



Empowering People to Change the World

New Identity: Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

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Road Declaration

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Romans 6:1

- Paul is asking a question based on the previous verses. Remember that letters in the Bible were not written in chapter and verse, but a continuous train of thought, given by the Holy Spirit.

Look back at 5:20-21:

- Sin has been abounding in our lives because of our old nature, our Adamic nature, ruling over our lives.

Our Old Identity was in our Old Adamic Nature.

“And you...who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:1-2)

- Wherever sin abounds, so does death. You can just look at those people who have lived their whole lives as slaves to sin, they are dead in those areas of their life.
- They have taken the road most traveled and it looked so good and so exciting, but it always leads to death and destruction.
- Jesus said, “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” (Matthew 7:13).
- But now there is a new work in your life, if you know Christ, it is abounding righteousness.
- Righteousness has been transferred into your heart and you can now live with the abounding grace of God—the present power of God flowing through your spiritual veins.

Our New Identity is in Christ:

- Your identity is not being a loser, an alcoholic, or an addict.
- Your identity is not being a gay man, a lesbian, or bi-sexual.
- Your identity is no longer in even being a successful father, mother, or business owner...

Look back at verse 17:

You have a new Identity that can “reign in life”.

- Sin and death do not reign in your life anymore! You can experience the gift of righteousness reigning in your life through a dynamic, growing, love relationship with Christ.

But Satan and demons have come to rob us of our true identity, the true self.

In John 10:10 Jesus says Satan “comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly” (ESV).

Satan comes to steal your heart, kill your desires, and destroy your identity!

But this is not the true you, the one that you were created by God to be!

But as Jesus’ disciples, you have been given a new heart!

“Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh.”
(Ezekiel 11:19)

- When you were born again, when you accepted Jesus into your life by faith, the grace of God gave you the Spirit of God and the Spirit of God transformed your heart.
- God did open heart surgery on you when you gave your heart to Him.
- God replaced your “stony [hard] heart” with “a heart of flesh,” a heart that was tender to Him.
- You have a new spirit living within you! That Holy Spirit has transformed your heart.
- Irenaeus: “The glory of God is a man fully alive!”
- When we get saved, a battle takes place between the longing we have for the tree of good and evil and the Spirit of Life.

The Civil War did not end in 1865, it began the day you gave your life to Christ.

Your old nature has no power but you think it does—your brain has been wired to think the old way.

“For ‘who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:16)

- The old heart and the new heart wage battle; it’s a civil war within us.

REWIRE your Brain!! Wholehearted Devotion.

“Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is the first commandment of all?’ Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31)

Jesus said that love from the whole heart was the key to everything...

- In other words, everything falls into place if we get this part.
- Something down deep inside is activated.
- Something of your deepest desire is actualized when you love and live with your whole heart:
 - We love to watch athletes who play with their whole heart.
 - We say things like, he puts his heart into it.
 - We say things like, he’s all heart (which can sometimes imply no talent). We tell the team go out there and play your heart out.
- We recognize that the whole heart is where life is found, victory is found, power is discovered deep within.
- Jesus was saying that the days of mindless ritualistic religion were done. It was over. It was and now is, a new day, a new dispensation, a new kind of love. The time has now come for people to follow God with wholehearted love, a radical passionate devotion for intimacy.
- Wholehearted love for Jesus is what it means to be a disciple. Loyal devoted love is what frees us:
 - We cannot fully function as humans until we experience the passion of giving our whole heart to Jesus.
 - Religion kills wholehearted love.
 - Religion is all about control; wholehearted love is about freedom!

At the core of your being, put there by God is to be wholehearted. You were made by God to be wholehearted. It is your God-given destiny! Wholehearted is risky and dangerous.

But we've all had a heart attack! The enemy has attacked your heart.

We are diving into Romans 6, 7, and 8

Thesis: Unless the fierce passionate desire for intimacy with Jesus is greater and deeper, than the fierce lustful desires of the flesh, you will live a half-hearted existence.

The civil war is for a new mind, vibrant heart, and new identity leading to life and freedom...or a lustful mind, old heart, old identity leading to death and bondage.

Synopsis: Romans 6—The New Identity; Romans 7—The Civil War; Romans 8—Living in your New Identity.

Our New Identity: "In Christ," we are Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

Say: I am Alive in Christ! The Old Heart is Dead! I have a New Heart in Christ!

Romans 6:1-2

- You've really died to sin and the death mindset.
- When you by faith gave your life to Christ, He imparted His righteousness into you, and you are NOW ALIVE.
- Death doesn't have power in your life.
- Now we are going to see these important phrases in Romans 6: "in Christ," "with Christ," "alive into God," and freedom.
- Your New Identity is that you are now "in Christ" and you have the fierce passionate desire for intimacy with Jesus greater and deeper, than the fierce lustful desires of the flesh or you will live a half-hearted existence.

Verses 3-4

- He is talking about being placed into Christ—Adam infected our nature, but now we have been grafted into Christ the second Adam.

- This is not speaking directly about water baptism but rather the meaning of baptism—immersion or being grafted into Christ.
- Just like we were placed into Adam as sinners, we are now placed into the newness of the second Adam, and you now have a new life!
 - Baptism doesn't save us. When you get baptized, this is the metaphor of going under the water; you are being buried with Christ.

Verses 5-7

- The old Adam is dead! The old nature is dead!
- We've been given a new nature living within our heart and mind.
- Take the phrase old man and put in old heart. Your old heart is dead.
- YOU HAVE A NEW HEART, A NEW NATURE!
- You are no longer a slave to sin! You don't have to obey its lusts and desires.
- Rewire your Brain!! Don't forget who you are! You're a king. You're a queen "in Christ".

"...[He] has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (Revelation 1:6)

- You have resurrection power in your spiritual bloodstream.
 - The Adrenaline of God flowing in your bloodstream.
 - It's a new mindset...

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

- It’s now a partnership with Christ—crucifying your desires and allowing your heart to be open to Christ by faith.
 - I partner with Christ in my finances—by faith I am “in Christ” and God promises to meet all my needs in Christ Jesus.
 - I partner with Christ in my marriage, and I love God and my neighbor as I love myself.

Verses 8-10

- Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! He no longer is dead! He will never die again.
- Christ died one time to conquer sin and conquer death. Sin and death are defeated! They are done! Their power is gone!
- The only power they have over you, is what you give them.
- We now have the resurrection life of Christ flowing in us. That’s our NEW IDENTITY!

You are in Christ and death has no power over you!

You are in Christ and sin has no power over you!

I am alive in Christ! The old heart is dead! I have a new heart in Christ!

