

The Basis for a New Behavior  
Romans 6:4-14

**I. Paul and Two Principles from Jesus**

**A. Jesus and Two Principles**

1. Principle #1 - Build Your House on the Rock John 7:24-27
  - a. The wise man
    - (1) hears the words of Jesus,
    - (2) takes them to heart,
    - (3) builds his life on them
    - (4) is secure from the destructive impact of life in a fallen world
  - b. The foolish man
    - (1) hears the words of Jesus,
    - (2) dismisses them
    - (3) builds his life on the insecure, unstable philosophies of the world
    - (4) falls victim to the destructive impact of life in a fallen world
  - c. Build your house on the rock
    - (1) Secure the foundation for your life in the God's truth!
    - (2) Establish the basis for your life and behavior in what God has done for you for His glory and for your joy.
  - d. **God's truth is the only unshakeable, indestructive, eternally secure basis for our lives.**
2. Principle #2 - Go and sin no more John 8:1-11
  - a. Jesus in the temple in the early morning
  - b. Scribes and Pharisees bring to Jesus a woman caught in adultery
    - (1) Pharisees -
      - (a) the self-righteous religious leaders of the day
      - (b) firmly believe favor with God comes from personal effort at covenant keeping
      - (c) Believe Jesus, who calls people to faith, undermines the need for people to live by the law
    - (2) Cite the law that a woman caught in adultery should be stoned to death
      - (a) Where did they find a woman actively engaging in adultery at that hour?
      - (b) Fail to cite that the man she was caught with should also have been tried, condemned, and stoned
  - c. Challenge Jesus: This is what the Law says. What do you say?
  - d. Jesus bends down and begins to write with his finger on the ground
  - e. Stands and says, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."
    - (1) Jesus upholds the Law
    - (2) Jesus applies the very concept of Lawkeeping to the crowd

- (a) Challenges the false witness
- (b) Challenges the dishonorable motive
- (c) Challenges the idea that you can break some of the Law and not be guilty of breaking the whole Law (hypocrisy)
- f. The crowd melts away and Jesus confronts the woman
  - (1) Where are the accusers that condemn you?
  - (2) Principle #2
    - (a) Judgment: Neither do I condemn you
    - (b) Principle: God and sin no more.
- g. **A genuine encounter with God's grace and compassion in Christ always calls for an ethical change in our hearts and lives afterward.**

## B. Paul's Application of These Two Principles from Jesus

1. Paul does not develop a separate theology from that of Jesus
  - a. Not Jesus and His teaching
  - b. Not Paul and his teaching
  - c. Paul teaching the teachings of Jesus
2. Paul advances Principle #2 then applies Principle #1
  - a. Principle #2 Go and sin no more
    - (1) **Romans 6:1-4 (ESV)** *<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*
  - b. Principle #1 Build your house on the rock
    - (1) **Romans 6:5-14**
      - (a) 5-11 God's truth that is the basis for the behavioral change called for in verse 4 (walk in newness of life)
      - (b) 12-14 - steps for building on the rock

## II. The Basis for a New Behavior

### A. God unites the believer with Christ in His death and resurrection

1. More than merely an intellectual assertion to be understood
2. Union with Christ in His death and resurrection is a real, spiritual, factual position accomplished by God for the believer when they put their faith in Jesus
  - a. God credits the death of Jesus as our own death.
  - b. The purpose and effect of Jesus' death are credited to us as if we ourselves had hung on that cross.

### B. What were the purpose and effect of Christ's death on the cross, relative to guilty sinners?

1. Two answers
  - a. Jesus died for sin
    - (1) Justification
    - (2) Propitiation
  - b. Jesus died **TO** sin
    - (1) Once he died, sin had no further potential to create guilt and result in death
    - (2) Sin only has power, only enslaves the living.
    - (3) The dead are free from the power and enslavement of sin
      - (a) **Romans 6:7 (ESV) *For one who has died has been set free from sin.***
      - (b) **Romans 6:9-10 (ESV) *<sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.***
2. Jesus died for sin and to sin.

### C. What does that mean for us?

1. God unites us with Christ in His death
  - a. **Romans 6:3 (ESV) *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?***
  - b. **Romans 6:6 (ESV) *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.***
    - (1) Our old way of life, enslaved to sin, powerless to choose anything but sin is crucified with Christ
      - (a) Not going to be
      - (b) Not future: singular (aorist) past tense
      - (c) DONE DEAL
    - (2) So that, the sinful nature in us can be brought to nothing
      - (a) Have no power over us
      - (b) No dominion over us
      - (c) As it has no dominion over Jesus
    - (3) **What the death of Jesus gained over sin is credited to us by God who unites us with Christ in His death**
2. God unites us not only in the powerful of Christ but in the resurrection life of Christ
  - a. **Romans 6:4-5 (ESV) *<sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.***
  - b. **Romans 6:8 (ESV) *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.***

- c. **Romans 6:11 (ESV) *So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.***
- 3. Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God because, as a benefit of faith in Jesus, God has united you with Christ in His death and resurrection.
  - a. This union with Christ means that you are in Christ and subject to all the good and grace God ever intended you to have.
  - b. You, when you put your faith in Jesus, receive the full benefit of God's saving grace
  - c. That saving grace, that infinite, amazing, glorious, wonderful truth of being united with Christ, living now and eternally in Christ, is the basis for a new life, a new behavior.
  - d. **The grace of God in Christ to you is the rock upon which you build your house from this moment forward and forever.**
    - (1) Grace is the reason Paul repeats the first principle of Jesus, "Build you house on the rock."
    - (2) Grace is the reason Paul repeats the second principle of Jesus, "Go and sin no more."

### III. Call

**A. God unites with Christ in His death and resurrection all those who put their faith in Christ.**

**B. Put your faith in Christ**

- 1. Be justified and forgiven through Christ
- 2. Be made new
- 3. Be united with Christ