

10/28/26

Romans 6:1-11
Have you ever heard of the song Bullfrogs and Butterflies? I used to listen to it when I was a kid.

Bullfrogs and butterflies
We've both been born again
Bullfrogs and butterflies
We've both been born again

It's a cute song. Bullfrogs were tadpoles first, and butterflies were caterpillars. Why do I say this, you ask? Cuz you and I are like the bullfrogs and butterflies. We've been born again. No longer do we crawl like a caterpillar. In Christ, we get to soar like a butterfly! Amen!

Blessings,
Jonna

I think one of the biggest things to overcome as a believer is grasping what freedom in Christ means. I remember hearing this statement for the first time and being totally shocked and confused… "God gives us freedom FROM sin, not TO sin." The world teaches, "My body, my choice." "Freedom is doing whatever I want." But the world is wrong. God says Jesus came to free me from sin, not just the condemnation of sin, but also the act of sin.

Galatians 5:1 says, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." I very seriously doubt Paul is encouraging us to stand firm in choosing sin since we no longer face condemnation. The slavery IS the sin. Romans 6 helps me understand this. It comes right after Paul explained in Romans 5 that all who "RECEIVE the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness" experience full justification and reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ.

So… does that mean that I now have freedom TO do the things Jesus had to die for? Romans 6 gives me the answer.

Vs. 1-2 ~ "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?"

What is sin? Sin is anything we do that doesn't align with God's word… and even beyond that, it's anything we do that is not motivated from a desire to please Him. Yikes!!! Obviously, I cannot NOT sin this side of heaven. 1 John 1 tells me that if I say I don't sin, I'm a liar and the truth isn't in me. But this passage in Romans is talking about making a PRACTICE of sin. When it says, "Shall we CONTINUE in sin" it means, "Shall we walk the path of sin?" The answer is ABSOLUTELY NOT! Why? Because you can't die to something AND live in it. That makes no sense. Would a butterfly try to go back into its cocoon to live as a caterpillar when it's been given wings to fly? That would be crazy!

The problem is, though I died with Christ as I'm about to see, my flesh doesn't know that it's dead. My flesh is hostile to God. My flesh was built on corrupt desires. It fights for me to use my freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but the truth is that using my freedom to feed the flesh puts me into voluntary slavery.

Vs. 3-4 ~ "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

I was "baptized", immersed into the death of Jesus. When I received Jesus as my Savior, my old corrupt self died with Him in His death… SO THAT I could be raised with Him to new life in Him by the glory of my Father and His Father in heaven. Without Jesus, His Father in heaven would not be my Father. Through Jesus, I have been adopted by His Father and made His child. I'm learning a new way of living that is far superior to my old way… just as the life of a butterfly is far superior to the life of a caterpillar.

Vs. 5 ~ "For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His."

What an amazing promise from the Lord! I have been united with Christ in His death. As a branch is taken from another unhealthy vine and grafted into a new thriving vine, I had to face death with Christ as He took me from the unhealthy vine, and I was given life IN HIM as He grafted me into the true thriving Vine… Himself. I have a resurrection LIKE HIS. My spiritual body is raised to new life in Him… and Philippians 3:21 tells me that my physical body will someday experience what my spiritual body has already experienced. Paul says I have a new citizenship in heaven, and someday Jesus "will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself." If I know that to be true, why would I want to live as a caterpillar???

Vs. 6-7 ~ "We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin."

My old self was crucified with Jesus. My new self lives. But He brought my old corrupt self to death with Him for a purpose… IN ORDER THAT the body of sin that once ruled me and enslaved me might now be rendered ineffective. Through Jesus, my flesh no longer has power over me. I have been freed from its slavery.

Vs. 8-10 ~ "Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God."

So… I have been crucified with Jesus. I've been raised to new life. AND I'm going to live with Him in heaven for all eternity. Jesus' death did something that my death could never do. Jesus' death took away death's sting. That's why I can look forward to the hope of heaven. Death could not hold Jesus, and because of Him, death cannot hold me.

Jesus never did get caught in the trap of sin during His life on earth. He chose to walk right into it so that He could remove its power from my life. He died to sin for me. He didn't need to die to it for Himself. It never did hold Him captive. He did it because it held me captive. Shocking. The New Living Translation says He died "to break the power of sin, and He lives for the glory of God." Jesus always lived to glorify the Father. He made it possible for me to live to glorify the Father. Shocking. Such incredible sacrifice.

We always honor a soldier who sacrifices his own life to save the life of another. And that is such an incredible act of heroism. But who would sacrifice himself for the life of the enemy out to destroy him? Jesus would and He did. While I was His enemy, He died for me. He ushered me out of death and into the presence of God so that I, too could walk in newness of life and live for His glory.

So what does He want me to do if He definitely does not want me to continue down the path of sin? He wants me to live like Jesus…

Vs. 11 ~ "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Just like Jesus, come to the logical conclusion that living for sin would be totally illogical. Living for Jesus makes sense. Just as the butterfly does not try to live like a caterpillar, crawling on the ground when it could fly, I don't want to live like the dead person I was. I don't want to live in the slavery that once had a hold on me. Live free in Christ. Free from death's sting. Free from sin's condemnation. Free from lies and deceit. No matter how you look at it, in Christ I'm getting the better blessing by being in Him. Live in that.

O Lord, please help me to live in defiance to sin, not in defiance to You. Help me to grasp the incredible gift of being with You. I was a caterpillar. You made me a butterfly.