

# ***"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" Part III***

*Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. ~ Romans 6:6-7 (NKJV)*

At this juncture in our study, we have extensively studied how we were crucified with Christ, are dead in Christ, have been buried with Christ, and are resurrected with Christ. It is with good reason that the Apostle Paul, no fewer than four times in the first five verses of chapter 6 mentions our death in Christ. In verse 2, Paul says that we **are dead to sin**. In verse 3, he states that we were **baptized into his death**. In verse 4, he says we are buried **with him by baptism into death**. In verse 5, he says we have been **united together in the likeness of His death**.

By now, it should be apparent, that Paul was emphasizing this very important fact, of what transpired at the cross and applied to the believer, that is to say, the believer was united with Jesus and attached to His death, burial and resurrection. At this stage, Paul believes we have a good understanding of this matter, and it is my hope that you do as well, which leads us into our text for part III of our study *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me"*.

***v.6a knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him.***

By Paul using the phrase "knowing this" he's essentially saying, this is something you should already know, this should be common knowledge to you as believers, he's saying this is something you should be well aware of. In other words, you should be well aware of the fact that your old man was crucified with Christ (past tense).

Before we go any further, we have to define what "our old man" means as it's related to this text. By comparing scripture with scripture, it's apparent that the our old man is referencing our old life without God i.e., your old unregenerate sinful nature. The nature that delights to commit sin and resist God. The nature that is corrupt and depraved and is self-centered at its core.

***Galatians 5:24*** ...those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

The Greek word for flesh is "*sarx*" pronounced sä'rks and is translated, "denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God/the animal nature with cravings which incite to sin".

This nature (the old man) in true believers is dead and buried, never to come alive again, in order that we may receive a new divine nature, the life of Christ Himself.

***Ezekiel 36-26-17*** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Most of you, who surrendered their lives to Christ within the past couple of weeks, probably feels that not much has changed, if anything at all. In other words, you just don't feel any different than before. You don't feel that the old man is dead, because there's no discernable difference in the way you think, the way you feel, the things that you like, etc. I'll even bet my bottom dollar that some, even question whether they were united with Christ at all, simply based upon how they feel.

Lord requires us to have faith in His promises and not base anything on our feelings. Our faith in what has been already accomplished for us should never be predicated on how we feel about the matter.

The believer must realize, that this is something that we don't do on our own, as a matter of fact, this is something that is totally impossible for us to accomplish. The work is totally Gods, and the work is absolutely complete.

Major W. Ian Thomas also writes "The one who call you to a life of righteousness is the One who by your consent lives that life of righteousness **through you!** The One who calls you to minister to the needs of humanity is the One who by your consent ministers to the needs of humanity **through you!** The One who calls you to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, is the One how by your consent, goes into all the world and preaches the gospel to every creature **through you!**

This is the divine genius that saves a man from the futility of self-effort. It relieves the Christian of the burden of trying to pull himself up from his bootstraps! If it were not for this divine provision, the call to Christ would be a source of utter frustration presenting the sorry spectacle of a sincere idealist, constantly thwarted by his own inadequacy".

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; 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 gave Himself for me.

**1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:24** He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

**Philippians 2:13** For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:30** But of *Him* you are in Christ Jesus...

**Titus 3:5-6** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Ephesians 2:4-5** **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, *made us alive together with Christ* (by grace you have been saved).

The fact that we are in Christ Jesus, have died in Christ Jesus, have been raised with Christ Jesus is accomplished by God, is most important to understand. It is God's work alone that placed us in

Christ. It has absolutely nothing to do with our own efforts or desires. Any and everything that has to do with our salvation, and life in Christ stems from the fact that God has done it period!

Unless we understand that our inheritance is something already secured and settled in Christ, and given to us by God, we have no foundation for going on. To be brought under the discipline of the Holy Spirit without first knowing that assurance of a work of God already done in Christ would be a awful thing. We must never forget what it says in the following verse;

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:3** His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (NIV)

**v.6b** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him ***that the body of sin might be done away with***

Again, Paul in the previous verses stresses that the old man was crucified with Christ. Now, he starts to reveal to us the consequence and the effect of our death in Jesus. At this time, Paul is digging down to the root of our deliverance from sin, and that is precisely what I'm attempting to do in this segment of our study.

We understand totally, that we have been forgiven for our sins. Now we're going to discover how we are delivered from the power of sin.

Thus far, we have discovered all that has been already accomplished for us through the death of Jesus on the cross. Now let's examine what's required of us.

Anyone who knows me, knows that I'm pretty handy and able to repair and build things within my house and around my yard. When I investigate or troubleshoot a problem, the first thing I do is to analyze how the item works or should work in the case of a broken item. If I know how an item works, then I can follow the progression until I come to the part that's not working, thus causing the entire item to malfunction. Once that part is identified, I can then replace it with a functioning part, and the item begins to work again.

Likewise, the Holy Spirit is giving us, a revelation into the "process of sin", how sin works, where is sin's power, where is sin's domain, how is sin conceived, etc.

In order for us to examine all the working parts, we have to return to what Paul says in the beginning of verse 6, "**knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him**", and understand what the relationship is between the old man and the body of sin. Remember, that the term "old man" is referring to everything we were in Adam, our old nature which was crucified with Christ. We don't have to exert any energy of our own to crucify ourselves, it was accomplished for us at the cross.

Although our new life in Christ brought death to our old sinful nature, it did not bring death to our corruptible flesh with its desires and passions to sin, the body did not die with the old man at Calvary. Sin is always discharging its power in an attempt to appeal to man, in other words, sin is ever-present, always exercising its power over man, influencing him to sin. The old man in Adam, receives the impulses of sin willfully and with joy and in turn induces the body to sin.

