

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

2/25/18

Text: Romans 6:1-11 (ESV)

Title: Dead to Sin & Alive to God

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim walked us through chapter 6, and the first command in the book of Romans. Up to this point the Apostle Paul has been laying the foundation of the realities of sin and death and the hope that can only be found in Jesus. Now Paul urges his readers, to “consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” We can often find ourselves on two different sides of this predicament. Either we don’t take sin seriously and seek God’s help to kill it in all areas of our life (Pride), or we are so bogged down by it we think we need to overcome it in our own strength in order to gain God’s love or favor (unbelief). The amazing truth of the gospel is both, that if our faith is in Christ we are united with him and God cannot love us any more than he does right now, AND, being united to Christ, he has already defeated sin in us. Like a boy whose mind “lags” behind as he learns how to be 6 inches taller, God’s Spirit works in us to reveal the truth about who we are right now: Completely forgiven and loved, and completely able to kill sin with God’s help.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. As Tim said, even though we have been forgiven, there’s still sin in our lives, and we can make two serious errors. We either don’t take sin seriously and seek to kill it like a cancer or invasive species, or we feel powerless against it. Like the boy who grew 6 inches in one year, our experience “Lags” behind our freedom from sin.*
 - What sin(s) have you grown tolerant of in you or in those around you?**
 - What is it like to be told that sin’s power over you was killed in Christ? How are your experiences still “lagging” behind that freedom from sin?**
- 2. Tim talked about how a wetsuit makes him float. He does a lot of swimming, but never is he swimming to stay alive or above water. In the same way, Jesus has already overcome our sin. Because he “floats” we “float.” We’re not trying to overcome sin to stay alive, all of our sin has already been overcome by Him.*
 - What keeps you from resting in Jesus’ completed work for you?**
 - How are you still being more controlled and defined by YOUR past than by Jesus’?**
- 3. Because Jesus so loved his Father, he refused all competing offers and temptations. No allegiance was stronger than his allegiance to his dad. In Jesus, we have the power to resist any competing offer of sin. Like the man who refused the proposition of an old mistress, we are no longer defined by our old self, but by Christ.*

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- *What keeps you from asking for God's help to respond to sin that way?*
- *What is it like to know that, like a parent throughout their child's life, God cannot and will not love you more than he does right now?*

WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty, for His power and goodness. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His victory over sin and death in Christ, and sealed to us by His Spirit.*
- 2. How have you lived as if sin is a plaything or like a bad habit, rather than as destructive slavery, or defiance of God in His holiness? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to change your heart.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His victory as our 2nd Adam. Thank Him (again) for His active and passive obedience – His death for our guilt, and His success in fulfilling the Father's original design for us.*
- 4. Who do you know that is spiritually dead? Ask the Lord to give them life by His Spirit that they would experience His enduring love instead of hoping in the temporary pleasures of this world.*
- 5. Ask the Spirit to empower you by Jesus' record implanted in your heart. Pray that He would help you die to sin and that He would enliven you with love and affection for the Father.*