

Turn to Romans 6 again

## 1. What we've seen in our series of who we are in Christ?

- A. We've seen we are linked to him as our new representative
  - 1). We were linked to Adam – we inherited his guilt and sinful nature
  - 2). But the moment we embraced Christ by faith we were placed into him
    - a). God now views us through the perfection of his obedience
    - b). Declared to be “Not guilty” – our rap sheet in heaven is clean
- B. Then we saw that not only did God declare us to be freed from the *penalty* of sin
  - 1). He also did something miraculous to free us from the *power* of sin
    - a). He nailed that old nature that loved sin onto the cross – putting it to death
      - 1a). He replaced it with a new nature that loves him and desires to obey
      - b). The result was, the stranglehold sin had upon our life was broken
        - 2a). We never sin now because we have too, we sin now because we choose to
- C. God has done everything necessary so we can live out the “Risen life” in Christ

**Transition:** All this is the work of God - a gracious gift given to those who believe

- A. Now - in light of that, what should our response be? That is what we will look at in this study

## I. PRESENTING OURSELVES TO GOD

**Ro 6:12–13 (ESV)** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>(13)</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but *present yourselves* to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

### 1. The word we want to investigate in that passage is “present”

- A. It is a word that speaks of a deliberate choice of consecration.
- B. This is to be our response to what God has done in our lives = the context of Romans 6
  - 1). Those who have died and risen with Christ
    - Are to live that out by presenting their members to God

**Transition:** It's important to see who can present themselves to God

### Who Can Make This Presentation? Who can obey this verse?

**Paul tells us: Ro 6:13 (ESV)** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God *as those who have been brought from death to life...*

#### 1. Only those who have been put to death can obey this command

**Only those who can say: Ro 6:4 (ESV)** 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.

**Ro 6:6 (ESV)** 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.

**Point:** Only those who have died and risen with Christ can present themselves in this way to God.

- A. This is not a call for natural man to present themselves to God to be used by him
  - 1). God will not accept offerings from the old self – old Adamic nature clothed in man's religion
  - 2). Religion is filled with people who aren't born again – pulpits – monasteries – mission field
- B. But there is nothing there that is useful to God. That old life – old self has to die
  - 1). Until there is the new birth – the new nature – we have nothing to offer to God at all

**Thought:** If you doubt what I'm saying – listen to God's Words of those outside of Christ

**Turn to: Rom 3:10-12 (NIV)** As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; (11) there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. (12) All have turned away, *they have together become worthless*; there is no one who does good, not even one."

A. A lovely bunch - That is the family of Adam. That is who we used to be

1). If we are going to have anything to offer to God that old us had to die and be replaced

**What Paul said happened: 2 Co 5:17 (ESV)** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

B. The old me passed away on that cross with Christ – the new me rose out of that grave with him

**Ro 6:11 (ESV)** So you also must consider yourselves *dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus*.

1). You must believe that this has happened to you and live accordingly

**Summary:** So Paul is speaking to a very limited audience here

A. Only to those who have already died and risen with Jesus Christ

1). Those who have started again with the second birth – only the new in Christ is acceptable

## 2. This leaves us with an important question: Has this happened to you?

A. Can you say that you have died with Christ?

1). How can you tell? You're different than you were – that old you that loved sin died

B. One huge difference you can see: You have a changed relationship with sin

1). Before you met Christ, you loved sin and delighted in gratifying those fleshly desires

a). Now you love God and find your delight in his ways

C. This doesn't mean you'll be perfect. We all still fail at times.

1). But in those times of failure the reality of that new life in Christ is seen

2). Before sinned with impunity – didn't bother you - Now you sin and you're miserable. Why?

a). You have a new nature and that "new you" cannot be comfortable in sin

1a). It is wired to please God – obey him

b). Plus, you've been given Holy Spirit - he won't allow you to enjoy sin like you used too

1a). He will convict you and turn you back to God.

3). Don't believe me. Ask David after he fell into sin with Bathsheba. Ps. 32 and 51

**Says things like: Psa 32:3-4 (NIV)** When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. (4) For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

a). David could find no relief until he confessed his sin and turned away from it.

**Psa 32:5 (NIV)** Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**Point:** A true believer can tell they've died and risen with Christ by looking at their relationship with sin.

