

Romans

How to be a Christian without Being Religious!

Lesson 6

Romans 6:1-23

A New Life to Live!

1. Paul states in verses 1-2 that a Christian can not go on sinning, that is, continue in habitual sin! Why does he make this claim (vv. 3-4)? This does not mean that a Christian never sins. See I John 3:9.
2. What does it mean to die to sin? See Romans 6:11, 8:13; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:5-10; and I Peter 2:24. What Christian practice does Paul refer to that depicts graphically what happens to a Christian through his union with Christ? Explain how baptism depicts this union. See Romans 6:5-7; Col. 2:11-13; Titus 3:4-6; and, Gal. 3:27.
3. What do you think Paul means by this phrase “new life” found in verse 4? See John 1:4, 4:13-14, 10:10; II Cor. 5:17; I Peter 2:24. Do you have this new life? If not, why not? Read Romans 10:9-10.
4. How are we united with Jesus in His death and resurrection (v. 5)? See John 1:12; Ephesians 1:13-14. What role does the Holy Spirit play in this union? See John 14:16, 23; 15:4-5; Romans 8:9-10, 16.
5. What is the great hope for all Christians? See Romans 6:5; I Peter 1:3; and, I Cor. 15:42-44. In the Bible, hope is not wishful thinking but a certainty of things to come. See Hebrews 11:1. Do you have this hope?
6. What does Paul mean by the phrase “old self?” See Ephesians 4:22-24; Gal. 5:24; and, Col. 3:9-10. What has happened (past tense) to this “old self?” What is the result?
7. In verse 7, Paul states that Christians have been freed from sin. What does he mean? See John 8:31-36; Gal. 5:1; and, Rom. 6:18.

8. Paul states in verse 8 that “if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.” Is Paul addressing life now or the life to come or both? (See Gal. 5:16 and Romans 8:9).

9. Unlike Lazarus who was essentially resuscitated, Jesus died and then arose in a new resurrection body. Lazarus later died again. According to verse 9, Jesus cannot die again. [Jesus] “died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. John Stott in his book, *“The Message of Romans,”* gives an example of an elderly believer, John Jones. His life is divided into two halves, the old self (Jones before his conversion) and the new self (Jones after his conversion). These are not his two natures but his two consecutive lives. By faith and baptism Jones was united to Jesus. His old self died with Christ to sin. Simultaneously, Jones rose again with Christ, a new man, to live a new life unto God. Jones is every believer. We are Jones if we are one with Christ.¹ In verse 10, what does Paul mean by the phrase “died to sin?” See II Cor. 5:21; I Peter 3:18; Hebrews 7:27; 9:14, 28; 10:10.

10. In verse 11, Paul uses the phrase, “in the same way.” Whose life is the believer’s to be like and in what manner? (Look back over vv. 8-10.)

11. In verse 11, Paul gives the first exhortation found in Romans. What is it? In verses 12 and 13, Paul offers other exhortations. See if you can state the three key steps toward victory over sin in the believer’s life.

12. How can a believer offer the parts of his body as “instruments of righteousness?” (Consider the mind, eyes, ears, tongue, hands and feet). See Romans 12:2 and James 3:5-6.

13. Who gives the Christian power to live for God? See Rom. 8:9 and Phil. 4:13. A Christian is positionally in Christ and dead to sin. Now, God begins the process of sanctification and enables the believer to experience what he already is positionally. See Phil. 1:6. Can you see evidence of this in your own life? If so, give an example.

¹ John Stott, *The Message of Romans*, (Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994). 178-179.

14. In verses 15-23, Paul begins a section of his letter that is entitled “slaves to righteousness.” He is going to show how a believer is now no longer a slave to sin but a slave to God and His righteousness. In verse 15, what does Paul mean when he states that believers are no longer under the law but under grace? See Rom. 3:20, 24; and, Gal. 3:21-25.
15. So, if a Christian has died to sin, why do we continue to sin? A true Christian cannot return to sin in the same way as before. Why? See Ephesians 4:30. What should a believer do when he does sin? See I John 1:9.
16. Why is the believer no longer a slave to sin? According to verse 18, what is a believer a slave to? What does obedience lead to? Read Titus 2:11-14. What teaches a believer to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions? Explain. Do you see this happening in your own life?
17. In verse 22, Paul states that “the benefit you reap (from being set free from sin) is holiness and the result is eternal life.” What benefits are there in living a holy life?
18. According to verse 23, what are the wages of sin? Explain. What is the significance of it being referred to as a wage?.
19. According to verse 23, what is the gift of God? Explain the difference between a wage and a gift? How does Jesus define eternal life in John 17:3? Do you have this gift? Can you know you have it with great certainty? See I John 1:1-3; 5:13.