

ROMANS

THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

STUDY FOURTEEN

Dying to Live

Romans 6:1–14

If you don't know you've been freed, then you'll live like a slave. But once you know you're freed, you consider it true. And you act upon it by presenting yourself to God. It is remarkable what a difference it will make in your life.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

OUR hearts have been gripped by stories about enslaved people struggling to be free. An enslaved couple travels miles through rugged terrain to breathe the air of liberty. Another runs away, courageously risking her life, to lead others on the path to freedom.

We've even heard heartbreaking accounts of slaves who continued to labor even after being set free. The Emancipation Proclamation declared their freedom in 1863, and the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery in 1865. But because they hadn't received the news they had been set free, or their owners threatened them, or they didn't know how to transition to freedom, they kept living in bondage. **How tragic!**

In a similar way, accounts of Christians in bondage to sin gripped Paul's heart—especially how they suffered under sin's mastery even though Jesus had emancipated them at the cross. Jesus' death and resurrection broke the yoke of sin and death, providing the way for His followers to breathe the air of freedom! "If the Son sets you free, you are truly free" (John 8:36). Yet, these Christians didn't know how to live free.

In the previous *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we responded to God's invitation to choose this new way of life called grace. In this Bible study, we'll let the apostle Paul teach us how to transition from the life of bondage to sin to the life of true freedom in Christ.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

Imagine having supernatural power at your disposal in your most difficult temptation—which *you do*. Read how David surrenders control to God in [Psalm 19:13–14](#). Ask the Holy Spirit to control your thoughts as you discover eternal truths in Romans.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

As Paul traveled the Roman world preaching the good news of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus, some people twisted his message, accusing him of saying that believers can live as they please.

These people *abused* grace, viewing it as a license to sin. The theological term, *antinomianism*—from the Greek words *anti*, which means “against,” and *nomos*, meaning “law”—denotes that we are not obligated to any sort of moral law.¹

Others served their old taskmaster sin because they didn’t know any other way. They felt helpless. These people *nullified* grace. They didn’t apply its power to free them from sin. Paul addressed this misunderstanding about God’s grace in [Romans 6:1–14](#).



Observation: Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Begin your observation of [Romans 6:1–14](#) by reading it slowly and thoughtfully.² Pause and let your imagination run free. Reflect on the previous passage, [5:12–21](#), and Paul’s rhetorical question in verse [6:1](#). What teaching did they want to combat?

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Truths to Know—Romans 6:1–7

How did Paul respond to their faulty notion in *Romans 6:2–3*? What two more rhetorical questions did he ask his readers? What monumental truths should the Roman believers know?

The conjunction “therefore” that begins *6:4* NASB indicates the continuation of Paul’s thought. Observe *6:4–7* carefully. What truths should believers know?

Truths to Uphold—Romans 6:8–11

Look carefully at *Romans 6:8–11*. The “if” in *6:8* NASB that indicates the conditional sentence emphasizes a reality that is true of believers only. What truth did Paul mention in these verses? How can believers begin to enjoy the benefits of this truth now?

Present Yourself—Romans 6:12–14

The “therefore” that begins *6:12–14* NASB tells us that they are connected to the previous verses. Paul’s points about knowing and upholding (considering) culminate with two commands that form the center point of Paul’s teaching: “Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires” (Romans 6:12).

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After knowing and considering their freedom, what else did Paul command the Roman believers to do in order to experience new life free from sin?

I spent too many years of my Christian life just waiting for the next time sin was going to happen and I could confess it. What a terrible way to live. Now I retrain myself to think I'm free. I tell myself that I'm under grace and not under law. Grace does not mean I now do what I please; it means I do what pleases Christ.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Dying to Live!

In [Romans 6:1–5](#), Paul strongly refutes the mistaken notion that we might as well keep sinning since God showers us with grace whenever we sin. Yes, God gives us grace . . . but so that we can live free from sin and not sin more. We've died to sin and have been baptized into Christ's death.