A. They will still fall into sin at times but they can't be comfortable there

1). Their new nature cannot rest in that state and the Holy Spirit will make sure they don't

**Thought:** This is best way I know to discern the spiritual state of somebody falling into extended sin

A. Are they a backslidden Christian – one God will work in to bring home – Like the Prodigal  
Or one who tried Christ for a while but decided to go back to their comfort zone – the world

1). One that Peter speaks of – like the dog returning to its vomit (2 Peter 2:22)

B. What I look for is the evidence of God at work even in that sin

1). Are they convicted? Is the Spirit working to make them miserable – to turn them?

a). That's the Prodigal Son isn't it? God used circumstances to "bring him to his senses."

b). God took fun out of sin until he was so depressed he was willing to confess it and repent

C. Listen to what God says he will do in the believer.

**Eze 36:26–27 (ESV)** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>(27)</sup> And ***I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.***

- 1). The Holy Spirit **will** cause us to walk in God’s ways.  
Prompts us gently towards obedience but will also rough us up if we insist on being disobedient
- 2). All done as a loving parent who refuses to let you wrap your heart around things that destroy you.

**Transition:** Seen who can present themselves to God. Only those who have died and risen with Christ

- A. Let’s move on to define what presenting ourselves would look like.

## What Are We to Present?

### 1. Paul tells us in verses 13 and 19.

**Ro 6:13 (ESV)** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present** yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and **your members** to God as instruments for righteousness.

**Ro 6:19 (ESV)** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now **present your members** as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

- A. The Greek word is “melos” = Speaks of both physical members of our body and the mental faculties.
- B. In Matt 5:29-30 Jesus stressed the importance of a single-minded commitment to him by using this word.

**Mt 5:29–30 (ESV)** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your **members** than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>(30)</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your **members** than that your whole body go into hell.

- 1). In these verses Jesus warns us of the consequence of offering the members of our body to sin.
- C. In Ro. 6:13 & 19 were exhorted to offer members of our body to God as instruments of righteousness.

- 1). Why? Because we have died – we now have a new life that belongs entirely to God

**1 Co 6:19–20 (ESV)** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? ***You are not your own,*** <sup>(20)</sup> for you were bought with a price. ***So glorify God in your body.***

- a). So present to him what is his – what is his? YOU!
- b). So glorify him with your body by presenting it to Him as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1)

**Question:** How many of us see ourselves as belonging entirely to another?

- A. How many of us keep this in mind in how we use our time, money and talents?
- B. Watchman Nee gave a helpful illustration to show how this works.

He tells of a Christian traveling by train, who found himself in a carriage with 3 unbelievers. To while away the time they decided to play some cards and do a bit of gambling. The problem was, they needed a fourth player, so they asked this brother to join them. His answer was interesting.

“I am sorry to disappoint you,” he said, “but I cannot join your game for I have not brought my hands with me.”

This was unusual to say the least, so they asked him what he meant by that.

“This pair of hands does not belong to me,” he said, and then explained the **transfer of ownership** that had taken place in his life. He was simply applying what the Scriptures tell us is true.

**2 Cor 5:15 (NLT)** He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life **will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ,** who died and was raised for them.

- C. He was simply living out what Paul had exhorted every believer to do in Romans 6

**Look at: Ro 6:19 (ESV)** ...now present your members as slaves to righteousness **leading to sanctification. (NIV leading to holiness)**

**Transition:** Let’s look at this thought of what this sanctification or holiness means

- A. We'll see it starts with a mindset – who we are now in Christ – whose we are now in Christ

## Defining Holiness (or Sanctification)

### 1. Most people think that holiness is eliminating something sinful within us

- A. While true holiness will lead to that, it is not where holiness starts. Holiness starts with a mindset

### 2. Holiness begins by being separated unto God

- A. The word for sanctification or holiness in v. 19 means to be “set apart” “to be consecrated”

- B. In OT times, people or instruments would be sanctified, or set apart, made holy for God’s use.

- 1). Ex: Temple utensils would be sanctified or made holy
  - a). Meant they were not to be used for common things  
They were set apart for God to be used for his purposes
- 2). When a man was chosen by God to be used in his kingdom  
He would be publicly anointed with oil and said to be “sanctified.” Or “Holy”
  - a). IOW He had been chosen by God and set apart for the purposes of God.

- C. Holiness doesn’t start with removing evil – It begins with a setting apart to God for his purposes

**Question:** With that thought in mind, what am I doing when I present my members to God?

- A. I recognize I’m altogether his – Chosen by God and set apart for his purposes

- 1). Therefore I present myself to him to do whatever he chooses to do with me
- 2). It is a deliberate choice of consecration
  - a). In today’s terms we would say we are signing over the *pink slip* of our lives to him.

**Point:** We are saying “I am willing to do whatever you have for me Lord.”

I am willing to walk whatever path you have for me with faithfulness, diligence and excellence

- A. Whether there is great fruit or little fruit – England man door to door 17 years – not one convert

- 1). His reward is going to be massive – why? Because he was faithful

- B. We tend to think God evaluates our success in the same way man does – by numbers

- 1). But how many false teachers have churches that are packed out  
How many false religions are growing like crazy
- 2). AND Poor Jeremiah - zero converts – he must have been told off when he got to heaven
  - a). No! He will be greatly rewarded – why? He was faithful to what God told him to do!

