

## What does Romans 6:10 mean?

*For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.*

In 5:12 Paul says that "sin reigned in death". In other words, one way that sin rules over a person is through death.

In the context of Romans 6 (and the verse before and after 6:10) "death to sin" refers to no longer experiencing sin's power. Notice the context "death no longer has **dominion** over Christ" (6:9), we too are to count ourselves "dead to sin" meaning "not let sin **reign** in our **death-subjected bodies**" (6:11-12).

Jesus' death is his paying the guilt of sin and in this sense he experienced the reign of sin, that is, its power of causing death.

However, by dying and being raised sin (acting in its power of death) is no longer able to reign over him.

By dying Jesus is freed from the power of sin i.e. the realm in which sin reigns.

By being united with Christ we too are freed from the power of sin i.e. the realm in which sin reigns.

So the death he died to sin was a death he died to sin's power i.e. death.

## What is the difference between 'knowing' and 'reckoning'?

Basically knowing relates to ***past actions*** achieved ***by Christ*** in dying and being raised and our being united with him in his death and resurrection. This knowing determines our identity.

Reckoning refers to a way of thinking based on our knowing Christ's actions and our being united with him. Reckoning refers our determining to act a certain way based on our knowledge - ***a present orientation***.

***Knowing*** our union with Christ leads to ***reckoning*** (an impact upon our will, thoughts) which leads to ***presenting*** one's members (one's body) to act.

## **Colossians 3:8-10     Putting off / putting on**

*But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.*

*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him ...*

We have put off the old man (the person that we were in Adam - unregenerate and slaves to sin) and have put on the new man (the person that we are in Christ – freed from sin and slaves to righteousness).

The past tenses are very important in this passage. Paul is talking about a change that has occurred in who we are. If we are Christians then this change has occurred in the past.

We are not being told NOW to put off the old man and put on the new man because that has already happened.

What we are to put off in the present is the behaviours that used to be associated with the old man (who we used to be in Adam).

The reason we are to put off these behaviours in the present is because of the decisive putting off that happened in the past i.e. do not behave consistently with who you were but who you are now.

The putting off and putting on image is of changing clothes.

## **If Christians really are dead to sin why do we still struggle so with temptation?**

Dead to sin means that we no longer live in the old age enslaved by sin – we don't live in the realm of sin. It is a legal change, a positional change but more fundamentally a personhood change, that is, regeneration. Dead to sin means we have been regenerated to live new lives.

This does not mean that we never sin. We do sin and we do struggle with temptation.

Temptation comes from that aspect of us that is still connected to the old age due to our bodies not having been removed from the old age.

This aspect of us is metaphorically called 'the flesh' and is the source of temptation. When we are resurrected we will have bodies but we will not have metaphorical flesh.

Although we have been regenerated and made righteous, while in the flesh there is also progressive sanctification.

That is the short explanation which probably raises more questions. I hope to answer this more fully on Sunday.