Look up the Greek word, [baptizo](#), translated “baptize,” in the Greek lexicon at [billmounce.com](#). Also, note the explanation of “baptism” in 6:3–4 in Pastor Chuck Swindoll's commentary, [Insights on Romans](#), or in the free online commentary, [Constable's Notes](#), an excellent resource as well. How would you explain [6:3–4](#) to a friend?

The word baptizo means “to dip.” It was used in the first century in reference to coloring fabric or clothing by immersing it into dye. When the cloth came out of the dye, it was changed. When you and I come to Christ understanding He paid the full penalty for our sins, we are dipped into Him. We become identified with Him. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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In [Romans 6:4–7](#), Paul states that we know our old self was crucified with Christ, so our body of sin might be done away with. Consult your resources to explore his assertion, or look up the Greek verb, *katargeo*, translated “be done away with,” in the Greek lexicon at billmounce.com. Reread [6:4–7](#) in the New English Translation (NET) and Living Bible. What is the meaning and significance of this passage?

Coming to Christ means that the power of sin has been rendered inoperative. In fact, that's why Paul says, “so that we would no longer be slaves to sin, for he who has died is freed from sin.” Not only do dead men tell no tales, dead men fall to no temptation. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

In [6:8–11](#), Paul commanded believers to consider themselves dead to sin and alive to God. Reflect on this passage and dig into your resources to deepen your understanding. How does its meaning sharpen how you think about walking with God?

See it as a reality. Death no longer is master over me. I tell myself regularly I am freed from that by the grace of God. And my sinful habits have therefore been defeated, disabled, and deprived of authority over me. I am under a new master. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

The first step, *know*, is theological; the second step, *consider*, is intellectual and convictional; now the third step, *present*, is volitional. Paul told the Roman believers to present the members of their bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. Reread [6:12–14](#) in the NET and The Message translations thoughtfully. Rewrite these verses in your own words.

Onward Christian soldiers! Sin's tyranny has been broken at the cross! We can present our members to God as artillery to fight the battle for righteousness! Freedom is ours to live!

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Correlation: Freedom to Live!

Compare *Romans 6:1–14*; *1 Corinthians 6:12–20*; *Galatians 2:20*; and *Colossians 3:1–15*. What do these passages teach about our freedom in Christ? What impact will these truths have on us if we live by them?



Application: Experience Freedom by Yielding the Control to Christ!

The step of application helps us identify any personal trouble spot in our lives and welcomes the work of the Holy Spirit so we can truly live for God. What specific members of your body do you find difficult to present to God? How can you request God's help when temptation comes? How can you solicit the assistance of a spiritual mentor?

When that temptation comes knocking at the door, send Christ to answer the door. He's never known defeat. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Paul's method to living free from sin is to *know* your union to Christ, *consider* yourself dead to sin, and *present* yourself to your new Master, Christ. As you think about a sin you'd like to tame, what do you now *know* that can help you say no to this sin?

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What do you need to *consider* in order to say yes to righteousness?

And how can you *present* yourself to righteousness rather than to sin?



A FINAL PRAYER

I begin my day in this way. “Lord, You are my Savior and my God. I am Your child. I am liberated and I am dependent upon You for Your power. Take control of me. I yield to You, I give You the controls of my life. I don’t know what the day holds. You know everything that the day will hold. I don’t know what temptations will come my way. You give me the strength to restrain, and I’ll remember, Lord, that Your power is at work. I am dead in Christ, I have the power of His resurrection, and I claim that today.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

ENDNOTES

1. Thomas L. Constable, “Notes on Romans,” in *Constable’s Notes*, 2025 ed., Sonic Light, soniclight.com/tcon/notes/html/romans/romans.htm, note 4:4–5; 6:1–3.
2. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll’s *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, “*How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?*”

For the 2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Aaron Massey, senior vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, and Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll’s messages. Copyright © 2007, 2025 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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