- C. At the end of his life Paul was able to say “I have finished my course.”

- 1). That is what matters – every believer has a course God has designed for them

**Eph 2:10 (ESV)** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- 2). The desire of every believer should be the ability to say at the end  
“I have walked that path you ordained for me. I have faithfully done what you called me to do.”
  - a). For the Pastor – whether they preach to 5, 50, 500, 5000

**Point:** This should be the result of presenting ourselves to God.

- A. Putting all that we are and have into his hands to do his will

- 1). We present ourselves – asking Him what he would have us to do – we don’t want to miss that

**Transition:** Let’s look at what would hold us back from doing this?

### 4. To present ourselves to God we must choose to die to our own will

- A. This command to “present ourselves to God” forces us to make a decision – *who will be Lord of my life*

- 1). Am I going to govern my own life? Seek the pleasures of the world? Or seek God?

- B. Listen - If you want to know the thrill of Christianity – experience the presence of God in your life

- 1). If you want to walk in his joy, peace, satisfaction and contentment  
You must realize, when you are in control, you'll never get there
- C. We love the picture of Christ's sheep resting contentedly in green pastures - besides still waters.  
**Ps 23:2 (ESV)** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
  - 1). Naturally anxious – but now no care in the world – secure and satisfied – Why?
    - a). They have followed the good shepherd into those green pastures.
    - b). Notice the sequence in Ps. 23. We love the promises but fail to see the condition.  
**Ps 23:1–2 (ESV)** The **LORD** is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>(2)</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
  - 2). When a sheep wanders on their own – they wander into the wilderness – fear and danger
    - a). But those sheep that simply hear his voice and follow him are led to those places of rest.

**Point:** He is the only one who knows the way to get to those green pastures of contentment

  - A. When we direct our lives – when God's our co-pilot – we end up in the wilderness

**Thought:** We must get out of the way – we must start allowing him to have His way in our life

  - A. If you want Christ – His joy and peace to fill your life – you must allow him to empty your life of you
    - 1). Refuse this – you'll never be content – continue to strive and strain – lie awake anxious at night
  - B. I love Psalm 3. David's in a world of trouble, but he is the Lord's, therefore he can sleep.  
**Ps 3:1–5 (ESV)** O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; <sup>(2)</sup> many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." Selah <sup>(3)</sup> But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. <sup>(4)</sup> I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah <sup>(5)</sup> ***I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.***
    - 1). David had presented his life to the Lord; therefore, he would rest in the Lord
      - a). He was living the exchanged life that traded in his anxiety for the Lord's peace.

## To Present Ourselves - We Have to Overcome Our Fear of Surrendering to Him

### 1. We have to learn to trust him with our lives – but that isn't easy

- A. Even though we know instinctively this is the right thing to do – we hang on to control
- B. We're not sure we want him messing with our career, free time, finances, personal views
  - 1). I work. I'll decide what to do with the money. I'll decide what to do with my free time  
I'll decide whether I serve God and where I'll do that

**Thought:** Presenting ourselves is turning decisions like that over to another

  - A. Again – this won't be easy – why? We have something in us that resists doing that  
**TURN: Rom 7:21 (NIV)** So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.
  - B. You have an enemy inside you that is going to resist that choice of consecration
    - 1). Paul says "Every time I want to do good, this force rises up to oppose it."
      - a). This is why I say presenting yourself to God is going to take a determined choice.
    - 2). Plus you have Satan, whispering in your ear that God's ways can never satisfy you.
  - C. Therefore, must think rationally, Biblically = See foolishness of resisting God – wisdom of submission
    - 1). You must set the truth and preach it to yourself – bring yourself under its authority
      - a). Using the sword of the Spirit to defeat all resistance in your life to his will.
  - D. Let your own thinking control you and you will stumble around in darkness.
    - 1). Let the Word control you and submit yourself to God – present yourself = Blessing
    - 2). Just to encourage you – a few verses out of many – the result  
**Ps 37:4 (ESV)** Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**Ps 16:11 (ESV)** You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is *fullness of joy*; at your right hand are *pleasures forevermore*.

**Mt 6:33–34 (ESV)** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>(34)</sup> **(The wonderful result)** “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow...

**Ps 23:1 (ESV)** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

- 3). I could use many more passages, but the Bible is clear, the way of blessing is through surrender
  - a). The way of peace is knowing without a doubt we belong to him and have turned all the matters of our life over to him.

