

Now, we may still find ourselves doubting whether we can live an overcoming life. If you fall into that category the following verses will be very helpful to you.

Read Romans 6:6-7.

These verses tell us that we should be free from sin if we have been “crucified with Christ.” Anybody who has been crucified is dead, and if we have allowed our sinful nature to die then we don’t have to live according to our sinful nature any longer. Please understand that these verses don’t mean we will never sin again, but what it means is that we are no longer slaves to sin.

Question: How does knowing you can overcome sin help you approach sinful areas in your life you feel enslaved to? Is this different than how you’ve thought about these areas of your life before understanding the freedom Jesus brings us?

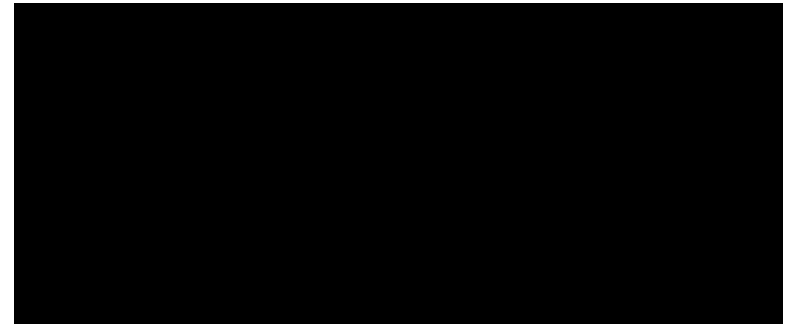
Personal Application

You can live an overcoming life because of the price Jesus paid for you by giving his life in your place.

Question: How will this “newness of life” you’ve found in Christ help you 1) with family 2) at work 3) as a leader 4) in your relationship with Christ?

Prayer

Take a few moments and ask the members of your group how you can pray for them concerning the topic discussed today as well as any needs they may want to share with the group.



Week 4 – Newness of Life

Announcements

Servolution - March 26 – April 4
A Life Made Beautiful - May 7-8, 2010
REACH Honduras Team - June 19 – 27
Celebrate Easter: The Door – April 2 - 4
Newcomers Dinner - Sunday, March 21
Water Baptism - March 28
Kid’s Camp 2010 – June 21-24, June 28 – July 1

Warm-Up

Have you ever opened a present only to realize you had no idea what your gift was useful for? How did you respond?

Word

In our message series, “**What is the Gospel?**” we’ve been looking at the first eight chapters of the book of Romans. In today’s lesson, entitled **Newness of Life**, we are going to look at the freedom from sin that God has given us through his son Jesus Christ.

Let's take a few minutes and look at the background from which Paul was writing to the Roman church in chapters 5 and 6. Paul was writing to a group of Christians whom he had not ever met before. Yet, he is bold enough to say tell them, "Hey, you're a sinner, you're ungodly, you need to change." I'm sure the Romans were thinking "This guy doesn't even know us. How does He say that?" Paul goes on to explain how He can make that kind of blanket statement about all of mankind.

Read Romans 5:12

Because of Adam's decision to sin against God, we have all been subject to the consequences of sin, just like Adam. Now, to some of us that may sound unfair and we may even be thinking, "If Adam sinned, why do we have to pay for his decision?" Adam was the beginning of all mankind's spiritual and physical heritage. Therefore, since we have come from Adam, we have inherited the consequence of sin in our lives.

Question: What is a physical trait that you have inherited from your parents? How about a personality trait?

Just as we have inherited things that we did not choose from our family, we have inherited the consequences of sin from Adam.

Read **Romans 5:14** to see what the consequences of sin are.

Now, that's a pretty heavy verse so let me explain what it means. Here is a paraphrased version of what Paul is saying is, "*Here's the deal. The reason we know we're sinners, the reason we know that humanity in Adam is corrupted is this: death is the consequence of sin.*"

Now, you may be pretty depressed at this point because all we've talked about is that we are all destined to spiritual and physical death. However, now is the time for the good news.

Read **Romans 5:15-16** to discover the good news.

This scripture teaches that when we put our faith in Christ we're taken out of Adam and placed into Christ with a different eternal destiny. Now, our eternity is sealed by that decision, now we're

free to spend eternity with God because we're in Christ. Just as we faced the consequences of sin because of Adam, now we can receive eternal life because Jesus Christ took our place of death. Now that we know we can have eternal life in Christ, let's look at the promise that we have in **Romans 5:17**.

This verse emphasizes the fact that we can reign over sin ***In Life*** because of Jesus Christ. The bottom line is this...if you're a Christian it doesn't matter what your experience has been, what your addictions are, where you've been, or what you plan to do. You are not a slave of sin, once you understand what the gospel has done in your life.

We've looked at the fact that we don't have to be destined to spiritual death anymore because Jesus has taken our place. Now let's take time to focus on how, as Christians, we can live an overcoming life.

Question: Why do you think once you become a Christ-follower you may still fight with habitual sins in your life?

Read Romans 6:1-2

While it is true that Jesus will forgive us of our sins, we need to know that we are promised that we don't have to live as slaves to our habitual sins.

Read Romans 6:3-4 and focus on how our death in Christ should bring us newness of life.

When we give our lives to Christ we are killing the old sinful self and receiving a new life. The phrase "newness of life" in Romans 6:4 can be translated as a brand new kind of life.

Read Galatians 2:20 and notice the life transformation that takes place when we give our lives to Christ.

When the Scripture says "*Christ lives in me*", this is exactly what it's referring to, it's not talking about a better or improved me, it's talking about a brand new me. The Gospel is not a self-improvement plan, it is a transformation plan through the life that Christ gives us.

Question: How does looking at Christianity as a life transformation plan differ from seeing your life in Christ merely as a self-improvement Plan?

