

DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 6:6-10

September 17, 2017

This week we continue in Romans 6 with a look at vv 6-10. As we stated last week, Romans 6 is one of the more critical chapters in the Bible in regards to our sanctification. Use these questions below merely as a guide to cultivate discussion and further reflection. The most important thing is to actually read and think deeply about the text itself as a group.

1. In Romans 6:1-5, we considered the foundational doctrine of “Union with Christ.” In the sermon, Brad offered the following definition of this important truth: *The joining of believers to Jesus Christ by faith, allowing them to share in all the benefits and riches that result from his person and work.*

—Take time in your group to read Romans 6:1-10 and discuss this concept of union with Christ.

—What are your reactions to this truth? What does it make you think about? Does it change the way you see salvation and/or the Christian life at all?

2. In vv. 6-7 Paul speaks of the “old self” as being crucified with Christ and the Christian as being set free from sin. This “old self” phrase picks up on the imagery of Romans 5 where, before salvation, we were in Adam and dead in our sin. So, Paul is saying that to be united to Christ means that the old self has died and no longer holds us captive. This does not mean a Christian will not still struggle with sin, rather, sin is no longer our master.

—Discuss the default (and unbiblical) ways we often speak of and perceive sin in our culture. For example, we may be prone to think of it as less than optimal living, or something that holds us back from reaching our true potential. But, the Bible describes our sin as a cruel dictator that has us enslaved. Why is understand sin’s true power so important in the Christian life?

—Take time to discuss the implications this has for how we view salvation and spirituality. Is it mere improvement, or is it rescue and redemption? Can you think of reasons why it is important that we speak in biblical terms when it comes to salvation and spirituality?

3. In vv8-10, we see the other half of the consequence of being united with Christ. Not only are we freed from sin because Jesus died to sin (and we died with him), but we are also raised to life because Christ has been raised. Paul’s logic is clear here—what Christ has accomplished is ours because of our union with him.

—When we think of living with Christ, we tend to think of it only in future terms (i.e. spending eternity in heaven with God after physical death). But here, it seems clear that Paul is speaking of being raised to a new and resurrected life here and now. In other words, Christ's victory over sin does not just secure our future glorification but it also secures and becomes the ground for our present sanctification. Discuss this idea.

—In light of the immediate (and not just future) implications of Christ's resurrection, consider what Paul means by v. 7 where he says we will live with him and v. 4 that says we can now walk in the newness of life. Try and think in practical terms. What does living with him and walking in the newness of life look like in this life here and now? (e.g. - fighting sin, fellowshiping with other believers, giving your life and gifts to serve others, etc.)