

POTOMAC HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Romans 6:1-11 UNION WITH CHRIST

- I. Introduction and background.
 - A. In chapter 5, Paul has argued that all men are united with Adam in sin and death.
 1. By his disobedience, we have all been made sinners.
 2. Romans 3:10-12: “...**THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE...THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE**”
 3. Romans 3:23: “...**all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...**”
 - B. In 5:19, Paul states that “...**as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous**”
 - C. Paul is arguing the “Doctrine of Justification”
 1. He has argued in chapter 5 that we are justified (made right with God) through the gift of faith.
 2. James Montgomery Boice points out that the doctrine of justification by faith leads to two possibilities.
 - a) Antinomianism – I can/should sin more that grace may abound.
 - b) A life of righteousness.

D. In verse 5:20, Paul argues that no matter how bad our sin was, grace abounded all the more.

1. The natural question is then, “Shouldn’t I sin more that I receive more grace?”
2. He states the question plainly in 6:1: “...**Are we to continue in sin that grace may increase?**”
3. Paul’s answer is, “**May it never be!**”
 - a) His answer is in the strongest negative possible in Greek.
 - b) It is sometimes translated “God forbid!” although that is not quite correct.
 - c) Charles Hodge: “*Union with Christ, being the only source of holiness, cannot be the source of sin.*”
 - d) D. Marten Lloyd-Jones: “*What is the business of grace? Is it to allow us to continue in Sin? No! It is to deliver us from the bondage and the reign of sin, and to put us under the reign of grace.*”
4. Paul then begins to argue that we have union with Christ.
 - a) Just as we are united with Adam in our sinfulness.
 - b) We are united with Christ in obedience and righteousness **by the gift of faith.**

II. Union with Christ is knowing we were crucified with Him.

A. Verse 6”...**knowing this, that our old self (man) was crucified with *Him*, that our body of sin might be done away with...**”

1. Crucified is Greek Aorist tense.
2. It means that we were crucified in the past, with Christ.
3. When He was nailed to the cross, all believers were nailed to the tree with Him.
4. Galatians 2:20: “**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 delivered Himself up for me.**”

B. The purpose of our crucifixion is two-fold.

1. That our body of sin might be done away with
 - a) We have been made new in Christ.
 - b) Therefore, we are to put off the old man and put on the new.
 - c) Our old self (man) was crucified – past tense.
2. That we should no longer be slaves to sin.

III. Union with Christ is knowing we have been buried with Him.

A. Verse 3: “...**do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?**”

1. Paul assumed that everyone did know!
2. It was part of the common knowledge or teaching of the early church.
3. If you had been baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you had also been baptized into His death.

B. Some see a reference to water baptism here.

1. Paul's focus is not on the sacrament or ritual of baptism.
 2. His focus is on the fact that we are united with Christ by faith as we are united with Adam in sin.
 3. Verse 4: **“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.**
 4. Verse 8: **“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him...”**
- IV. Union with Christ is knowing we have been resurrected with Him.
- A. Ephesians 2:4-5: **“But God...even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenlies, in Christ Jesus.”**
 - B. Colossians 3:1-4: **“Since you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”**
 - C. Sinclair Ferguson, *Christian Spirituality*:
 1. **“...the determining factor of my existence is no longer my past. It is Christ's past.”**
 2. **“...if we are united to Christ, then we are united to him at all points of his activity on our behalf.”**

3. We are united with Him in His death, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension, and His being seated at the right hand of the Father. We will also be united with Him in His glorious return.

V. Union with Christ frees the believer from bondage to sin.

A. Believers have been freed from sin

1. Verse 7: “...**he who has died is freed from sin.**”
2. Boice: Five misinterpretations of what it means to be freed from sin.
 - a) Christian is not responsive to sin
 - (1) It is untrue in the life of all believers.
 - (2) Verse 12 “...**do not let sin reign in your mortal body.**”
 - b) Christian should die to sin.
 - (1) No one can crucify himself.
 - (2) Verse 2: we died to sin (past tense).
 - c) Christian is dying to sin.
 - (1) True in that Christians continue to grow in holiness.
 - (2) We must be constantly on guard against sin.
 - d) Christian can not continue in sin because we have renounced it.
 - (1) We renounced sin by accepting Christ as Savior.
 - (2) Works view.
 - (3) Verse 2: We died (past tense) to sin.
 - e) Christian has died to sins guilt.
 - (1) True in the sense that justification has freed us from the guilt of sin.
 - (2) If that is all Paul is saying, then the question of verse 1 is unanswered.

B. Believers have been sanctified.

1. Hebrews 10:10: “...**we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**”
2. Believers have been made righteous by the gift of faith in Christ.
3. 2 Corinthians 5:21: “**He made Him who knew no sin to *be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

C. Believers have been perfected.

1. Hebrews 10:14: “**For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**”
2. Sinclair Ferguson: “...*believers endeavor to fulfill the law, not in order to be justified but because they have already been justified, not in the flesh but in the Spirit, not out of merit-seeking, but out of the response of faith which works by love.*”
3. Calvin: “...*the church of Christ has been from the beginning so constituted that the Cross has been the way to victory and death the way to life.*”

D. Verse 11: Paul’s first command in the letter to the Roman church.

1. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
2. Even so – therefore – because you are in union with Christ.
3. Consider – word means to reason, to reckon, to conclude.

E. If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior you are no longer the slave of sin, you are the bondservant of Jesus Christ – live like it!