

TOGETHER IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE

Part 3 Romans Chapter Six

Romans 6:4-5

Therefore we were **buried with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life** ⁵ For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be **[united together]** ~~in the likeness~~ of His resurrection ...

From Romans 5:12 we have seen a strong expose of our ancestral identification. That is either being **identified in Adam** – the realm of sin & death or **identified in Christ** – the realm of grace & life.

All people are either in one category or the other. You can't be in both & you can't be in neither.

We were stained with the sin of Adam ... stuck in his disposition ...

Held in a dark heritage ... DYING IN THE DEATH REALM & **THERE IS NO ESCAPE!**

However, Jesus made a way from the death realm into the newness of life.

JESUS CHRIST DIED IN ONE REALM & ROSE IN ANOTHER. SLIDE

Romans 6:10 **SLIDE**

*For the death that He died, He **died to sin** [sin realm] once for all; but the life that He lives, He **lives to God**.*

NB: JESUS DIED **TO** THE SIN REALM & ROSE TO GOD'S REALM.

BUT HERE'S THE GRACE OF GOD. JESUS WAS OUR SURROGATE! WHEN JESUS DIED **TO** THE SIN REALM & ROSE TO GOD'S REALM ... WE ALSO DIED **TO** THE SIN REALM & ROSE INTO GOD'S REALM BECAUSE WE WERE UNITED WITH HIM.

SLIDE

This means, WHEN JESUS WENT THROUGH THE DEATH-DOOR INTO THE LIFE REALM, **WE WENT WITH HIM** – **HE TOOK US THROUGH.**

It's as if we stood looking at the daunting doorway of death ... too weak to go through & Jesus says, 'It's OK. I'll take you through. Close your eyes & trust in me'.

Romans 6:5 **SLIDE**

*For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be **[united together]** ~~in the likeness~~ of His resurrection ...*

*A little like the Asian soccer boys trapped in the cave in Thailand. The boys were trapped & could not save themselves & in order for them to be brought out of the cave of death into the world of life they had to be attached to a navy seal diver. **SLIDE THEY CAME THROUGH UNITED TO THE DIVER.***

Yet, what Jesus did is even greater because we weren't even conscious at the time Jesus did it. It's as if we were sitting back in our comfy chairs watching 'My Kitchen Rules' ... Jesus did it all for us. While we were getting married ... celebrating our birthdays ... doing what we do ... Jesus did it for us. Truth is: before we were born ... He'd done it for us.

WHEN HE DIED, HE DIED IN OUR PLACE. IT'S JUST AS IF WE WERE THE ONES DOING WHAT HE DID. WE BENEFIT BY PROXY. WE DIED BY PROXY.

UNITED TOGETHER IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH

Notice Paul uses the phrase '**in the likeness**' regarding this union with Jesus in His death. (It's NOT used in connection with the resurrection in the Greek)

Romans 6:5 **SLIDE**

*For if we have been united together **in the likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be [united together] ~~in the likeness~~ of His resurrection ...*

Paul is saying, **WE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SUFFER & DIE WITH HIM.** It was substitutional. This means, we didn't & don't have to suffer the emotional trauma of execution ... the physical pain of crucifixion ... the fear ... the horror ... the oppression ... which Jesus faced and went through in victory ... **WHEN WE IDENTIFY WITH HIM ... THE FORGIVENESS & FREEDOM THAT HE ACHIEVED IS OURS INSTANTLY – GIVEN TO US BY GRACE.**

THIS MEANS WE INHERIT THE OUTCOME OF HIS DEATH WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH IT. AS A RESULT OF THIS UNION, WE WERE & ARE, ALSO UNITED WITH HIM IN EVERYTHING CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION & HIS ASCENSION.

Ephesians 2:5-6 **SLIDE**

*... Even when we were dead in trespasses, (God) **made us alive together** with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and **raised us up together**, and **made us sit together** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

NB: Made alive together ... raised together ... seated together

THIS IS THE NEW LIFE IN WHICH WE HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH JESUS

3 WAYS WE ARE 4 EVA UNITED IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE

1. WE ARE UNITED IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE EXPERIENTIALLY SLIDE

Romans 6:5 SLIDE

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be ~~in the likeness~~ of His resurrection ...

