romans 12:1-2 *"Therefore I urge you brothers in view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God which is your spiritual worship."*

Make a present of yourself to God.

These three things I've just shared with you are the key to overcoming temptation. We'll come back and cover this in more detail as we go on.

We have to learn to do these three things. The only problem with a living sacrifice is that it can crawl off the altar. On Sunday we agree with God that we've blown it this week, ask forgiveness. Then we want to realize that we don't have to give into sin because He's broken the power on the cross. On Sunday we sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and on Monday we go AWOL. Present yourself to God. Make a present. "God, here is my mind, here is my tongue, here are my hands, here is my body. I give it all to you." That's the key to victory in the Christian life. It's the starting point.

This doesn't mean you're not going to stumble, fall. You will. Look at v. 14 *"For sin shall not be your master because you are not under the Law but under grace."*

The reason we can have victory is because God says we are under grace.