



Staying Dead

Romans 6:11-18; 7:15-20 Colossians 3:5 (Page 1003)

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The Bottom Line: Declare; Decide; Devote.

Introduction: Paul wrote a great deal of the New Testament where he created language to describe the significance of what Christ did, along with how we are to live that out.

There are familiar terms like: “Jesus died for us,” “Jesus forgave our sins,” and “Jesus paid for our sin.”

However, some phrases and chapters take the significance of Christ’s death much further. It is here that we run into phrases like: “In him,” “Through him,” and “Christ in me.”

In his letter to the Christians in Rome, he talks specifically about the significance of Christ’s death as it relates to our struggle with sin. His point is this:

**Sin doesn’t control where you go when you die, and ...
Sin doesn’t have to control what you do while you live.**

Paul describes the sin struggle ...

“I **do** not understand what I **do**. For what I want to **do**, I **do** not **do**, but what I hate I **do**...” Romans 7:15 (NIV)

“For I have the desire to **do** what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”
Romans 7:18 (NIV)

“For I **do** not **do** the good I want to **do**, but the evil I **do** not want to **do** – this I keep on **doing**.” Romans 7:19 (NIV)

“Now if I **do** what I **do** not want to **do**, it is no longer I who **do** it, but it is sin living in me that **does** it.” Romans 7:20 (NIV)

In week one, we looked at Paul’s explanation of where that battle comes from. He said that sin entered the world through Adam, that we were legally in Adam, and sin was passed on to us from Adam like a disease. He talks about sin like a power in us. What’s gotten into you – sin!

Last week, we looked at Romans 6 where Paul says, “You may not know this, but the power of sin has been broken.” Then, he explained how it was broken when you were placed in Christ. What was true of Adam was true of you, so what is true of Christ is also true of you. Therefore, we can say with Paul ...

**Sin is not my master.
I am dead to sin but alive to God**

That brings us to today. If we are, in fact, dead to sin – meaning sin is not our master – how do we live that out? What does it look like to live without sin as our master?

There are three ideas in the text: **Declare, Decide, Devote.**

Declare

Jesus’ resurrection demonstrated his power over the power of sin.

“For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.” Romans 6:9 (NIV)

“The death he died, he died to sin once and **for all**, but the life he lives, **he lives to God.**” Romans 6:10 (NIV)

In the same way, count yourselves **dead** to **sin** but **alive** to **God** in Christ.

Declare: Sin is not my master. Romans 6:11 (NIV)

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.” Romans 6:12 (NIV)

Decide

Paul personifies sin (“its” evil desires). Paul found it helpful to separate himself from sin. As long as it is an “it,” I can deal with it. When it becomes “me,” I’m toast.

- I’m so awful. I’m so hateful. I’m so jealous.
- It’s so awful. It’s so hateful. It’s so jealous.

When you wrestle with sin, which side of the argument do you identify with?

We either argue as IN Adam: “Here I go again. I can’t help it.” OR
We state IN Christ: “Sin is not my master.” You decide.

“Therefore do not let ...” Romans 6:12 (NIV)

Decide: Do not **let** sin rule you.

Devote

“Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness ...” Romans 6:13 (NIV)

“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.” Colossians 3:5 (NASB)

“But rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and **offer every part** of yourselves to him as an instrument of righteousness.” Romans 6:13 (NIV)

Devote: Your body to God.

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have **died** and your life **is** hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:2-3 (NASB)

“When Christ, who is our life ...” Colossians 3:4 (NASB)

I can’t live the Christian life. Only Jesus can live the Christian life.

I need to learn to allow Christ to live His life through me!

“For sin shall no longer be your master, **because** you are not under the **law** but under **grace.**” Romans 6:14 (NIV)

NEXT STEPS:

- ☐ **Memorize: Colossians 3:4.**
- ☐ **Read and Meditate on Romans 5-8.**
- ☐ **Declare. Decide. Devote.**
- ☐ **Commit to the Next Week of *Freedom*.**