

A MATTER OF YIELDEDNESS

Thursday: God & I Time

Romans 6:12-14 ¹²*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.* ¹³*Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.* ¹⁴*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

We aren't going to let you forget these words, so let's review. Match the definition with the right word:

Justification	To give the right of way; to present; to put at someone's disposal.
Glorification	The undeserved working of God that gives man both the desire and the ability to do what pleases God. (This definition is taken from Philippians 2:13.)
Sanctification	Being not guilty or declared righteous. It is the opposite of condemnation.
Righteousness	Separation from physical or spiritual life.
Law	Washed, purified; plunged, dipped; has the picture of being associated with something.
Death	A standard which must be kept and which has consequences if it is not.
Grace	The gradual process where the Holy Spirit uses God's Word to make a Christian more and more like Christ.
Yield	Conformity to God's standard of perfection; the quality, state, and characteristic of being completely right.
Baptized	The point when a Christian enters eternity and becomes completely like Christ.

The previous two days we have looked pretty deeply at the truth that enables us to defeat sin. Those who know Christ can defeat sin because Jesus Christ already defeated it. Sin has no power over us. Romans 6 is not the only place that we see this truth. Take a look at these verses.

1 Peter 4:1-2

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

1 John 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

There are many more verses that prove that sin has been defeated and that we have won the victory through Christ. With this truth ingrained in our head we can move on to our responsibility in this task of winning the battle against sin in our lives. Don't forget though that even our effort in this is infused with God's grace. Write Romans 5:20-21 in the space below.

Where we dump our two tablespoons of effort into this life, God brings a dump truck load of grace. We have every ability to win this battle against daily sin. With that being said, to win this battle we need to make a choice to do what is right. Read what we are commanded to do in verse 12.

6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

In this verse we start coming to imperatives. Reach back into the recesses of your grammar brain and give the definition of an imperative. (If you can't remember, ask your counselor. They know everything!) _____ The word *therefore* is a very important word. It gives the connection between the truth that believers are dead to sin because of Christ and the command to not allow sin to reign. In this verse we see the main problem in our life if we are not winning the battle against sin. We are obeying sin because we are allowing it to reign in our mortal (human, fleshly) bodies. Sin is acting like a king because we are treating it like a king, but in reality it has no right to reign.

6:13a Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin:

We need to understand what yielding means. Write the definition of yield from the list of key words. Yield - _____

When we think of a picture of yielding, our first thoughts probably go to a yield sign on a roadway. What does that yield sign instruct a person driving a car to do? (Don't use the word yield!)

Whereas a yield sign instructs a person to give right of way to an oncoming car, Paul is saying don't give sin the right of way in your life. List some ways that you allow sin to have its way in your life.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Paul goes on with this thought: that we cannot allow any part of us to be used as a tool to do wicked things. One man said, *The body is an arsenal of arms or a warehouse of tools for good or evil.* Tools are created to be used for a specific purpose. We shouldn't use a hammer to dust furniture; it wasn't created for that. Every part of our body was created to bring glory to God. That is why He says...

6:13b But yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

In this part of the verse Paul says we need to give God the right of way in our lives and in turn use every part of us to bring glory to Him.

Yield means to present or to put at one's disposal. When I was a young boy, I helped my dad work on our car from time to time. My job was to hand my dad the tool that he needed. In other words, I was "presenting" him the tool or "putting the tool at his disposal" so he could use it for the job he was trying to accomplish. If I "presented" him with the wrong tool, it was useless. If he asked for an open ended 5/8 inch wrench and I handed him a chain saw, things could have gotten ugly quickly. My job was to present him with the proper tool at the proper time. Our job is to put every part of us at God's disposal to do whatever He wants for His glory.

Yielding ourselves to God is a one-time commitment that brings along with it daily commitments. Read the following hymn by Frances Havergal. She beautifully applies the truths of this verse. Circle all the times she talks about the members of our bodies being used for God's glory.

*Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.*

*Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.*

Think about a specific sin that you struggle with and answer the following questions:
In what specific way do you yield to sin in this area?

In what specific way should you yield to God in this area?

***6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over
you: for ye are not under the law, but
under grace.***

You will notice we used a size 22 font as opposed to the normal 9. Why do you think we did that?

I can't make this verse big enough. I want you to see the hope that Paul gives here. For a Christian, sin cannot now, nor will it ever have, the authority to be able to control you of its own volition. When we as Christians sin, it is a matter of what we are yielding to. God's grace is always available. Remember the promise of Romans 5:20 *where sin abounded, grace did much more abound*. Start making choices to yield your members as tools to be used for God and watch God's grace come alive to you. You need grace to win this battle. To receive grace we must have humility. James 4:6 says *God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble*. That humility means admitting you need God for this. If you want to win this battle, stop and pray and ask God for grace to win the battles and to make right choices for His glory. Notice this promise of God in Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need*. Write your prayer below.
