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Title: The Identity That Transforms

Passage: Romans 6:1-14

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Summary:

I. Introduction to Sanctification

II. The Christian's True Identity-Our Position in Christ

III. The Christian's Real Transformation-Our Progress in Christlikeness

IV. Concluding Admonition: Duty and Delight, Holiness and Happiness: Describe One and the Same Life.

Key Truths:

- In Christ, we have positional sanctification as we have a new identity in Christ. There is death to sin where the power of sin has been broken.
- In Christ, we have positional sanctification with newness in life. You can now experience the joy of Christ by walking in fullness of His life.
- Trials and difficulties happen, which is not contrary to God's good and wise purposes of your life but actually part of His plan for your sanctification. There is nothing you face that is outside of God's loving and caring purpose for you.
- True "delight in life" and "duty to obey God" are the two sides of the same coin. Growing in holiness brings about genuine happiness. Your only true joy is found in God alone. God's way is always best for you.

Application:

- Embrace your reality.
- Retrain your mind as to your identity. Retrain your mind as to who you are in Christ.
- You don't need to give in to sin. You have power in the resurrected Christ as no longer a slave to sin.
- Rejoice that you are not under Law but under Grace.
- Personal Growth Through the Word and the Spirit
- Devoted Attention to the Preaching/Teaching of God's Truth
- Giving and Receiving of our Gifts in the Body of Christ
- Trusts and Hope in God Through the Trials of Life

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

Do we have a full grasp of our identity in Christ?

EXPOSITION

I. Introduction to Sanctification

A. Justification and Sanctification

- Justification: declaration of God a sinner as righteous. You are declared righteous.
 - How? By faith, the righteousness of Christ is credited to that sinner.
 - Thought the person is sinful in nature, legally, the sin has been canceled and the righteousness of Christ has been imputed to that sinner.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Sanctification: Existential reality. A change in nature. You are made righteous. God makes you righteous into the created being He made you to be.

Ephesians 1:4

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Sanctification: two aspects:

- Positional.
- Progressive.

B. Positional Sanctification-the "Indicatives" of the Christian Life; Identity Markers

- The moment you place your faith in Christ, your re transferred from dominan of darkness (Col 1:14; Eph 1:5) to domain of righteousness.
- No increase or decrease. It is an established reality. You can't be any less of a citizen of heaven than you are today.
- Basis for progressive sanctification.

C. Progressive Sanctification-the "Imperatives" of the Christian Life; Marching Orders

- Live more like Christ. Live more as a citizen of the heaven.
- Analogy: moving to Clovis. You are a resident of Clovis (positional) immediately but over time you learn about the city with its benefits (sanctification).

Passage:**Romans 6:1-14**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

II. The Christian's True Identity-Our Position in Christ (v.1-10)**A. In Christ in His Death to Sin**

- We experience death to sin because by faith, we are united to Christ (who died to sin).

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- "we who died to sin"

Romans 6:6

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

- "our old self was crucified"

Romans 6:8

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

- "we have died with Christ"

Implications to having died to sin:

1. The Price of Sin's Penalty Paid in Full (Justification - Rom 4:4-5; 5:1; 8:1)

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- Justification = just as if you had never sinned
 - Contrast: Sin = incurred the eternal wrath of God which you could never escape.
- Implications = you no longer stand under God's condemnation.
- Christ's righteousness imputed to you = as if you had always obeyed.

2. The Power of Sin's Slavery/Dominion Broken (Positional Sanctification - Rom 6:2, 6-7, 14)

- The power of sin has been broken.
- You don't need to sin.

Romans 6:2

By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- Contrast: before Christ, you have no choice but to sin.
- But now, you can walk in righteousness because the power of sin has been broken. You can now experience the joy of Christ by walking in fullness of His life.

Romans 6:6-7

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.

- The body of sin has been done away with ("brought to nothing")
- No longer enslaved to sin.

Romans 6:14

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

- In Christ, you are united with Him in His death. Therefore, the dominion of sin has been broken in your life.
- Sin to you is dead. It no longer condemns you because Christ has paid the penalty of sin.

- It no longer enslaves you because Christ has freed you from the dominion of sin. When we eventually be like Him in glory, all of sin will be done away with.

B. In Christ in His Resurrection to Newness of Life

1. The Present Reality of Newness of Life in Christ (6:4, 11, 13)

Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- "newness of life" = we are now raised with Christ.

Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:13

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Related Question: Why did Jesus come back to life and resurrect (why not stay dead)?

