

The New You, pt.4, 7.20.08

Free At Last!

Rom.6.6f.

### Introduction

1. In Christ, your heart, the core of who you are, is new and good. We are no longer sinners, but sons & daughters (kings & queens) of the Most High God. In Christ, we have been delivered from both the penalty & power of sin because we have died to sin (Ro.6.2). The way this death to sin happened is that the Father placed us into spiritual union with Christ in his death, burial & resurrection. We now have a new identity & power inside of us as new creations in Christ.
2. Read Rom.6.3-5
3. The word, "Baptidzo," metaphorically means placing a person into a new environment with something else so that it alters its relationship with the previous environment.
4. Ill - A King adopts an abandoned orphan. He changes the child's identity & environment. The child no longer relates to his old environment the same way. Everything about him has changed (except for his previous history). It will take time, but eventually his thinking and actions will get in alignment with his new identity. (In CS Lewis' book, The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe, as the children are coronated as royalty, their position & identity changes & eventually even their language changes.)
5. Read Rom.6.6-7
6. The Emancipation Proclamation, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment story in Flaten, p.33. These were enacted before, during & after the division of a nation, the death of thousands, the assassination of a president and the addition to the Constitution, but many blacks in the south still lived like slaves. Though free they remained in bondage.
7. w/in this text, there are three clauses that build on each other. I want to focus on the first one and show you what it means to be liberated (emancipated) from sin.

### LIBERATED FROM THE OLD NATURE - 6.6a

"old sinful selves" - the old nature, who we were in Adam before we came to Christ. It's me, the sinner by nature & choice. It's who I am w/o Christ.

“crucified” – the Greek tense of this word means a once for all definitive act. This is similar to 6.4. Your old nature didn’t partially die; it completely died. You are no longer under the dominion of sin. God executed that part of you & put in a new nature...the nature of Christ.

This is more than positional identity or judicial justification, but this is actual reality. The old nature is dead...you don’t have to fight it anymore.

Illust – The Christ filter (p.46f. in Needham) is what we typically believe. On a whiteboard, place God in his holiness at the top & me & my sinfulness at the bottom. I’m doomed, but the Father sent Jesus to cover me with his cleansing blood. Insert Christ betw the Father & myself. I am forgiven, justified, place in Christ, given the Holy Spirit, and a new nature. But, I still have my old nature. I’m not completely a new creation. This image is contrary to this passage, 2 C.5.17 & the new birth experience.

We still think the old nature is still very much alive because we feel the tug of sin. We then make up these distinctions...

- My sinful nature is dead (in God’s sight), but it is also dying (in my experience).
- Crucifixion was a slow and painful death. Therefore, the death of my old, sinful nature is slow and difficult.
- Good dog/bad dog – which one wins? The one I feed.

The problem with these distinctions is that they contradict this passage. “Were crucified” is past tense. Your old, sinful nature isn’t being crucified anymore than Jesus is still being crucified. Romans 6.4 says, “we died & were buried with Christ.” Do you bury the semi dead or very sick? Your old nature isn’t a little sick or very weak. IT IS DEAD. When Jesus died, our sinful nature died.

You may not feel dead to sin, but that’s beside the point. God says you’re dead, so you’re dead. Does a person have to feel saved, before they are saved? If they don’t feel anything is that an indication they aren’t saved? Feelings are fine, but we trust in God’s word first.

Illust – Awakening at 6 AM, but it’s pitch black outside. You think your clock must be wrong, so you go back to sleep. You find out later that the reason it was so dark was b/c of dark rainclouds. You were wrong, b/c you trusted your instincts over objective truth. The same is true with your deadness to the old nature. Despite what you think or feel, you are dead.

Illust – Use a white board to illustrate three different realities.

Conclusion – What does it practically mean to be “liberated from the old nature”?

1. The essence of who you are is new & good. You aren't defined by your failures, problems, inconsistencies or your successes, looks or abilities. If you are in Christ, you are good, new, righteous & whole.
2. D. Martin Lloyd Jones – Understand that the “old man’ is not there. The only way to stop living as if he were still there is to realize he is not there. That is the NT method of teaching sanctification. The whole trouble with us says the NT, is that we do not realize what we are, that we still go on thinking we are the old man, and go on trying to do things to the old man. That has been done; the old man was crucified with Christ. He is non-existent; he is no longer there...If we but saw this as we should, we would really begin to live as Christians in this world.
  - a. At St. Irenaeus said, “The glory of God is a man fully alive.”
  - b. If you don't get this, you might have a tendency to have a performance based relationship with God. As long as you're doing good, then you & God are tight, but once you begin to slip into sin or become inconsistent then you have to try harder. You don't see yourself as a permanently new creation, but as one who has to maintain a sense of newness. (The spiritual activity is needed to strengthen your spirit but not to maintain your newness.)
3. If you get this, you will live at a new level of freedom in Christ. Sin won't be so ominous.
  - a. **2 Cor.5.17, <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**
  - b. **Gal.2.20, <sup>20</sup>My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.**
  - c. **Col.3.3 – For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.**
  - d. **1 Pet.2.9.– <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**
  - e. Like the slaves who had been freed you have to decide you are going to live in your new freedom.
4. Illustration of the caterpillar turning into a semi-butterfly in Bug's Life. Not so with you, when you died in Christ, like a regular caterpillar in a cocoon, you came out with a new identity. You will never return to your original condition because your whole identity has been permanently changed. Put away that

**caterpillar theology and embrace your butterfly reality. You have been emancipated, liberated & freed from your old nature.**