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Romans 6

Summary: In Christ, one state of being has ended, a new state of being has been introduced. This being true, leave the old and walk in the new.

To flesh this out: The first state of being is called SIN (or death, or flesh). The new state of being is called LIFE. Christ has died to sin, finally and completely, and in His resurrection has introduced LIFE for the first time. Through faith, when we are born again, we are united to Christ. Therefore, we share His relationship both to SIN and to LIFE... and in union with Him we can – and must – walk in the newness of that life, having been freed from the bondage of that which we formerly called “life.”

Formerly – “life” was a collection of many ideas, preferences, desires, goals, identities, musings, all imaginary and all ultimately pointing back to ourselves... now in NEWNESS, life is ONE. One life, one purpose, not of ourselves... And we see that the old was never really life at all. In fact, if we try to look back there again we will find an empty well.

Paul refutes the notion that this new life has been given in order for us to be free to operate in the old.

1 What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Let it not be! We who died to sin, how shall we still live in it? 3 Or are you ignorant that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, so also we should walk in newness of life.

Now that we see this grace, this work of God that had the power to translate us from the old to the new, should we continue to operate in the old, in order to experience this power again? No, don't forget this essential FACT, that when Christ died to the old, we also DIED to the old. Let's not gloss over this... by faith we are UNITED to Him. His relationship to sin and death becomes ours, and His relationship to LIFE becomes ours, as well. When Christ was raised out from among the dead, He did not try to return to His days as a Nazarene carpenter, in order to experience that resurrection power again (man, it's great to be down from that cross... now I can finish that hall tree I was working on). Rather, He continued on in the fullness and the newness of that resurrection Life. SO ALSO WE should walk in the same newness of life.

Note how many times Paul says “so also we.” This is not in the sense of “because Christ did this, we must imitate Him as our example.” No, it is because we are JOINED to Him. Our union with Christ in His Life has enormous implications.

5 For if we have been joined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be in the resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin

might be nullified, so that we no longer serve sin. 7 For the one that died has been justified from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that also we shall live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dies no more; death no longer lords it over Him. 10 For in that He died, He died to sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives to God. 11 So also you count yourselves to be truly dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is a complete death, and a complete life. Now this life is a pure gift, and it is completely NEW, as in different. NEW, not as in better, but as in something that we did not formerly possess at all. Not a clean slate, but a completely different slate. A new life with new "laws", a new master and new purpose. As Christ is raised, SO ALSO we should walk in newness.

Again, not only were we UNITED to Him in His death, we were also united to Him in resurrection... this means that the body of sin is completely DONE AWAY, and we are no longer in bondage to it.

V. 10 For in that He died, He died to sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives to God.

There is a finality here, and it does not present a third option. The Life that is given (the only life that we now have) is "to" God. Paul refutes over and over the idea that this life was given for US to live in a manner of our choosing... no, we are alive TO God.

V. 11 So also you count yourselves to be truly dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What then is required of us? There is nothing that we can add or take away from this Salvation. What is our response to this great gift? We have been given Life, the only Life that the Father desires, where formerly there was death.

It is simply this:

12 Then (THEREFORE) do not let sin reign in your mortal body, to obey it in its lusts. 13 Neither present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as one living from the dead, and your members instruments of righteousness to God.

Do not let the man of sin reign, rule, have dominion (with his preferences, loves, identities, whims, emotions, goals) by presenting yourself to him as an offering. Rather present yourselves to God in this NEW life, as one who has come out from among the dead. We are no longer bound by the law of the world. In fact, let's just accept the fact that Christ has ruined the World for us. Those old wells of purpose and fulfillment are dried up! The old man is crucified, ALONG WITH his passions. We can no longer find rest here, fulfillment here, purpose here, stop looking for that which is buried!

As an instrument of righteousness, I'm not producing or moving that life... the life is expressed in my yielded members, however the instrument-wielder pleases. For example, a musical instrument is only valuable to the extent that it allows for the expression of what is in the musician... you could say that it is "obedient" to the player. The "responsibility" of the instrument is to get out of the way, and make it as easy as possible for the player's mind and heart to be fully expressed. The best instruments are seen as an extension of one's body/mind... ONE with the

musician.

14 For your sin shall not lord it over you, for you are not under Law, but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under Law, but under grace? Let it not be! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves to whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or obedience to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that you were slaves of sin, but you obeyed from the heart the form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you were enslaved to righteousness. 19 I speak as a man on account of the weakness of your flesh. For as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and to lawless act unto lawless act, so now yield your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

YIELD your members. Submit. That is what is required. The freedom from the power of Sin is a fact, and the LIFE that we've been given is a fact. The question is only this: to whom are we presenting ourselves? Are we presenting ourselves as slaves to the OLD, or to the NEW? Note that, in either case, we do not have control. Presenting ourselves to the flesh can give the appearance of control, the appearance of identity or purpose, but the reality is that we can become just as much as slave to "sin to death" as we were before seeing the Truth.

As a slave of righteousness, we no also longer have control. We no longer have a say in the purpose of our life and body. And we do not need to worry about what it will look like... think about this: a slave just presents himself, he does not define the requirements or the outworking of his servitude. **"For as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and to lawless act unto lawless act, so now yield your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification."** Yield your members. It doesn't say to do anything with your members, just YIELD. Let the master determine the outworking of His life.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free as to righteousness. 21 Therefore what fruit did you have then in the things over which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having been enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is everlasting life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As slaves to the OLD, we were "free" from righteousness... but what fruit has ever been produced by the flesh, other than death? Why go back to manmade wells that are empty? I must be willing to let go of ME. And I do not need to define that... it doesn't mean that the Lord is going to "take away" xyz, or "make me" xyz... he may do those things and more, it just means that I am YIELDED. Let Him define that. I no longer want to go scraping the bottom of a dry well for a drop of water that will leave me thirsty, or feasting on bread that will not satisfy. Meanwhile, there is a fountain of living water from which we will never thirst, and the Bread of Heaven on which we are continually nourished.

John 4

13 *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

Not only do we drink of this living water, as we walk in newness of life, but that water becomes, in us, a fountain! As we walk in this Life, our capacity to know and experience that Life also increases.

Isaiah 55:

"Ho! Everyone who thirsts,

Come to the waters;

And you who have no money,

Come, buy and eat.

Yes, come, buy wine and milk

Without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread,

And your wages for what does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,

And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

3 Incline your ear, and come to Me.

Hear, and your soul shall live;