

Dead and Alive

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: On the basis of our being accounted righteous (justified) by God through faith in Christ, we should also account ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ.

In chapter 6, Paul begins a discussion on sanctification in the Christian life – putting our beliefs about our justification before God into action for the sake of glorifying God and growing in conformity to the image of Christ. Paul also grounds our Christian life and works in the reality of our justification (being counted righteous by God). He uses the terminology of being simultaneously dead and alive. Not that sin is dead to us, but that we're dead to sin, and we're alive to God. In Christ, we're both dead *and* alive at the same time, awaiting the reality that we will no longer be dead.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 6:1-11** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “**Dead and Alive.**”

DIG IN

In Christ, we are dead to sin and alive to God...

1. Through Baptism into Christ. (Romans 6:1-4)

Why is it wrong to continue to sin in order that God's grace may abound more and more? In what ways may we unconsciously fall into the pattern of viewing God's grace as a “license” to sin?

In what specific ways does water baptism picture being dead to sin and alive to God?

Think about your own baptism. What were the circumstances that led you to be baptized by immersion?

2. Through Union with Christ. (Romans 6:5-7)

In what ways does our baptism picture our union with Christ?

How do we know that “our old self was crucified” (v. 6)? How does this knowledge help us live free of sin?

In what ways are we united in Christ's resurrection? Is this complete now? Why or why not?

3. Through Resurrection in Christ. (Romans 6:8-11)

In what ways do verses 9 and 10 demonstrate that death is temporary while life is eternal?

In what ways does our death and life in Christ free us from sin?

Why is it important to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (v. 11)? In what ways can this way of thinking help us grow in sanctification?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?