

The New You, pt.5, 8.3.08

Free At Last!

Rom.6.6f.

Introd.

1. Some slaves in the South not living in freedom though they had been freed.
2. Summarize last message from Ro.6.6a – Liberated from the Old Nature

Liberated from the Body of Sin – 6.6b

A. Diff translations

- a. NLT – We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives
- b. NIV – For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with,
- c. Ampl – We know that our old, unrenewed self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that our body which is the instrument of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil

B. “body of sin”

- a. This is referring to our physical bodies as dominated by sin. This isn't saying the physical body is evil, but it is a tool of sin. Tools can be used for both good or evil just as our bodies can be used for good or evil. James 3 says, “with the same tongue I praise my God and curse my brother who is made in God's image.”
- b. Sin uses our body for its own evil purposes. It perverts its natural desires. It turns hunger into gluttony; sleepiness into sloth; sexual desire into lust.
 - i. The body includes the physical dimensions which includes the brain. I believe this then encompasses my mind, will & emotions. We commonly refer to these as the soul dimensions, but sometimes Paul wraps these

into our body as well, which I believe that's what is happening in this text.

- c. We are to reckon or consider that our bodies are no longer conditioned or controlled by sinful nature. It is now conditioned and controlled by our new nature. My body isn't a servant of sin any longer b/c my old man/old nature/sinful nature is no more.
- d. You are new at the deepest part of your person. Your old nature has been completely vanquished and it's hold on every part of your person has been broken. It no longer has dominion over your mind, body or emotions. The new nature is in charge, BUT it takes time for everything to get into alignment with the new nature.
- e. Illustration of the poison gas plant in Needham, p.127-130.
- f. Diff. betw the new nature & your body
 - i. You rec'd a new nature that doesn't change. It's perfect/good/incorruptible. When I die, I'm not given another or some updates. I'll come to fully understand it (or in a greater degree), but it's not going to be renewed. (The board of directors & president)
 - ii. You didn't receive a new body. Your body (which includes your mind, will & emotions) is imperfect/easily influenced/corruptible. It is no longer dominated by the sinful nature, but it still influenced by sin. When you die, you will get an incorruptible body & it will get into perfect alignment with the new nature. Until then, there will always be this rub between the new nature (management) and body (employees).
 - iii. We still deal with sin inside of us. We each have beliefs, attitudes & values unbeknownst to us which are sinful. But, there is no power behind them and we have a new power in us that is not only conspiring against the old, but also giving us a better path of victory.

1. Illustration of a fire ant mound with a queen & one with no queen; Also, we have a power that not only will remove the ants, but it implants healthy organisms into the soil.
- g. A big key to getting the body into alignment with the new me is the renewing of the mind or ongoing repentance. It's getting my natural mind into alignment with the mind of Christ. We have beliefs, values and practices that we think are good and proper, yet are sinful (ex. Of dealing with people). When these are exposed, we repent (change our mind) and get these things into alignment with the mind of Christ...
- C. WHAT I BELIEVE HAPPENED: When I came to faith in Christ, I died to sin. God took away the old nature & inserted the new. I am now at the same place Adam & Eve were in their relationship with God. Nothing separates me from God. I don't have an old nature. I can choose to sin or not to sin. I'm not dominated by sin. I have perfect access to God, b/c I am new through & through. Unlike Adam, I'm in an imperfect environment & I have a history of sin. But, also unlike Adam, when I do sin, I don't receive a sinful nature and can't be separated from God. I am in Christ.

Liberated From Slavery to Sin – 6.6c – 7

A. Different Transl

- a. NLT – We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin.
- b. NIV – We should no longer be slaves to sin – b/c anyone who has died has been freed from sin.
- c. Amp. – that we no longer be slaves to sin. For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from (the power of) sin.

B. Interpretation

- a. We died with Christ in his death. His death paid the penalty for sin. Sin's price & penalty had been paid. Thus, sin no

longer has a hold on him. Since I was in him when he died I too was released from sin's power.

- b. Death severs the hold of sin on us.
- c. "Sin must release its grip upon the dead as if in a legal proclamation of acquittal."

C. Illustr - Story of Ken Lay.

- a. Outside of Christ, I'm guilty & condemned. The power of sin has ensnared my life & there's no way out. I put my trust in Christ. In so doing, I die in Christ to sin. Sin can lay no charge against me or apprehend me. It's power over me is broken.

D. Summarize with Flatten's paraphrase: We know this, that our old, unregenerate man, inherited from Adam, our old identity, has been crucified on the cross with Christ. God crucified Him so that our bodies, as vehicles of sin, might be rendered ineffective and powerless as an instrument of sin, so that sin now no longer dominates us. God has done this so that we would no longer be slaves to sin, that we would no longer have to sin - b/c our old man, who had no choice but to sin, is dead. We are not fighting a civil war, old man versus new man. The root source of sin and enslavement w/in our deep inner being is gone. As new creations in Christ, we have been set free from the control of sin!

Conclusion:

- A. What does this practically mean?
 - a. You will learn to more fully experience God's unconditional love rather than try to earn it. You can get out of the performance trap. You'll want to live in accordance with God's unconditional love.
 - b. More deeply appreciate that you are right with God on the good days and the bad
 - c. Sin is now conquerable. I'm no longer fighting myself.
 - d. It's all new all the time. I don't have to try maintaining my newness.

- e. You don't have to worry about your Christianity every time you sin, b/c you realize you are a new man. The old is gone.