

those alive from the dead.” Live as if you were in God’s presence, who is your master and King, and do NOT be ruled or mastered by sin.

Romans 6:11-14 - 11 Even so **consider yourselves to be dead to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin** as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 **For sin shall not be master over you**, for you are not under law, but under grace. NASB

We have died to the authority of sin, but not to **its influence** (Brian Hedges – Licensed to Kill). It is still there, with its lusts and temptations against the Spirit, so Paul tells us *“consider yourselves dead to sin,”* and therefore as a result, he says, *“do not let sin reign.”* You shall not let sin master you but instead Jesus is to be your King and your Master and we are, by the Spirit’s power to live in subjection to His will, *“perfecting holiness out of reverence for God”* (2 Cor 7:1).

Understanding our condition and indwelling sin

Now it is important to understand that as Christians we have been **delivered from the reigning power of sin** (domination), and **delivered from the curse of sin** (death). We will never die because we have passed from death into life (John 5:24, John 11:25-26). We now stand in the righteousness of Christ having been justified in the sight of God by faith in Christ (Rom 3:21-28, 5:19-21, Gal 2:16, Col 1:21, 1 Cor 1:30, 2 Cor 5:21, Phil 3:9-10). We have been born again (John 3:3, Eph 2:4-5, 1 Pet 1:3) by the Holy Spirit who now dwells in us (Rom 8:9-11) and set free from the law of sin and death (Rom 8:2). However, **sin’s authority** has been stripped from us, but not **sin’s influence**. We still have a **sinful nature** that we are **at war** with (Rom 7:17-23, Gal 5:16-18). The depravity of our own human nature is still resident in these **“bodies of death”** that we live in and it will not be completely eradicated until Glorification at the Resurrection (1 Cor 15:51-54, Phil 3:21). Although we have been released from the power of sin and its ability to dominate us, it is still resident within us, seeking to dominate us, and must be **actively mortified** by the **power of the Spirit** as an **act of faith**. This mortification requires our **constant vigilance** because while we live in these mortal bodies, sin will always seek to dominate and control us, it is the great Christian struggle of Sanctification.

Our **former condition** (before regeneration) was **dead in transgressions and sin** (Eph 2:1-3), living **in the flesh** or sinful nature, (Rom 7:5, 8:5-8), and in **slavery to sin** (Rom 6:20-22). Because of this condition were we **children of wrath** (Eph 2:3), **unable to please God** and at **enmity with Him** (Rom 8:7-8), and bearing **fruit for death** (Rom 7:5), which would have been the result of our continued condition if it were not for the grace of God (Eph 2:5,8) in predestining, calling (Rom 8:29-30, 2 Tim 1:9) and regenerating us (Eph 2:4-5).

Ephesians 2:1-3 - 1 And you were **dead in your trespasses and sins**, 2 in which **you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were by **nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.

The Bible uses the **analogy of death** to speak about our **former condition** and in the same context speaks of **regeneration as the means** that God used to save us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 **even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), NASB

Paul says that when we were “*dead in transgressions and sins*” that “*we formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind.*” Here he describes that condition of everyone who is not saved and born again by the Spirit, they are **spiritually dead in sin**, living under the **influence of Satan** and the **fallen world**, and living in the flesh and **indulging the desires of the flesh** or sinful nature. Of course everyone in this condition is a child of God’s wrath, or if you will, an **object of the wrath of God** and destined for eternal separation from Him (2 Thes 1:8-9). This says Paul, they are by “**nature**” (Eph 2:3). That is, it is their natural condition. Apart from the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, people **cannot “accept” or “understand” the “things of God,”** but God must regenerate them in order for them to even have the ability to believe the Gospel and respond in faith (John 6:37-39, 6:65).

1 Corinthians 2:14 - 14 But **a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them,** because they are spiritually appraised. NASB

So Paul describes our rescue from our former condition in Ephesians 2:1-5 as God making “*us alive together with Christ.*” God powerfully delivered His grace to us by resurrecting us from spiritual death, quickening us to life in regeneration.

Ephesians 2:4-5 - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),** NASB

But we were also held captive by sin, to do its will. Our **former** condition was **slavery to sin**. We had **no ability** to overcome sin because we were held captive by it, always pursuing it as our natural course of living, being “*dead in trespasses and sin.*” This is because before regeneration, our spirits were dead and we were “**in the flesh**” living without the benefit and blessing of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Romans 6:20-22 - 20 For when **you were slaves of sin,** you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 Therefore **what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed?** For the outcome of those things is death. 22 But **now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God,** you derive your benefit, **resulting in sanctification,** and the outcome, eternal life. NASB

Romans 7:5-6 - 5 For **while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.** 6 But **now we have been released from the Law,** having died to that by which we were bound, so that **we serve in newness of the Spirit** and not in oldness of the letter. NASB

Romans 8:5-8 - 5 For **those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,** but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For **the mind set on the flesh is death,** but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 **because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** NASB

However our spirit has been “*made alive*” (Rom 8:10, Eph 2:5) and our inner man has been **freed from slavery to sin** and **released from its power** to hold us in bondage and dominate us. Our bodies are still subject to sin and temptation, being swayed at times by indwelling sin or the corrupt sinful nature (the flesh), which is passing away, but our spirit, our inner man is alive, and being renewed day by day (2 Cor 4:16), it rejoices in and seeks to do God’s will (Rom 7:21-23). When we were born again by the Spirit, we were released from the power of sin over us, the corrupt desires of sin being overcome by the righteous desire of the Spirit, and given a whole new perspective in our **minds set** for living. Once we are freed from sin we are not only **able to please God** because of the **Spirit’s power**, but we long to please Him and make it our aim in daily living. Our true inner selves have been freed from sin’s authority and domination, and we have been given a **new nature that desires to please God** having **His law written on our**