

Sermon Outline

“Union with Christ in Death and Resurrection”

Raised With Christ, Part 2 – Romans 6:1-14 – Robin Boisvert – May 8, 2011

Introduction

1. Romans 6 is in the middle of Paul’s presentation of the gospel of free grace. Paul has been writing that we have peace with God. We have been reconciled to God. We have been justified, forgiven and redeemed. Christ has done all this for us, *freely*, as a gift.
2. Paul had his opponents, and he anticipates their objection: “Are you saying that we should continue in sin so grace may abound? Paul answers emphatically, “By no means! May it never be! God forbid!” Then in v. 6:2a Paul continues, “How can we who *died to sin* still live in it?” The rest of this passage elaborates on how the Christian can deal with the problem of sin and walk in a way that pleases God.

In Union with Christ, We are Dead to Sin

1. Paul illustrates the Christian’s connection with sin by referring to baptism (6:3-4). Baptism symbolizes the believer’s union with Christ. Christ died, Christ was buried, Christ was raised. We died *with* Christ, were buried in the waters of baptism and have been raised *with* Christ so that we might walk in newness of life. Death, burial and resurrection are Jesus’ story. Death, burial and resurrection are our story, too. We are in union with him.

“The great theme of Romans 6, and in particular of verses 1-11, is that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are not only historical facts and significant doctrines, but personal experiences of the Christian believer. They are events in which we ourselves have come to share.” – John R.W. Stott

2. Because of our union and identification with Christ in his death and resurrection, we died to the *power* and *dominion* of sin. We died to sin in the sense that it is *no longer the master* over us that it once was. The master/slave relationship has been broken. The emancipation declaration is now in force. We are no longer slaves to sin.

In Union with Christ, We Have Resurrection Life

1. Consider what this passage says about our resurrection life: just as Christ was raised, we will be, too (6:4). We have died and will also live with him (6:8). We are to consider ourselves alive to God in Christ (6:11). We are brought from death to life (6:13). “For if we have been united with him in a death like his [which we have], we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his [which we will].”
2. As Christians, we are in vital spiritual union with the risen Lord Jesus Christ. We are in Christ and he is in us. Over 200 times in the NT we are said to be “in Christ,” “in him,” “in

Sermon Outline

whom," or "with Christ." From before the beginning of time, he chose us *in Christ* before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4). We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins *in Christ* (Eph. 1:7). There is no condemnation for those who are *in Christ* (Rom. 8:1). And nothing can separate us from the love of God, *in Christ* (Rom. 8:35-39). We are so secure that our life is hid *with Christ* in God (Col. 3:3)

3. How does this translate into practical living? Oftentimes, we think of ourselves based on our performance and think, "God must barely tolerate me." But God sees you as united to his Son. How does he feel about his Son? He is well pleased with him. So how does he feel about you? He is well pleased with you, too, because you are *in Christ*. God always thinks of us as being *in Christ*.
4. How can we live in the good of this? There are two problems to overcome:
 - a. Ignorance. Romans 6:3 says, "do you not know?" Because we don't know that we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection, we don't reflect that reality in our lives. We are like those in prison who remain in our cell, peering out through the bars when the prison door is wide open inviting us to freedom.
 - b. Indolence. We can be lazy and not put forth the effort to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the process of change. Instead this passage calls us to: *Know* we are united with Christ (6:3). *Consider* (count or reckon) ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6.11). And *present* ourselves and the members of our body to God, as those who have been brought from death to life (6:13).

Conclusion

1. Jesus is called in Scripture the author and perfecter of our faith, the founder of our salvation, the Leader and Savior. This word speaks of Jesus as a pioneer, one who goes before others and for their benefit. Sinclair Ferguson uses the following analogy for this description of Jesus: Jesus is like the lead climber in a mountain climbing expedition, making its way to the top. And though we can't see him with our physical eyes, we are securely tied to him. The knot won't come loose. And if we stumble, we won't fall far, because we are tied to him. And because he has already made it the top, we will make it, as well.

Fellowship Starters

1. Take time as a care group to read Romans 6:1-14.
2. How does baptism (Rom. 6:3-4) illustrate and symbolize the believer's vital union with Christ?

Sermon Outline

3. Robin quoted John Stott: "The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are not only historical facts and significant doctrines, but personal experiences of the Christian believer." In what practical ways have you shared in and experienced your union with Christ's death and resurrection?
4. How do you think God views you? How would knowing and believing that God *always* sees you as united with Christ, as "in Christ," transform your thinking, encourage your faith, and affect your behavior?
5. How can believing that you have died to the power, slavery and dominion of sin help in your battle against remaining sin?
6. How can you practically apply this passage's admonition to "know" you are united to Christ (Rom. 6:3) and to "consider" yourself dead to sin (Rom 6:11)?
7. How can you daily "present your members" to righteousness (Rom. 6:13) and not to sin?
8. How did the illustration of being roped securely to Jesus, the lead climber in a mountain expedition, encourage your heart and faith?