



**WORD**

*<sup>1</sup>What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?* **ROMANS 6:1,2**

The Apostle Paul was concerned about the twisted understanding Christians in Rome had about where they stand in Christ. If left unaddressed, it would have kept them from living out God’s intended plan for them. Embracing Christ’s finished work on the cross gives us a new position in Jesus—we now identify with His death and resurrection. Here are three truths that explain what it means to be in Christ.

**1 Dead to Sin**

*<sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—<sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.* **ROMANS 6:6,7**

Sin is a terrible master because its benefits are temporary and it only leads to living apart from God. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can now be dead to sin. A dead person has no more physical senses that can react to the outside world. Being dead to sin simply means that we no longer continue in sin and it doesn’t control us. We can overcome sin not by our own ability, but because of our new identity in Jesus. What is our new identity in Christ?

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**2 Alive in Christ**

*<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.* **ROMANS 6:8,9**

Not only are we dead to sin, we also identify with His resurrection. We are given a new life in Christ! This new life is brought about by the same power that resurrected Jesus from the dead—the same power that helps us say no to sin and live in righteousness. Why is living a new life possible for those who believe in Jesus (Galatians 2:20)?

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**3 Slaves to Righteousness**

*<sup>18</sup>You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. <sup>19</sup>. . . Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.*

**ROMANS 6:18,19 (READ ALSO ROMANS 6:13,14.)**

Being dead to sin and living a new life in Christ, we now have a new master. From being slaves to sin, we are now slaves to righteousness. With the same dedication that we pursued sin and ungodliness, we are now to pursue God and His purpose. What does being a slave to righteousness lead to?

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