E. Once his ownership is established, once I understand I am his exclusive property, I find great rest.

**Transition:** Let’s look at that idea of ownership – by asking another question

## 2. Christian do you understand you are owned by the Lord? That you are not your own possession, you are his.

A. That may bother some, but let me try to convince you of how wonderful that truth is.

B. Let’s start by seeing if this thought is in the Scripture. Am I really God’s possession?

**1 Pe 2:9 (ESV)** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, *a people for his own possession...*

**1 Co 6:19–20 (ESV)** ...*You are not your own, (20) for you were bought with a price.*

C. Because of that we are to have the attitude of voluntary submission to God of the entirety of our life.

**Paul puts it: Eph 3:17 (NLT)** And I pray that Christ will be more and more *at home in your hearts...*

**Question:** What does it mean for Christ to be at home in our hearts?

A. Same thing it means when we tell friends or family “Make yourself at home,” *Mi casa su casa.*”

- 1). We mean, feel comfortable, act like it’s your house.

Turn on the TV, change channels, go into the refrigerator. You have the run of the house

B. That is what Paul means when he says Christ is to be at home in our hearts.

- 1). Means we have given him access to our life – no walled off areas – no “no go zones”

C. It’s what we see in 1 Thessalonians 5:

**1 Th 5:23 (ESV)** Now may the God of peace himself *sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless* at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1). We’ve seen what “sanctify” means. It means to be set apart for God.

- 2). So the exhortation here is that everything about us, spirit, soul, and body be set apart for God

- a). We will allow God access to all we are and all we have

**What Paul means when he says: Ro 6:19 (ESV)** ...so now *present your members* as slaves to righteousness leading to *sanctification*.

**Question:** Does that sound radical? I think it sounds fantastic. Let me help you think this through

A. I am the dwelling place of God. He has taken up residence in me and I am his property.

- 1). First thing we see is *intimacy*. He couldn’t be closer. He is living right inside of me.

- 2). This is Christianity at its deepest. Enjoying his presence and love – never separated from him

B. Plus – If I’m his property – his dwelling place – he’s the *landlord* responsible to maintain his property

- 1). Carri and I don’t own a home, we rent. There is a great freedom to that in many ways.

- 2). When things break, it isn’t our problem, it’s theirs.

- a). We simply call them up and let them know their house is broken.

- b). They call the repairman and cover the costs.

C. It is the same with our lives – we are not the owners – God is

- 1). Therefore it’s his responsibility to keep up his property

The Bible is filled with promises that tells us he takes that responsibility very seriously

- 2). I’ve learned to rest because of this.

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- a). To look at the adverse situations that come into my life and turn them over to the Lord. “I’m your property Lord, therefore, this problem really isn’t mine, it is yours.”
    - 1a). He is a great landlord – faithful - how this truth brings great rest
  - D. But if I see myself as the owner of my life rather than a steward all that peace evaporates.
    - 1). Now I’m responsible for it all instead of him
    - 2). Now I will start to strive and strain rather than rest in his faithful provision
    - 3). Now the wonderful promise of Matthew 11 is shattered because of my grip upon my own life.
 

**Mat 11:28-30 (NLT)** Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

      - a). How great is that! But, do you see the condition there?
      - b). We must take his yoke upon us. What does that mean? We must let him lead us.
 

This means to enter into submission to his will - to turn over the control of our life to him
    - 4). When I’m not the owner of my life this rest of Matthew 11 floods into every area of our life
 

**J Vernon McGee on this verse:** There is also a *rest* which the believer experiences, and it comes through commitment and consecration to Christ. You don’t have to worry about being recognized; you don’t have to jockey for position if you are committed to Christ. Frankly, I quit joining organizations because I got so tired of watching ambitious men trying to be chairman of something or trying to be president of something. If you are committed to Christ, you don’t have to worry about that. He will put you exactly where *He* wants you when you are yoked up to Him.
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## CONCLUSION

### 1. God has placed us in Christ – delivered us from the penalty of sin

- A. We are right with Him – we are heading into glory – He has been so gracious
  - 1). Now the reasonable response is to present ourselves to him as Lord of our lives
- B. I must see who I am in Christ – crucified and risen – therefore I should enjoy victory over sin
 

I must see who Christ has become in my life – He is my Savior – but he is also my Lord

  - 1). He came into my life to set up his rule in my heart
    - a). And only as I bow to him – presenting who I am in surrender
 

Only then will I live out the life he purchased me for – enjoy all that I’ve become in him
  - 2). All those great benefits of being in him – all those great promises he gives to those in him
    - a). Will be largely unrealized for those who don’t acknowledge his ownership and authority

**Watchman Nee:** The trouble with many Christians today is that they have an insufficient idea of what God is asking of them. How glibly they say, “Lord, I am willing for anything.” Do you know that God is asking of you your very life? There are cherished ideals, strong wills, precious relationships, much-loved work, that will have to go;

- A. Scary – but we have to think - as we let them go – we cast off those weights that are holding us down
 

We start to experience what Christianity is meant to be – the abundant life – a life filled with him
- B. Don’t be afraid to “present yourself to him for his righteous purposes” – this is the way to true life