

Theme: Christians have been made alive to God but dead to sin in Christ, and are called to live in light of that reality.

I. Intro – Pavlov’s Dogs, Light Switches

- A. Ivan Pavlov’s experiments with dogs
- B. Amazing how we can become conditioned to respond
- C. Linda and I turning on light switch during power outage
- D. We laughed - but habits can be hard to break
- E. We have been conditioned to obey sin - must stop
- F. How do we walk this out?

II. Our New Position In Christ

- A. The basis for change - our new place in Christ
 - 1. v11 - “In the same way” - just like Jesus (v10)
 - 2. v12 - therefore - built on new position
 - 3. v11 - count/consider/reckon - 1st command in letter!
 - 4. The commands to be issued are built on Gospel!
- B. Our new position - dead to sin, alive to God!
 - 1. v11 - count yourselves - live in light of truth!
 - 2. v11 - reality - dead to sin, alive to God in Christ
 - 3. Alive to God - no longer the walking dead!
 - a. v13 - those brought from death to life!
 - b. Alive to God - saw this last week.
 - 4. Dead to sin - no longer slaves to sin! (v11)

- a. v12 - do not let sin reign - we have a choice!
- b. v13 - do not offer - we have a choice!
- c. In regeneration also made dead to sin!
- d. We have a new relationship to God - and to sin!
- e. Justification & sanctification both present realities!

C. This new position is the basis for overcoming sin in believers

III. Our Present Call - Walking Dead To Sin

- A. Recognize there is a war - no neutral parties
 - 1. Sin and righteousness personified in this passage
 - a. v12 - sin reign - like a king
 - b. v13 - do not offer to sin; offer to God, righteousness
 - c. v14 - sin not your master
 - 2. There is a cosmic war between sin & righteousness
 - a. v13 - instruments - literally weapons
 - 1. ὄπλον - tool or weapon; soldiers called ‘hoplites’
 - 2. NT - weapon - Romans 13:12; 2 Corinth. 10:4
 - b. We serve in one army or the other - no neutrality
 - c. v13 - We offer ourselves to sin or righteousness/God
- B. Avoid defeatism in this war - “I can’t win....”
 - 1. v12 - Do not **let** sin reign
 - 2. v12 - sin and its desires still present
 - 3. Our new position in Christ makes defeatism impossible

C. Avoid triumphalism in this war - "There is no struggle"

1. v12 - mortal body - still subject to weakness of this age
2. v14 - sin shall not be your master
3. 1 Cor 10:12 - if you think you stand strong - watch out!

D. Avoid dualism in this war - "Body & spirit totally separate"

1. v12, 13 - mortal body, parts of your body
2. What we do with our body matters
3. v13 - offer yourselves; spirit brought from death to life
4. Sin usually begins in spirit and works out!
5. Sanctification includes body and spirit - 2 Cor 7:1

E. Draw upon God's glorious resources in this battle

1. v14 - sin not master **because** not under law but grace
2. The command built on our new position in Christ
3. The glorious new covenant resources
 - a. Hebrews 8:10 - the Law now written on our hearts
 - b. Ezek 36:26-27 - new heart; Spirit in us to help obey
 - c. Rom 8:3-4 - Spirit helps us obey!!!
4. We have anew heart with God's Law written on it
5. God's Spirit lives in us to help us obey!
6. We have the resources from God to grow in holiness!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Are we walking dead to sin?

1. We are alive to God and dead to sin - a fact!
2. Are we living in light of this fact?
3. Or have we bought into the lies about this war?
4. Don't be deceived - sin is a horrible master!
5. Are we walking as alive to God and dead to sin?

B. Are we relying on ourselves or God for strength?

1. Our resources come from God - not ourselves
2. Do we realize the glorious position we now enjoy?
3. We have been raised, given new heart, Spirit indwells
4. Do we meditate and reckon on these things?

C. Communion - Drawing Our Strength From God

Our Present Call - Walking Dead To Sin

Romans 6:11-14
August 5, 2012
Communion
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the **armor** of light.
Romans 13:12

The weapons we fight with are not the **weapons** of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
2 Corinthians 10:4

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!
1 Corinthians 10:12

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.
2 Corinthians 7:1

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people.
Hebrews 8:10

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And **I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.**
Ezekiel 36:26–27

3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.
Romans 8:3–4