

# The Great Dethroning of Reigning Sin

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*Romans 6:10-14*

There is a battlefield around us that many know nothing about. It is a battle that all must fight, and win, else it cost you your life. The reality of the battle against the dominion of sin is a real one...and he who denies the reality of the battle is a fool. From John Owen's "Mortification of Sin":

*"...sin is always acting, always conceiving, always seducing and tempting....If, then, sin will be always acting, if we be not always mortifying, we are lost creatures. He that stands still and [allows] his enemies to double blows upon him without resistance, will undoubtedly be conquered in the [battle]. If sin be subtle, watchful, strong, and always at work in the business of killing our souls, and we be slothful, negligent, foolish, in proceeding to the ruin thereof, can we expect a comfortable [outcome]?"*

That is not a very popular teaching in evangelicalism today. The teaching that we are to be actively engaged in the battle of killing sin in our lives. It is not a popular thing, to say that those who live sinful lives...those who are ruled and live under the power and reign of sin...even those who are good people in the eyes of the world, but live a life that is oblivious to the battle against indwelling sin that goes on all around us....shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

This is a huge teaching! And many have taken on the Christianity of culture, which says that there is no standard, postmodernism is the rule, if it feels good do it, let us sin so that grace may abound, I'm covered in the blood, therefore my sin is no big deal, don't waste my time talking to me about sin and death and hell....the Christianity of culture says I want to have life improvement, I want stuff, and food, and wealth, and sex, and my own morals that are not dictated to me by anyone else, I want to please myself and my desires...**those who speak thus therefore are dead to what I am saying here today.** There is no emotion connected to it, no desire to hear the Word speak to it, to fight sin and pursue holiness...only deadness and lifelessness and numbness to this, one of the greatest teachings in all of the Christian faith – that as Christ has died to sin to live to God, so all who are His, are dead to the reign of sin, and live in the reign and power of God.

O, Father, create life, where there is only death! Create in those who are deaf to your words, hearing, and to those who are totally blind to your truth, give sight! Where there is hardness, create tenderness and emotion! There is a battle, and we are on the battlefield! Let us hear Your Word, and be triumphant in the power of the Spirit of God who raised Christ from the dead! Scripture is full of this teaching. It is not hidden or in a corner, only to be practiced by few:

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not have dominion over me. **Then** I shall be blameless, And I shall be **innocent** of great transgression. (*Psalms 19:13, NKJV*)

Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me. (*Psalms 119:133, NKJV*)

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that **those who practice such things** will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those *who are* Christ's **have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (*Galatians 5:16-25, NKJV*)

So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But **you** are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. **Therefore**, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **For if you live according to the flesh you will die**; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (*Romans 8:8-13, NKJV*)

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? ***Do not be deceived***. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such **were** some of you. (*1 Corinthians 6:9-11, NKJV*)

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ***Let no one deceive you*** with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. (*Ephesians 5:5-7, NKJV*)

***Do not be deceived***, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (*Galatians 6:7-8, NKJV*)

Little children, ***let no one deceive you***. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **that He might destroy the works of the devil**. (*1 John 3:7-8, NKJV*)

**Therefore** put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **Because of these things** the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. (*Colossians 3:5-7, NKJV*)

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (*Matthew 5:29-30, NKJV*)

“Enter by the **narrow** gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are **many** who go in by it. Because **narrow** *is* the gate and **difficult** *is* the way which leads to life, and **there are few who find it**. ....Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ (*Matthew 7:13-23, NKJV*)

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (*Romans 8:13, NKJV*)

**Therefore** “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.” **Therefore**, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (*2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1, NKJV*)

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in

Christ Jesus our Lord.....For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. (*Romans 6:8, 14 NKJV*)

✠ Scripture is filled with the teaching of the battle against sin and the pursuit of holiness. And here in Romans 6 is condensed the truth of the reality of this. This whole section is a comparison. Comparing the Christ to the ransomed of the Christ. Verses 8 through 10 are all about Christ and what He has accomplished. Then we enter into a section of logical comparison, beginning with the word 'likewise' in verse 11. The conclusion of this text, is that what we are told here is true of Christ, is also true of us. So what is it that is true of Christ, and what is it that is true of us?

9 – Christ died once. He is not to die again. His death was complete, and thorough. He died. And it is written, that the wages of sin is death. What is earned by sin is death. Not sort-of dead. Doorknob dead. Jesus Christ died. Why did He die? Because the wages of sin is death. That is what God has decreed from eternity past. The wages of sin is death. So Jesus Christ died. He who knew no sin, became sin for us. He had no wage to be paid for sin, but He assumed the debt, and paid it in full. He became sin for us, on our behalf....and because the wages of sin is death, then He who became sin for us also received on our behalf the wage of sin...His death was our death. He died one time to sin. Once for all.

It is important to note that the text says that He died once to sin, once and for all. Died "to sin". We find in some earlier verses that the Scripture says that we have died to sin. It means that we have died to the life in a world being ruled by sin. In the same way here, we see Christ having died to sin. He died to a life in a world being ruled by sin.

