Freedom Church - Midweek Study Guide

Theme: Romans 6 - Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Core Theme

Romans 6 - Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Introduction & Overview

The teaching opens by connecting the celebration of Pentecost to a spiritual reality, introducing a transmission from the apostle Paul regarding his letter to the church in Rome. The speaker notes that Romans is a foundational book taking a crucial turn, with previous messages building a trajectory from the heavy burden of performance under the old covenant to the glorious freedom of living from the finished work of Christ. Under the old covenant, people carried a heavy burden trying to earn righteousness through performance, where the law demanded what it could not empower. In contrast, under the new covenant, righteousness is received as a gift, and the gospel is the good news of a victory already won by King Jesus. The speaker reviews how Romans 2 exposed self-righteousness and scratchy fig leaves, while Romans 3 brought the critical 'but now' transition of a righteousness revealed apart from the law. Romans 4 and 5 further established that Abraham was made right by promise, and that God's love is character-based rather than performance-based, setting the stage for the liberating message of Romans 6.

Stepping into Romans 6, the speaker addresses the practical question: if we are saved by grace, does that mean we can keep on sinning? Paul wrote to a church in Rome around AD 57 to 58 comprised of Jewish believers tempted by legalism and Gentile believers surrounded by moral decay. Paul answers by pointing to identity rather than mere behavior modification. Reading from Romans 6, the speaker emphasizes that believers have died to sin once and for all, just as a dead person passes away from this life. The speaker contrasts three Christian traditions—the Catholic view of sacramental infusion, the Reformed view of definitive sanctification and fighting indwelling sin, and the New Covenant view which teaches that the old man is not just restrained, but completely terminated at the root.

Moving into the practical application of our union with Christ, the speaker stresses that believers do not imitate Jesus from a distance, but live from union with him in his co-burial and co-resurrection. Using the Greek word 'katargeio', the speaker explains that the old Adamic identity was rendered unemployed, deprived of strength, and executed at the cross. Many believers fall into the exhaustion of the restraint model, trying to keep the flesh on a leash through willpower. However, the New Covenant reality is that sin's power was dismantled. Believers are not fighting sin for victory; they are living from victory already won. This identity-first living means holiness is the fruit of who we are, not the root of our acceptance.

Contrasting the performance cycle of external rules and hidden sin with the organic flow of grace, the speaker highlights Jeremiah 31:33, pointing out that God writes His law on our hearts so that His desires become our own through the Holy Spirit. Sin pays wages of shame and death through effort and striving, while grace offers eternal life through mystical union with Jesus. The speaker notes that religion leads to hypocrisy because it demands perfection through human striving, whereas the new covenant operates on a love response to an indwelling Christ.

The message concludes with practical steps for Monday morning. First, believers must engage in relentless mind renewal, stopping the practice of begging God to crucify what was already nailed to the cross 2,000 years ago, and instead marinating daily in the truth of their new identity for 60 to 66 days. Second, believers should practice daily presentation, offering their whole being afresh every morning as an instrument of righteousness, starting locally within their immediate three-foot box. Third, believers are instructed to celebrate their freedom by declaring out loud when temptation arises that sin is no longer who they are because they are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The service includes a special moment of community recognition, honoring a behind-the-scenes contributor with the 'Semper Gumby Award' for flexible and faithful service done as unto the Lord. The leaders emphasize that the only reason believers trip up is because they forget their true identity. The teaching closes with a brief corporate prayer asking the Lord to make these truths a reality, reinforcing that believers are not under the law but under grace, and calling everyone to live confidently from the finished work of the cross.

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding the shift from old covenant performance to new covenant identity change the way you approach your daily walk with God?

2. What are the practical dangers of living in the 'restraint model' (trying to keep the flesh on a leash through willpower), and how does true New Covenant termination differ?

3. The speaker noted that 'holiness is the fruit of identity, not the root of acceptance.' How does this statement challenge religious habits or mindsets you may have grown up with?

4. What does it mean practically to stop 'begging God to crucify what he has already nailed to the cross' 2,000 years ago?

5. How can you apply the practice of daily presentation and mind renewal in your immediate, everyday surroundings (your 'three-foot box') this week?

6. When temptation comes, how does declaring 'that's not who I am; I died to that' shift your response compared to trying to fight sin using your own strength?

Personal Reflection

These prompts are for your own quiet time with the Lord this week. They are intentionally personal and different from the group discussion questions above.

• This week, set aside 10–15 minutes of quiet time to prayerfully consider: In what specific area of my life is the Lord inviting me to greater alignment with "Romans 6 - Dead to Sin, Alive to God"? Write down one concrete, measurable step you will take (and consider sharing it with a trusted friend or accountability partner).

• Quiet reflection: Sit with this part of the message — An exegetical teaching on Romans 6 examining the new covenant reality of identity, grace, and total freedom from the power of sin.. How does this speak into your current season, struggles, or relationships? What will you do in response before the Lord this week?

Application & Closing

1. Relentless Mind Renewal: Spend the next 60 to 66 days intentionally declaring and meditating on your new identity in Christ every morning, replacing performance-based striving with the truth of the finished work.

2. Daily Presentation: Every morning upon waking, consciously present your whole being afresh as an instrument of righteousness, asking the Lord to use you right where you are.

Group Practice: Take time in your small group to practice speaking your new identity out loud together, declaring: 'I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.'

Scripture Verses in this message

Romans 2

Romans 3

Romans 6

Jeremiah 31:33

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