

# DEVOTIONAL

WHEN IN ROME VI // WALKING THE NEW LIFE  
MARCH 13, 2022

GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP

**Discussion Starter:** How would you advise a new Christian to put his old life behind him and live in the newness of life Christ provides?

**Key Text:** *“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:1-4)*

Pastor Tony Evans tells the story of a young lady who married a charming and handsome man named Bill. They had a wonderful life together until Bill suddenly died. His wife could not bear to face life without him. She could not stand the thought of not being with Bill anymore, so she had him embalmed and brought him home. She put him in bed with her every night and sat him up at the breakfast table every morning. She would say, “Good morning, Bill. What would you like for breakfast?” She sat him in front of the TV the way they used to do and asked, “Bill, what show would you like to watch?” The woman was enslaved to Bill, even though Bill had nothing to offer her.

About a year later, she left Bill at home and took a vacation to Europe. There she met John. John was alive! John could talk and walk and move. She fell in love with John, and after a whirlwind romance, they married. John brought her back to the States. As they walked into Mary’s house that now would be Mary and John’s house together, John was shocked when he saw Bill – or, rather, Bill’s embalmed body – seated on the couch. “Who is this?” John demanded. Mary answered, “That’s my old husband, Bill.” John said, “Let me tell you something right off. Bill and I cannot occupy the same premises. Someone has to go. Either we take Bill out and bury him and I become your new husband, or I’ll go back to Europe and you can keep on living with a dead man.” Of course, Mary loved John, so she buried Bill.

How many of us have a “Bill” somewhere—an old bad habit, former harmful thought pattern, etc.—still holding us hostage? But Jesus is our new husband! Do you want Bill, or do you want Jesus? The Holy Spirit will bury that old life for you and set you free!

In Romans 6, Paul addresses how we followers of Christ should view and respond to sin now that we’ve been forgiven and are in Christ. He emphasizes that, in a spiritual sense, we died with Christ and to our sin. Then we were resurrected to a new life. We are no longer slaves to sin, so rather than offering our bodies to be used for sin, we are to offer ourselves as instruments of righteousness. All sin ever did was to lead us to shame and death, but the righteousness given to us freely by God in Christ leads us to become more like Christ and eternal life. We are to serve righteousness, not sin.

**Discuss:** In Romans 5, Paul wrote that as sin increased, God’s grace increased more—we cannot out-sin the grace of God. But in Chapter 6, he anticipates that some readers would think, “Grace is a license to sin so that God’s grace can increase” (6:1). Paul says an emphatic “No!” to this idea. How is grace an incentive to not sin rather than to sin?

## 1. People who have died to sin cannot still live in it.

Paul responds to the question, “*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?*” (6:1) with another question: “*By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*” (6:2). Paul asserts that every person who has trusted in Christ’s death to pay for their sins has, in a sense, died to sin. And we cannot live in sin if we have died to it!

Imagine that you’ve packed up your things and left a house in one country to move to a new house in another country for good. You cannot live in both houses at the same time—you’ve left one for the other. Similarly, when we receive Christ, we pack up and leave our old sin-residence for good and move into our new grace-residence to live joyfully forever. Our old address was Romans 3:23: “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*” but our new address is 2 Corinthians 5:17: “*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*”

**Discuss:** Why do you think some people are hesitant to leave their sin for Christ?

## 2. Baptism pictures a believer’s identification with Christ in His death and burial.

“*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*” (6:3). Paul says here that when a person trusts in Christ for salvation, he/she is baptized (immersed) into Christ’s death and burial. This “death” breaks sin’s rule over us and frees us from sin’s enslavement. Water baptism (being immersed in water) is an outward symbol of this inward experience. Going under the water (being immersed) looks like a death and burial.

**Discuss:** Why is “dead to sin” a good way to describe the believer’s view of sin?

## 3. Baptism also pictures a believer’s identification with Christ in His resurrection.

“*We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life*” (6:4). Since going under the water (being immersed) looks like a death and burial, coming up out of the water looks like a resurrection! As believers, we are not only now dead to sin; we are also now and forever alive to Christ. We’ve been raised from death to “*walk in newness of life*” (v.4) because we share in His life.

**Discuss:** How would you respond to someone who says, “I don’t need Jesus—I can break the power of sin in my life on my own”?

**Discuss:** What do you think it means to “*walk in newness of life*” (6:4)?

### For Further Study:

“What Does It Mean to Be Dead to Sin?” article at [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

“You’ve Been Raised to Walk in Newness of Life” article at [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)

*Something Needs to Change: A Call to Make Your Life Count in a World of Urgent Need* by David Platt