

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #8: New Lifestyle

INTRODUCTION

When you first experienced God's grace and forgiveness, was the change in your life dramatic, gradual or imperceptible?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 6:1-7:6

1. What contrasts and illustrations does Paul use to describe our lives before and after we became Christians?
2. In what sense was our baptism both a funeral and resurrection? **Phil 3:10-11**
3. Our "old self" refers to everything we were as non-Christians. When our old self was crucified with Christ, in what sense was sin rendered powerless?
4. If sin has been rendered powerless and we have been freed from sin, why do we still sin?
5. Sin can reign over a person until death. How has Christ freed us from this tyranny? vv. 8-11.
6. If we realize sin is no longer our master, how should our lives be different? vv. 12-14.
7. Paul compares our old life and our new to slavery. Why is this analogy appropriate? vv. 15-18.
8. How does our slavery to God differ from our slavery to sin? vv. 19-23.
9. How would you reply to the person that says, "The life that is not marked by holiness has no claim to salvation?"
10. What is the connection between justification and sanctification as salvation components?
Note: Justification is the judicial act of God by which he pardons all the sins (past, present, future) of people who trust in Christ. He treats them as righteous in the eyes of the Law. Sanctification is more than moral reformation of character. The Holy Spirit helps people grow in divine grace to become more complete (as originally designed). Perfect sanctification is not attainable in this life.
11. How do Paul's illustrations assure and encourage you in your struggle against sin? vv. 7:1-6

APPLICATION

Pray that God will help you realize the freedom you have in Christ to live a new lifestyle of obedience and faithfulness to God.

In his early teens, John Newton ran away from England and joined the crew of a slave ship. Some years later he himself was given to the black wife of a white slave trader in Africa. He was cruelly mistreated and lived on leftovers from the woman's meals and on wild yams he dug from the ground at night. After escaping, he lived with a group of natives for a while and eventually managed to become a sea captain himself, living the most ungodly and profligate life imaginable. But after his miraculous conversion in 1748, he returned to England and became a self-less and tireless minister of the gospel in London. He left for posterity many hymns that are still among the most popular in the world. By far the best-known and best-loved of those is "Amazing Grace." He became the pastor of a church in England, and to this day the churchyard carries an epitaph that Newton himself wrote (Out of the Depths: An Autobiography [Chicago, Moody, n.d.], p. 151):¹

