



Sermon Series: Set Apart: A Life Lived for God

To be used with Session 2: Set Apart by Christ

Sermon Title Possibilities: From Death to Life

Scripture: Romans 6:5-14

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “Set Apart: A Life Lived for God” this sermon confronts the reality that coming to Christ renders our sin powerless. We are at first slaves to sin, but Christ has overcome sin and made us one with Him and we now possess the power to overcome sin. However, as Tony Evans mentions, “When you accepted Jesus Christ, God killed the old person you use to be before you met Jesus Christ. He did this without changing your essential personality or your essential soul. He shut down the factory called sin. However, the factory has been producing a lot of stuff for a lot of years, and the stuff that was produced by the factory has now lodged itself in the body. The new nature can’t produce sin. It’s impossible. But everything the factory of sin produced is still riding on the highway of the flesh.” Our action as Christians is to starve our flesh and feed our new man or woman in Christ.

Introduction: As the world becomes increasingly secular many biblical words are becoming harder to understand by our culture. One of these words that has become harder to define is “sin.” This is mostly because our society has rendered the term useless. We hear it in lines like, “my truth or your truth.” In Scripture, sin is missing the mark set by a holy God. According to Becky Pippert in her article, “Talking Sin to a Culture That Doesn’t Believe in it,” she states, “In today’s culture I’ve found that the concept of idolatry is often easier for people to initially grasp.”ⁱ When we focus on Jesus and the work that He accomplished on our behalf we can recognize His pursuit of us empowers a life of victory over sin. The Christian that exercises victory over sin can deal with society’s battle with idolatry.

1. Resurrected from the Death of Sin (vv. 5,6)

Paul, the writer of more than half of the epistles lays out a clear case to the Romans about their relationship with sin. The emphasis being that our sin must be put to death and buried. Jesus Christ provides sinful man with the ability to experience a resurrected life after being dead in sin. Before Jesus can set the believer apart, they must enter a life in Christ. Jesus Christ defeats our sin on our behalf and only requires our acceptance and

Lifeway

repentance. Our resurrection from sin gives us the freedom to pursue Christ. The perfect picture of that life is seen in Galatians 2:19-20, “For through the law I have died to the law, so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

2. Released to Live in Christ (vv. 7,8)

After we are resurrected into new life in Christ, it releases us to pursue a life with Him. Sin is completely dealt with by Jesus’s sacrifice. However, we still deal with our flesh which still craves our old habits and behaviors. But this new life allows us to experience a different freedom that only comes from a relationship with God. As we begin to tell others about the change that God has made in our lives, and we are reoriented for our purpose to worship Him alone our faith enters a process of maturity. Spending time with God in His Word and serving in God’s kingdom allows for transformation to happen.

3. Reimagined New Life in Christ (vv. 9-11)

Our life in Christ can be reimagined as we realize we will no longer fall prey to sin’s hold on our lives. We now have a choice to follow Christ or our own cravings from the flesh that lead to death. We must envision this life in Christ with full belief and trust. The NAC comments, “This is no game of ‘let’s pretend’; believers should consider themselves to be what God in fact has made them.” God has made us for Himself. It is only when we are fully freed from the nature of Adam that we realize our identity, purpose, and value. Indeed, God has created us to dwell in harmony with Him. Christ lives His life to God and invites the Christian into a familial relationship that will never fail us.

Conclusion: Second Corinthians 5:17 reads, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.” The Christian in the presence of Almighty God must investigate the life promised in Scripture. We should never allow mistakes from our past to derail the relationship that God is extending to us. He is fully holy and righteous, and He invites His people into relationship with Him. The law demanded obedience, but grace supplies the will and the power to obey; hence grace breaks the mastery of sin as law could not.

Author Bio

Jason Thomas serves with the International Mission Board as African American Church Mobilization Strategist in Richmond, VA. Prior to joining IMB, Jason served as the Collegiate Ministry Director of Southern University with Louisiana Baptists. He has been married to his wife, Gaynel, for 12 years and has a Master of Divinity in Church Planting from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lifeway

© 2023 Lifeway Christian Resources
www.biblestudiesforlife.com
www.lifeway.com/you

ⁱ “Taking Sin to a Culture that Doesn’t Believe in It, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/talking-about-sin/?amp>

Lifeway

© 2023 Lifeway Christian Resources
www.biblestudiesforlife.com
www.lifeway.com/you