

FORWARD TO FREEDOM SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Position of the Believer

IDENTITY THEFT (WILL THE REAL YOU PLEASE STAND UP?)

→ John 1:11-13; 1 John 3:1; Colossians 1:13

PRINCIPLE #1: When you receive Christ into your life you become a child of God.

PRINCIPLE #2: You cannot do for yourself what has already been done for you.

1 A KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED (Romans 6:1-10)

A. When you find a...

- ◆ Promise ◆ Claim it!
- ◆ Command ◆ Obe it!
- ◆ Fact ◆ Believe it!

B. Scripture refers to our position (identity) in Christ in the

past tense.

The Apostle Paul identifies every believer with Christ in His death (Romans 6:3,6; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-3), burial (Romans 6:4), resurrection (Romans 6:5,8,11), ascension (Ephesians 2:6), life (Romans 5:10,11), power (Ephesians 1:19-20), inheritance (Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 1:11-12)

C. Our identity in Christ is a question of knowledge, not experience

D. Our identity in Christ is established as historical fact (in Jesus)

2 AN ATTITUDE TO BE MAINTAINED (Romans 6:11)

- A. Death is an ending of a relationship, not existence (2 Corinthians 5:17,21)
- B. The power of sin has not died (John 8:34)

3 DISTINGUISH BETWEEN OUR MORTAL BODY & OURSELVES (Romans 6:12)

- A. Sin can remain in our physical bodies, but not in us
- ◆ We are more than our physical bodies (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23)
 - ◆ That which is mortal is corruptible (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)
- B. It is our responsibility not to let sin reign "in our mortal bodies"

4 EXERCISE THE WILL (Romans 6:13)

- A. One negative command: "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness"
- B. Two positive commands: "Offer yourselves to God"... and... "Offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness"

5 THE SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (Romans 6:14)

- A. You are not under law
- B. You are under grace

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Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God that He has blessed Christians in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

MY STORY

What do you consider to be your top 2-3 blessings in life? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read **John 1:11-13**. This passage states that all who have received Christ are now children of God. How did this happen, and why is it such an amazing spiritual blessing?
2. Read **Ephesians 1:3**. This verse says that God blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ? Now read **Ephesians 1:4-14** and list some of those spiritual blessings. Explain which spiritual blessing you are most grateful for.
3. According to **Ephesians 2:1-3** what was the former condition of every believer prior to coming to faith in Christ? How does this affect your gratitude factor to God for saving you?
4. According to **Ephesians 2:4-7** what did God do for us, and why did He do it? How does this new position (or "seating") affect our lives as people caught up in spiritual warfare?

5. Read **Romans 6:1-10**. Verse 2 says all true believers are already dead to sin. List all the other things the Apostle Paul mentions are true of people that have come to believe in Christ. (NOTE: If God says something is true, we are called to believe it... regardless of what our feelings say!)

6. Read **Romans 6:11**. During Sunday's message, it was stated that our relationship to sin is like that of a married person who has lost their spouse to physical death. What does that mean? How does our death in Christ to sin redefine our relationship to sin?

7. Read **Romans 6:12-14**. According to these verses, what are believers instructed to do (and not do) with our bodies?

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

8. **Romans 6:2-10** presents a powerful list of things that Christ experienced (i.e., crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension). It is also stated that what is true of Christ becomes true (spiritually/positionally) of all believers in Christ. How and when do you think that happens?

9. How does the truth of **Romans 6:11-14** help Christians today walk in a manner that is worthy of our new spiritual position before God?

TAKING IT HOME

10. In your own words, what does it mean to you that you are "seated in the heavenly realms in Christ"?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group, and ask God to help you grasp the magnitude of your position in Christ and the importance of walking worthy of that calling.