When Jesus came into the world as a baby, He came into a world that is ruled by the power of sin. Sin is a power...it is a force. And Jesus was born into this world controlled by the force or power of sin. He had a relationship to sin, because He was in the world which it rules. You may live in a country that is ruled by a power with which you don't agree, and as a result of the fact that you live there, you have a relationship with that ruler, like it or not. Jesus came into the world, and as a result of His sojourn in this far country, he had a relationship with the power that rules it, that of being able to be tempted by sin, and to overcome it in victory. Having overcome the power of sin by His sinless life, His death, burial and resurrection was proof that He had cast aside that relationship. He is no longer subject to it. The tie that had Him to be in the relationship with sin were broken, once and for all.

Now, if you don't agree with the ruler of the USA, you can renounce your citizenship and leave the country if you wish. No one here in America is forced to stay here. The doors of this country are open. Leave at your own will. And when you leave, you'll have to go to be in a relationship with another country.

But there are many countries today that do not give their citizens freedom to leave if they wish. One in the news recently is North Korea. A North Korean citizen cannot leave. They have a relationship with that country, and can't cut ties with the leadership of the country and go be under the leadership and be in relationship with another country. North Korea and its ruler Kim Jong-il, keeps its citizens from leaving by razor wire fences and soldiers and guns and tanks and surveillance and intimidation and brute force. And there is no mercy. You will stay in NK, you will work for NK, and you will die for NK. If you are born in that country, you are in relationship to that country and the powers that rule it, and you will die in there.

The world in which we live, and the ruler of it, is such a country and such a power. This world is ruled by the power of sin, and you cannot simply just get up and leave. High fences are put up to keep you in. There is a kingdom at stake. There is a king. There is death. There are weapons. There are formations and exercises of soldiers to keep you intimidated and frightened and humiliated and cowered down from leaving. There is power, and there is dominion. If you are born in there, you will die in there....unless Someone can rescue you from this ruler and this power....Someone who comes into this world and lives under the power of it, and by a force greater than the force that rules, breaks you free from it. And that Someone is King Jesus...who came into the high fences of sin and temptation and death, and looked down the barrel of the enemy ruler's most powerful weapons, He stood strong in the face of the intimidation and

humiliation of the formations and exercises of enemy soldiers storming all around Him, and became obedient to God, though it cost Him His life. The only way out of this world is by death, and I want to say with joy unspeakable that when Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross, He not only came out of that relationship that He had subjected Himself to for our rescue, but He took all of those whom He came to rescue from this rule and dominion with Him, that in His resurrection, He triumphed over the authorities of this world, the one who had put up the high fences now stands under His feet, and can no more rule over Him, but now King Jesus, who rules over all, now has the authority that was His before the world began, to sit on a throne, and authority to say what is written,

*Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."*

And He who said those words also said these words in the very same breath: *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."* (Revelation 21:5-8, NKJV)

Jesus died to sin. He died to the rule and reign of it. He came into a realm which no one has ever left alive, and He left it alive. He is dead to it...He has no relationship to it or its rulers or its powers any longer. For the wages of sin is death...death being the power of sin, and it is written here in our text...that death no longer has dominion over Him. For His death...He died to sin once for all...but the life that He lives, He lives to God. He lives in the power of God, and under the realm that is ruled by God. He is restored again to the glorious throne where He was before. In the Incarnation, Jesus set aside the glory that He had, to enter into this world. But now that the work is finished, the prayer is answered, which He uttered in the Garden, "Father, I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." (John 17:4-5, NKJV) In other words, Jesus sits in glory, in the dominion of God and under the power of God. The life He now lives, and the life that He forevermore lives, He lives to God, for God, under the power and dominion of God.

And what is true of Christ in this passage, the Scripture teaches clearly teaches, is true of you who believe on Him: **Likewise** you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:11, NKJV)

For 5 and a half whole chapters in Romans, we have seen truth after truth after truth; both truth about us, and truth about Christ. It has been a mountain of Christian doctrine. Doctrines of the complete depravity of all men, of the propitiatory death of Christ for those who believe, of justification by faith alone, of imputed sin and imputed righteousness, perseverance and assurance. Doctrine matters. Doctrine is important. And here, doctrine meets application. So far, we have seen the truth about ourselves and about God. Now we can apply it. You can't get to the application without first understanding the doctrine. And here in Romans 6:11, you find the first exhortation in the book. Because of this.....you....do this. Apply the doctrine. Here, it says, apply the doctrine of Christ's imputed righteousness to your battle against sin!

Verse 11...Reckon it....count it to be so....count it as truth, that you are dead to sin as Christ is dead to sin. You do not live under the dominion of sin if you are His. It is not a suggestion, but rather it is a fact, and we are exhorted and encouraged by that fact. You are dead to sin. You do not have the same relationship to sin that you once had. It is a truth that carries with it great assurance.

And next week, we are going to begin to look at that warfare. How do you fight? Sin has lost its dominion over you, but it is by no means powerless. You must fight. And you must win.