

Sanctification by Grace: *“a daily dying and rising with Christ by faith” - Romans 6:1-11*

Intro: Can believers be saved and never be concerned about spiritual progress? How do believers get better spiritually? Can we overcome sinful habits? What about bearing the fruit of the Spirit in an increasing measure? How can we do that? If one only gives the answers below, it reflects a defective understanding about how believers grow and mature in their Christian lives; one could do all of it below and not really be growing spiritually.

- By trying harder to obey the commands
- By being more committed to the spiritual disciplines
- By not neglecting accountability partners
- By keeping the consequences of sin in mind
- By more challenging sermons on God’s law

Main idea: Progress in the fruits of sanctification happens as a result of progress in faith that looks to our union with Christ as our identity; it is the result of living daily in repentance and faith, namely, death and resurrection in Christ.

v.1) an objection to the Gospel of Grace is dealt with; those who truly preach grace will have this objection raised. The objection represents the mistake that Grace alone cannot sanctify. Paul could now introduce a list of commands to prove sanctification, but he doesn’t, rather, he goes on to explain Grace by explaining the Gospel of substitutionary atonement- Christ perfect life and sacrificial death for sinners not only saves me, ***but also sanctifies me!***

V.2) believers shall not continue in sin like before (doesn’t mean they don’t sin, they actually continue to sin), because they have died to sin. Believers cannot continue in sin like before because they are now dead to sin. This is a statement of fact, not something commanded for us to do. Believers are not commanded here to die to sin by obeying the law; we are simply told, ***‘you are dead to sin!’***

V.3-4) why shall we not continue in sin like before? Remember your baptism, more specifically, your baptism into Christ’s death. So, baptism has something to do with death, my death because of Christ’s death. Baptism reminds me that if Christ died to sin, ***I’m also dead to sin!***

V4b-6) in baptism those who die with Christ are also raised with Christ. Christ’s death and resurrection is my death and resurrection. Christ’s death crucified and killed my sin, and Christ’s resurrection guarantees my new eternal life with Him. My baptism represents my union, participation, identification, connection with the person of Christ; whatever He’s done, ***I have done!***

V.7-10) my sinful body has been done away with meaning my old sinful persona or identity has been destroyed by Christ’s death. I’m no longer that old person, my old record, address, passport, history, and obligations/ responsibilities of the old life have been wiped out. I have a new identity, ***life with Christ!***

V.11) the fruits of our new life depend on our believing what happened to us in Christ, the death of the old man and the life of the new. This is gospel historical truth, not something I do or accomplish; it is truly finished: I grow in holiness when I reckon as true daily ***my dying and rising with Christ!***