



OPENING QUESTIONS

What is the closest you've ever come to dying? What were the circumstances?

BIG IDEA

The Bible says we are dead to sin so we live free from sin.

CONTEXT

The New Geneva Study Bible calls Romans **“Paul’s fullest, grandest, most comprehensive statement of the gospel. Its compressed declarations of vast truths are like coiled springs – once loosed, they leap through mind and heart to fill one’s horizon and shape one’s life.”** What a fitting description of this wonderful letter of Paul. In so many ways, Romans provides teaching that is essential for our spiritual health. This is a letter well worth studying.

Today we come to Romans chapter 6. In his first five chapters, Paul has laid the groundwork for the rest of his letter. He began by showing us how we as God’s creation have fallen short of God’s holiness and are under penalty of sin because we’re separated from God. Then Paul has declared that God has not abandoned us, but has provided a rescue through Christ’s death on the cross. He’s called us to believe in Jesus’ death and resurrection, which is the means by which God justifies us. As a result, sin is not longer counted against us and we are free from guilt, shame and penalty. We come to Romans 6 and Paul takes on his next big issue: How can salvation from the power of sin become a reality in reality? How can we live free a lifestyle free from sin’s domination?

READ TOGETHER

Read around the circle by asking each group member to read a verse as you read through **Romans 6:1-14**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Having read these verses through, pause to reflect on what you’ve read. What do you think Paul is trying to say in these 14 verses?
- 2) What is the question Paul begins with in verse 1? How does Paul answer his question in verse 2?
- 3) What does Paul tell us happens when one is baptized into Christ or experiences salvation? In what sense was our baptism both a funeral and a resurrection? (verses 3-5)
- 4) In what way is my life different now than before Christ? (verse 4)
- 5) Our **“old sinful selves”** (verse 6) refers to everything we were as non-Christians. When our old self was crucified with Christ, we died to sin. In what sense was sin rendered powerless? (verses 5-7)
- 6) In what way did Jesus die to sin? (verse 10). How can I count myself dead? (verse 11)
- 7) What does it mean to **“consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus”**? (verse 11)
- 8) Make a list of everything Paul tells us about our relationship to sin in these 14 verses. Once you’re done, review that list. How would you summarize the place of sin in the life of someone who is a believer?

- 9) What do the assurance and encouragement do you take from these verses about our struggle against sin?

CHALLENGE

What sin are you going to **“consider as dead”** today? Do you have a habit or attitude you’d like to see changed? Name it and then tell God you know it’s wrong, you know that according to Romans 6, that sin has been made inoperative and it is powerless to control you anymore because of what Jesus did on the cross. Consider, count it dead from today on, it has no power to rule your life. Trusting not on your feelings but on faith that He will help you and make this real. Then, if you feel free, share with your group what you’ve written down and how you are committing to putting this into practice over the next week.

PRAYER

What sin or sins are you struggling to free yourself of right now? Take a couple of minutes to allow everyone to think about and answer that question. Then take time to pray and thank God that you are no longer slaves to sin, but are free to live for Him. Ask the Holy Spirit this week to help you to live as a slave to righteousness.

NEXT STEPS

Romans 6 has been all about our identity in Christ. Through Him and because of our relationship with Him, we have died to sin and are fully alive to God. The topic of our identity in Christ is a crucial one that every follower of Christ needs to understand. Neil Anderson has written a terrific summary of who we are in Christ that is worth reviewing. He has created it under the headings of **I am accepted, I am secure** and **I am significant**. Each section contains a number of statements about who we are along with Scripture references to support each claim. You can access a copy of this one-page document at:

http://vintagelawrence.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ANDERSON_WhoIAmInChrist.pdf.