- The resurrection vindicated the truth of what was done on the cross.
- Once risen, the penalty has been paid. He is no longer paying the penalty. It is finished!
- If Jesus stayed dead, it showed that death had conquered Him. But being resurrected, Jesus conquered death's greatest power!
- Implication: You are now living life in Christ's new life as a resurrected man.

2. The Future Reality of Newness of Life in Christ (Rom 6:5, 8)

Romans 6:5

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- "Not yet" = we have not yet experienced the fullness of Christ's resurrection.

Romans 6:8

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

III. The Christian's Real Transformation-Our Progress in Christlikeness

A. The Dual Transformational Principle of Considering Yourselves Dead to Sin and of Presenting Yourselves Alive to God in Christ (Rom 6:11, 13; cf. 6:19)

Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- Two imperatives:
 - Consider yourselves dead to sin. and
 - Present your lives alive to God in Christ.

Application:

- Embrace your reality.
- Retrain your mind as to your identity. Retrain your mind as to who you are in Christ.
- You don't need to give in to sin. You don't need to yield again. You have power in the resurrected Christ as no longer a slave to sin.

Elements:

- Passive: All God's work
 - Active: Our effort
1. **The Passive Element: Dependence on God** (e.g., Eph 5:25-27; Phil 1:6; 1 Thess 5:23-24)
 - God wants to bring about in your life the joy of communion with God.
 - God is determined to bring about your sanctification.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

2. **The Active Element: Daily Commitments and Choices** (e.g., Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:8-11)
 - Until Christ returns, we experience ongoing sin in our lives that is relentless. But now we have the ability to put off and put on.
 - This will take our every effort and devotion.

3. **The Passive and Active Elements Together!** (e.g., Phil 2:12-13)

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- Illustration: Hand in the glove.
 - The glove does work but the hand within it does the work.
 - Likewise: we feel all the effort that goes into our sanctification but all the power comes from God.

4. **The Goal: New Covenant Transformation from the Inside Out-Head** (Rom 12:2), **Heart** (Rom 12:9), **Hands**(John 14:15,21, 23-24, 31)

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:9

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

- We grow in loving what is good and grow in absorbing what is evil.
- Contrast: in our flesh: we love what is evil.
 - But we have freedom in Christ. We can abhor what we used to love. We can love what we used to despise.

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

- Question of Reflection: Are you a glad-hearted obedient follower of Christ?

B. How to Apply the Transformational Principle

1. **Rejoice that you are not under Law but under Grace** (Rom 6:14; cf. Acts 13:38-39: Rom 8:3-4)

Romans 6:14

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

- "you are not under law" = several implications:
 - you are not under the condemnation of the law, which sentenced you to hell.
 - the law previously had enslaved you. It placed burdens upon you that you could not keep. You could never keep it all.

Romans 8:3-4

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- "what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do" = you could not earn any righteousness through our sinful flesh through any effort or perfect obedience.
- "who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." = in the new covenant, we are given new power and grace. We now have empowerment to obey and grow in holiness through the Spirit.

2. **Personal Growth Through the Word and the Spirit** (e.g., John 8:31 -32; Eph 5:18; Col 3:16)

- Word and Spirit always go together.
- Be filled with the fullness of God's Word through meditation, memorizing, and studying it.

3. **Devoted Attention to the Preaching/Teaching of God's Truth** (e.g., Acts 20:32; 2 Tim 3:16-4:5)

- Be under the teaching of God's Word not only individually but corporately as the body of Christ.

4. **Giving and Receiving of our Gifts in the Body of Christ** (e.g., Eph 4:11-16; Heb 10:24-25)

- We are to minister to each other using the gifts we each have through the Spirit.
- We each have spiritual gifts for the common good, for the edification of the body of Christ.
- When you come to church, have the mindset you are to:
 - Come to receive, and
 - Come to give.

5. **Trusts and Hope in God Through the Trials of Life** (e.g., Heb 5:8-9; James 1:2-4)

- Trials and difficulties happen that is not contrary to God's good and wise purposes of your life but actually part of His plan for your sanctification.
- There is nothing you face that is outside of God's loving and caring purpose for you.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Hebrews 5:8-9

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

- See also Jesus own example as He also went through trials and suffering.
- Trials are good gifts of God for your growth and dependence upon Him as your joy is found in Him.

IV. Concluding Admonition: Duty and Delight, Holiness and Happiness, Describe One and the Same Life.

- True delight in life and duty to obey God are the two sides of the same coin.
- Growing in holiness brings about happiness.
- Your only true joy is found in God alone.
- God's way is always best for you.

Psalms 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.