NOTE: The second phrase, 'IN THE LIKENESS', concerning the resurrection, is not in the original Greek, meaning - we are not raised, 'IN THE LIKENESS' of the resurrection but **in the very experience** 'of the resurrection'.

WE DIED BY PROXY, BUT WE RISE EXPERIENTIALLY.

Unlike when we died with Christ, where I didn't feel His pain or sorrow ... being 'of the resurrection' I now certainly start to feel everything He experiences in this newness of life. I now actually become alive. I begin to experience new sensations ... new attitudes ... His love, His joy, His peace.

THIS IS NOT DEALING WITH OUR HERITAGE IN CHRIST ... NOR OUR POSITION ... BUT, SOMETHING LIVING IN US & AROUND US. THIS IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING TO ME ... I've become a part of Christ's resurrection life in union with Him.

2. WE ARE UNITED IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE ORGANICALLY SLIDE

Romans 6:5 SLIDE

*For if we have been **planted together** in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection ... KJV*

PLANTED = *sumphutos*

THE KING JAMES VERSION STATES 'WE WERE "PLANTED" IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH'. IT IS AN ORGANIC TERM MEANING 'to make to grow together – to grow alongside with'. So through the death of Jesus we were like a seed planted. That seed of course dies but as it does NEW LIFE STARTS TO ORGANICALLY EMERGE ... ALONGSIDE JESUS.

There is **HIS NEW LIFE** growing on the inside of us that is contrary to anything we've ever known. It is contrary to our Adamic conditioning.

SLIDE

This new life growing in us will start flourishing in our present day condition & begin overtaking our old conditioning. It is what is happening in us & to us.

THIS SEED IS GROWING ORGANICALLY WITHOUT OUR EFFORTS OR OUR WORK.

This Life is not constructed! Not ARTIFICIAL! Not SYNTHETIC! This is **living, breathing** matter – a real germinating substance sprouting in us.

RESURRECTION LIFE IS ALIVE IN US.

His life is manifesting in my life / His breath becomes my breath / His wisdom ... my wisdom ... His righteousness ... my righteousness ... all growing organically in me now 4 Eva ... GRAFTED INTO HIM.

John 17:21-23 **SLIDE**

*That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that **they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one:***

*²³ **I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

UNITED 4 EVA ... AT THE CORE.

2 Peter 3:18

*But **GROW** in the grace & knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ ...*

Peter doesn't say, 'Become more like Jesus – study to understand Him.

He says, 'The seed is in you ... Let it grow & grow with it.'

THIS UNION NOW CARRIES ON & OVER INTO OUR DAILY LIVES.

3. WE ARE UNITED IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE PERPETUALLY **SLIDE**

Romans 6:4-5 **SLIDE**

*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by **the glory [manifestation]** of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life.***

NB: In our text Paul says, '**Walk in the newness of life**'. (Romans 6:4)

We walk upon the earth, so here Paul is easing into application of our union.

He's bringing the human side into doctrine. Not something legally or

doctrinally that God has done or doing, but **something we do here & now.**

It is his first suggestion. He suggests without telling us to do anything. The first imperative comes in Romans 6:11 ... five chapters after Paul has established what God in Jesus Christ has already done for us.

It's how we walk Paul is suggesting. HOW SHOULD WE WALK?

BY THE MANIFESTATION OF HIS PRESENCE WITH US. Look at our verse.

JUST AS THE FATHER MANIFESTED HIMSELF TO RAISE JESUS FROM THE DEAD ... WE NOW IN LIKE MANNER SHOULD LEARN TO WALK IN THIS NEW LIFE. WITH JESUS NOW WITH US.

Not only are we united organically & internally by the anointing which abides within. **HIS PRESENCE IS PERPETUALLY WITH US THROUGH ALL LIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCES.**

CONSIDER: When we were born into Adam ... we were orphaned. Adam wasn't there to comfort us when we hurt, to hold us when we were sad ... to strengthen us when we were weak ... to direct us when we were lost. But here in this New Resurrected Life, Jesus is with us in all these things and every step of the way. We now walk with Him daily as He walks with us.

