

**Reaching New Heights in our Ability to Grow
Reaching New Heights
You are Not Alone in Your Struggle**

Outline of the Book of Romans

- I. Sin – Righteousness Demanded – 1:18-3:20
- II. Salvation – Righteousness Declared – 3:21-5:21
- III. Sanctification – Righteousness Defended – 6:1-8:39
- IV. Sovereignty – Righteousness Declined – 9:1-11:36
- V. Service – Righteousness Demonstrated – 12:1-15:7

Romans 5:8 – *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:20 – *...but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*

3 steps to keep you from simply trying to grow on your own.

I. Understand the Nature of Your Union with Christ.

A. Sorting out key theological terms.

- Regeneration = The infusion of divine life into a dead soul; the work of the Holy Spirit in creating a new life in the sinful person who repents and comes to believe in Christ.
- Conversion = The action of a person in turning to Christ. It includes repentance (renunciation of sin) and faith (acceptance of Christ).
- Justification = God's judicial act of declaring us righteous in His sight at salvation.
- Sanctification = General meaning: "set apart from sin to God"
 - a. *Positional* – the divine act of making the believer actually holy, that is bringing the person's moral condition into conformity with the legal status established in justification. This is a ONE-TIME event at salvation.
 - b. *Progressive* – the process of a person conforming to the image of Jesus Christ by putting off sinful habits of thinking and action and replacing them with new habits of obedience to the Word of God. This is a CONTINUAL practice throughout one's Christian life.
- Glorification = the final step in the process of sanctification, sometimes called Prospective Sanctification; it means completion of sanctification and removal of spiritual defects. This occurs at DEATH or the COMING OF CHRIST when we will achieve total Christlikeness.

Doctrine	Act	Process	God Alone Does It	God Enables Man to Do It
Regeneration	✓		✓	
Conversion: Repent & Faith	✓			✓
Justification	✓		✓	
Positional Sanctification	✓		✓	
Progressive Sanctification		✓		✓
Glorification	✓		✓	

B. The beauty and significance of this picture.

1. You are “in Christ”.

cf. verse 11 – “in Christ Jesus”

2. Christ is “in you”.

Colossians 1:27 – to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

3. You are secure in Him.

John 10:27-30 – My sheep...I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

4. You are sealed in Him.

Ephesians 1:13 – You were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.

5. You are identified in Him.

Romans 6:3 – all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus...

6. You are equipped in Him.

Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

II. Rejoice in the Benefits of Your Union with Christ.

A. You were united with Him in His death.

- You died to sin – verse 2.
- You were baptized into His death – verse 3.
- You were buried with Him through baptism into death – verse 4.
- You have become united with Him in the likeness of His death – verse 5.
- Your old self was crucified – verse 6.
- You died with Christ – verse 8.

1. You have a completely different view of sin's delight.

2. You have a completely different view of sin's power.

B. You were united with Him in His resurrection.

1. So that we too might walk in the newness of life – verse 4.

2. We shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection – verse 5.

3. We shall also live with Him – verse 8.

4. The life that Christ lives, He lives to God – verse 10.

III. Act on the Implications of Your Union with Christ.

A. Let these truths impact what you do with your mind.

Romans 6:11 – Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

B. Let these truths impact what you do with your body.

Romans 6:13 – and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.