The body is the territory which sin has its dominion. At the fall of man, the body was captured by sin and forced into slavery. The body became the fortress of sin, its habitation if you will, where sin conducts its operations, its command center for lack of a better term. Man was enslaved by sin, because he was encased in a body that was that was enslaved by sin and obeyed its every command.

When the old man was crucified and died, the power that sin had over the body to rule was broken and defeated. The body could no longer work in cooperation with the old man, resulting in the fact that sin could no longer use the body directly, thus the body was rendered powerless. The new life within the believer, enables him to be empowered to reject sin, refuse to be controlled by sin, resist the power of sin, conquer the impulse of sin, and decline the stimulus of sin.

We still must understand however, that although the power of sin to dominate us and govern our lives has been broken, the potential for sin to express itself in the life of the believer has not been absolutely removed. The believer is still fully capable of yielding to the temptations of sin because he still remains in his unredeemed body. Until we are liberated from our corruptible flesh, and we put on our new redeemed, incorruptible, glorified bodies, we will remain susceptible to the temptations of sin when we choose to live apart from the Word of God and the power therein.

James Montgomery Boice wrote in his book An Expository Commentary of Romans Volume II, "The reason God has removed us from our union with Adam and has joined us to Christ (so that we have died to our past) is so the inclinations to sin that operate so strongly in our bodies might no longer exercise effective power or control us. Before this, we were "slaves to sin" but having died to sin, we are now "freed from it".

Saint Augustine summarized the various stages of man's condition from a fallen being to his glorified state;

#### Before The Fall of Man

- *posse peccare*
- "able to sin" Man had not yet sinned but able to

#### After The Fall of Man

- *non posse non peccare*
- "not able not to sin" Man was unable by himself to break free from sin

#### Regenerate Man

- *posse non peccare*
- "able not to sin" The rule and bondage of sin has been broken

#### Glorified Man

- *non posse peccare*
- "not able to sin" We will not be tempted by sin or able to fall into it again.

**v.6c** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him / that the body of sin might be done away with, ***that we should no longer be slaves of sin.***

Paul is reiterating to us that we are no longer under the rule and control of sin. The believer has been emancipated from sin at the inception of his new birth in Christ. One of the best example that I know of to illustrate this is the technique used for training of an elephant.

The elephant, still wild, is tied to a wooden frame or between two tree trunks where he is unable to move, while tearing at the ropes and flailing with his trunk. In order to break the elephant in, the young elephant is repeatedly stuck with an elephant hook and beaten. At the same time, the trainer talks to him in a calming voice.

Fear, pain, thirst and hunger finally make the elephant give up all resistance. When the elephant begins to accept its fate, the trainer allows it to take a bath in a river and to eat, although it continues to be shackled.

During this process, the elephant has the mentality that he is still shackled to the wooden frame rendering him unable to escape. His desire for freedom and independence has been shattered by his perceived bondage that's represented by the still attached shackles.

Likewise, Paul is telling the believer, that *we are no longer tethered to the shackles of sin through the body*, in spite of the world calmly telling you "you're only human, you're not perfect, etc." For every true believer in Jesus Christ, slavery to sin has been eradicated.

*v.7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

**Romans 7:1-7** Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to men who know the law—that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? 2 For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. 3 So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man. 4 So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, *that you might belong to another*, to him who was raised from the dead, in order *that we might bear fruit* to God. 5 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions *aroused by the law* were *at work in our bodies*, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

In essence, we have been delivered from the power source of sin. It's absolute power to control us has been disarmed at its core, we are completely free from its clutch.

Please understand, that we have not been delivered from the power of sin by conquering it. No, the one and only way of obtaining victory over sin is dying to it because;

**Romans 6:10-11, 14, 18** The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 14 For sin shall not be your master, *because you are not under law, but under grace*. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Our death in Christ Jesus has stripped sin of its power over us.

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:56* The sting of death is sin, and *the strength of sin is the law*.

Therefore! we now understand what Jesus said relating to our freedom.

*John 8:36* ... if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

As a result, we have an obligation to walk in our newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is completely, and utterly unacceptable for us to continue to live the same life style we previously maintained before our regeneration into a new creation. The believer is commanded to;

*Galatians 5:1* Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Let me reiterate for you, the warning of the Apostle Peter in his second epistle;

*2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:20-21* ... after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

The writer of Hebrews states..."my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away. 39 *But we are not like those who turn away* from God to their own destruction. *We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved*". ~ *Hebrews 10:38-39*

Since His righteous ones lives by faith, this message is an attempt to sir faith within the believer, because by faith, is the only way to put into operation the knowledge of this message. Now we have to now ask the question, how do we get this faith to live by?

*Romans 10:17* So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The first element of faith is hearing. A person has to be first willing to listen to the message of salvation and accept it as the Word of God.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:13* ...when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:20* ...we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us

However, a willingness to listen, and agreeing that the message is true, is not enough, if it doesn't lead to action on the part of the believers. If the believer knows something to be true, yet does not change his behavior to match his knowledge, then that knowledge is rendered null and void and cannot be considered true faith, at least not what we're talking about in this context.

Which leads us to the other element of faith, which is a personal commitment to what God's Word says. You have to be a doer of God's Word and not just a hearer only, deceiving yourself. If you spend all your time just hearing what God's word says and never commit yourself to do what it says, then you deceive yourself.

The main focus of our ministry is *to feed* our congregation with The Word of God in order that you *may hear* The Word of God and therefore *have faith* in the Word of God.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians* 2:4-5,13 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual (expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words).

Our mission here at New Creations Fellowship of Christ is inspired by the following scriptures;

*Acts 26:18* To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me (in Christ Jesus).