

I. Introduction and review. I Th. 4:3

II. Your sanctification is founded upon your union with Christ. v. 5-10

- A. You are united with Christ in the likeness of His death. v. 5a, 6-7 Ga. 5:24**
1. Your *old self* was crucified, once and for all, in union with Christ. v. 6a (completed in the past). Gal. 2:20 Col. 3:9-10
 2. In order that the power of your *fleshly nature* might be broken. v. 6b (present and ongoing) Eph. 4:24 Col. 3:5
 - a. While your old self (man) is dead, your old (sinful) nature still lives. 7:24,15f
 - b. Through your union with Christ, sin is no longer in control. Heb. 2:14
 3. So that you would no longer be slaves to sin. v. 6c Jo. 8:34 Heb. 2:14-15 Co. 1:13
 - a. Before you were *not able not to sin* (slavery).
 - b. Now because you are in Christ you are *able not to sin* (freedom). I Co. 10:13
 4. Because you have died with Christ, sin has no more claim on you. v. 7
- B. You are united with Christ in the likeness of His resurrection. v. 5b, 8-10 II Ti. 2:11**
1. When Jesus took your sin upon Himself, He was subject to the dominion of death. v. 9b 5:18b,19b,8 II Co. 5:2 Ga. 4:41
 2. The resurrection demonstrates He has nothing more to do with death. v. 9a, 10a
 - a. The death He died was once and for all, never to be repeated. Heb. 7:26-27 9:12,28 10:10 I Pe. 3:18 Re. 1:18
 - b. He has shattered the rule of sin and death forever.
 - c. It is an abomination to speak of His continuing sacrifice.
 3. He is forever alive to God.
- C. Whatever happened to Christ has happened to you in union with Christ. v. 5b, 8**
1. Your old self has died once and for all with Christ.
 2. You are now alive unto God in union with Christ's indestructible life.

III. Your sanctification is promoted by your recognition of who you are in Christ. v. 11

- A. This is the first imperative (command) in the book of Romans!**
1. Every other religion begins with the imperative: What you must do in order to gain God's favor.
 2. Christianity begins with the indicative: What God has done provides the basis for what you do. I Pet. 4:1-2 Col. 3:1-5 II Co. 5:14-15 John 8:32
 3. The first command in Romans is not a command to do, but to reach a conclusion.
- B. The key to your holiness is that you fully and believingly grasp the meaning of your personal union with Jesus Christ.**
1. What you believe about yourself influences how you live. I Co. 6:9-11
 2. Think of yourself as a new creature in Christ. Remember who you are! II Co. 5:17
 3. Paul is not telling you to pretend or to believe something which is not true.
 4. If you are in Christ, this is already true of you, regardless of how you feel.
- C. Continually ponder the truth of your union with Christ.**

IV. Your sanctification involves effort and action on your part. v. 12-14

A. You are engaged in a *Holy War* against sin.

- 1. Sanctification is not merely a matter of passively surrendering to God, or sitting back and waiting for Him to change you.**
- 2. Sanctification is not a one time experience in which you are suddenly transformed.**
- 3. You will not grow simply by learning. Doctrine must be applied. John 13:17**

B. Don't let sin reign over your body. v. 12-13a

- 1. Sin is striving to control you by means of your fleshly appetites. v. 12**
- 2. Don't put your body parts at the disposal of the enemy. v. 13a I Pe. 2:11**
- 3. Don't yield an inch to sin. Heb. 12:4 Col. 3:9 Js. 4:7**

C. Instead, devote yourself to God. v. 13b 12:1

- 1. Sanctification is not merely the avoidance of sin, but the promotion of goodness.**
- 2. Use your members as weapons of righteousness.**
- 3. One day you will have an immortal body which will no longer be *able to sin*.
I Co. 15:53-54**

D. Victory is assured because you are not under law, but under grace. v. 14 8:3-4 John 1:27 Ga. 3:13-14,23 4:21 5:18

- 1. Your struggle against sin and for righteousness is not hopeless.**
- 2. The law is powerless to make you holy. 5:20 3:20**
- 3. Grace makes you holy by setting you free from sin's dominion and empowering you to do good.**
- 4. Paul is not saying that those under grace are lawless. Rather, because of your union with Christ, you are enabled to keep God's law from the heart. Jer. 31:33
Ezek. 36:26-27 Titus 2:11-12 Phil. 4:13**
- 5. This answers the objection of verse 1. *What the law could not do, grace has done!***

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions for family worship

- 1. When was your old self crucified with Christ? v. 6a**
- 2. In what sense is your old fleshly nature (the body of sin) still alive? v. 6b**
- 3. In what sense have you been freed from sin? v. 6c**
- 4. Why will death never again have mastery over Christ? v. 9
Why will death no longer have mastery over us? v. 10**
- 5. What is the first imperative (command) in the book of Romans? v. 11
Why does Paul wait so long to make direct application?**
- 6. Why is it so important that we fully consider who we are in Christ? v. 11**
- 7. How does sin try to gain mastery over you? v. 12-13**
- 8. What should you be doing to resist sin's attacks? v. 12-13**
- 9. How does grace promote holiness better than law does? v. 14**
- 10. What is wrong with each of the following statements?**
 - a. Sanctification suddenly comes through a second blessing or experience.**
 - b. There is nothing we can do to promote our sanctification therefore, we must simply wait for God to change us.**
 - c. The key to holiness is law keeping.**
 - d. You must continually strive to crucify your old self.**
 - e. It is possible to reach a state of sinless perfection in this life.**
 - f. Because we are *not under law*, we don't have to worry about obeying God's rules.**
 - g. Union with Christ's death and resurrection is a privilege reserved for mature believers.**

