

How Shall We Live a Holy Life? (Romans 6:12-14)

Introduction and Scripture Reading (Romans 6:12-14)

Title: How shall we live a holy life?

- Three fundamentals of holy living:
 - I. The Principle of Holy Living (vv. 12 and 13b)
 - II. The Practice of Holy Living (vv. 13a and 13c)
 - III. The Promise of Holy Living (v.14)

I. **The principle of holy living** (vv. 12 and 13b)

- “therefore” – connecting to the text before (v.11)
- Key observations:
 - a) Sin is personified as if it was a ruler or someone with the power or authority
 - b) Sin’s hold on us is in or through our mortal bodies, that is the body of our flesh.
 - c) The mortal body still has lusts. The original word for the lusts, “επιθυμία,” can have a natural meaning in Paul,
 - Phil 1:23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;
 - 1Thess. 2:17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.
 - d) Sin must be able to exercise control in our bodies, otherwise Paul’s admonition becomes unnecessary. But it is also obvious that sin does not have to reign there, or the warning from Apostle Paul would be pointless.
- “present” – Romans 12:1
- Paul also reminds his readers that presenting oneself to God can take place only because of the new state one finds himself in as a result of union with Christ in His death and resurrection.

APPLICATION:

- No sinless perfection.
- Mortal body is a dying body.
- We are dead to sin, but sin is not dead to us (Romans 7:18, 20, 23-24)
- While justification is by grace alone through faith alone, sanctification is not a gift to be received. We are exhorted to act and actions are required. (**Philippians 2:12-13**)
- You may have heard about things like “Just come to Christ, he will take care of your

problems” or “total surrender to God and not to do anything else...” “let go and let God” – these are not true according to what the Bible teaches here.

- Sanctification is not a sudden experience of deliverance once and forever.

II. The practice of holy living (vv. 13a and 13c)

- “do not go on presenting” gives a continuing command to his readers.
- “instruments” first. This word in the original language is used as “weapons, tools, or instruments.”
- “members of your body” – parts of your mortal body.
 - Romans 12 verse 1-2, where Paul is writing much as he does in chapter 6
 - Ephesians 4:23 “be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”
- **Everything in the Christian life begins with the mind.**
 - Obviously, if you want to grow in holiness, either as individuals or as a church, you must start here.
- **It also includes your eyes and ears**– what you are looking at during the day and what you are taking a second or third look at will have effect on your mind; what you allow to come into your ears affects what you think in your mind; and your mind affects your spiritual walk. Example: Achan in Joshua chapter 7 (**Joshua 7:21**). What caused the sin? the lust of eyes (**1 John 2:16**).
 - Teaching in the NT. **Matthew 5:28**
- **Tongue is also part of the body.** It is an instrument either for righteousness or unrighteousness. (James 3:5-6; Ephesians 4:29; 5:4)
- **Your hands and feet to God as instruments of righteousness to Him.** (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, Ephesians 4:28, Romans 10:14-15)

Summary: Romans chapter 6 (vv. 1-14), Paul sums up his arguments with **the promise of God in order for the believers to live a holy life**. It is all by the reign of grace. God is working within you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).

III. The promise of holy living (v.14)

The promise is introduced by two “for” clauses in the same fashion as the principle and the practice, a negative followed by a positive. Here Paul used an indicative statement to express a fact, a promise. It is not a command, nor is it an exhortation.

- First, “sin shall not be master over you.” The rule and reign of sin has been broken in your life. Knowing that sin is still in you, but it is not over you. Christ is now over you. Sin will have no control over you.

Romans 6:9 “...death no longer is master over Him.”

- The second “for” actually explains the first statement “sin shall not be master over you.” Paul answers, because you are not under law, but grace. When Paul says you are “not under law,” he does not mean that you do not need to obey in your Christian life. This does not mean that God has abrogated His moral law. The law is good and holy and righteous (Romans 7:12). The law cannot

deliver you from sin and the law is never given to deliver you from sin. The believers are no longer under the reign of sin anymore, he is no longer under God' condemnation pronounced by the law, but under His undeserved favor of grace (Romans 8:1).

- Note that to be “under grace” does not mean you can live your Christian life however you want to live. Under grace means that you are under the reign of grace. (Romans 5:20-21) There is a new master in your life. There is a new dominion force in your life that is driving your Christian life. The reign of grace is the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers you in your spiritual life.
- So, this promise provides the believers with the assurance of the ability to live a holy Christian life as they are not under the reign of sin and they are not under the law, but under the reign of grace and Jesus Christ is the Lord over your life now.

Conclusion:

You have been saved by grace through faith as Paul writes (Romans chapters 3-5).

- Paul exhorts not let sin reign over your mortal body 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.
- It is because you have been freed from the bondage of sin by God's grace and you want to do it for Him, as Paul ends this section by saying, “for sin shall not be master over you, for you not under law but under grace.”