In Matthew 14:22-33 we see the story of Peter walking on the water. But did you realise, *PETER WALKED ON WATER TWICE; ONCE BY FAITH & ONCE BY GRACE.*

SLIDE

Peter walked on the water first BY HIMSELF, relying on Jesus' Word.

But he could not keep focused ... his human failure came into play as circumstances got the better of him & he started to sink. **SLIDE**

SO IT IS WITH ALL OF US ... **WE HAVE MOMENTS OF 'FAITH-WALKS'** but so many of us keep faltering, trying to apply faith & overcome circumstances.

But, Peter walked on water **THE SECOND TIME WITH JESUS.** Peter learned, he could not do it by himself. He needed Jesus' presence with him. When Peter acknowledged his real need, Jesus was there with Him. This time, it was not just His Word, but Jesus Himself.

Peter prayed 2 prayers

1. 'Bid me come to you Lord'
2. 'Lord, save me!'

NB: JESUS ANSWERED BOTH THESE PRAYERS.

The result of the first prayer where Peter was going it alone in faith almost cost him his life.

The result of the second prayer in his desperate need, not only **saved him** but **secured him** under the arm of Jesus & walking on the water wasn't the big deal ... **JESUS WAS!**

JESUS WAS WITH HIM TO DO WHAT PETER COULD NOT DO.

PETER WAS SAVED BY GRACE ... BUT NOW HE WALKED BY GRACE WITH JESUS HOLDING HIM UP.

NB: Not only was Peter rescued by Jesus but ... Peter walked with Jesus back to the boat.

The second part is greater than the first part.

WALKING WITH JESUS HIMSELF. THIS IS GRACE!

I noted while searching pictures of this on Google Images, out of hundreds of pictures of Peter on the water ... **NOT ONE SHOWED PETER WALKING WITH JESUS BACK TO THE BOAT.** I thought, that's because we see & love to see the dramatic rescue but fail to see the sustained support ... the ongoing grace. This is where so many Christians go wrong ... They know they failed ... they know Jesus rescued them ... but they fail to see **HE IS WALKING WITH THEM NOW ... HOLDING THEM UP ... KEEPING THEM SAFE ... TAKING THEM ON WE ARE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD ... NOT MY POWER.**

WE HAVE MOMENTS OF MIRACLES BUT WE CAN'T KEEP IT UP.

FINAL SLIDE

2 Timothy 4:16-18

At my first defence no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸ And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Isaiah 41:10 & 14

*Fear not; for **I am with you**: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen you; yes, I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness...*

Matthew 28:20

*Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.***

Hebrews 13:5

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for God has said, '**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**'* ESV

Psalms 23:3-4

... He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of ~~death~~ I will fear no evil ...

For you are with me ...

FREEDOM FROM FEAR DOESN'T HAPPEN BECAUSE HE TAKES AWAY SHADOWS ... IT HAPPENS BECAUSE HE ENTERS INTO THEM WITH US.

It doesn't say, 'Though I walk through the valley of shadows I will fear no evil BECAUSE JESUS HAS BLOWN AWAY ALL THE SHADOWS AND KILLED ALL EVIL.'

It says, '**YOU ARE WITH ME**' In the midst of it all

HE ALSO DOESN'T TAKE US OUT ... HE ENTERS IN WITH US.

THE KEY IS KNOWING HIS CLOSE PROXIMITY

NB: THE ANSWER TO MY TRAUMA IS NOT ONLY THAT 'HE IS WITH ME'.

IT'S KNOWING HE IS WITH ME.

THIS REVELATION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE. JESUS IS WITH EVERY BORN AGAIN BELIEVER ... BUT do they KNOW IT WHEN THEY GO THROUGH DARK PLACES ... WHEN EMOTIONS ARE RAW?

I did not believe because I could not see

[But] you came to me in the night

When the dawn seemed forever lost

You showed me your love in the light of [Your eyes]