



Romans 6-8

# BECOMING MORE & MORE LIKE JESUS CHRIST

*The Lord is not doing so much through us as He is in us. Our Lord always concentrates on the greater need. ...It is a mistake to measure spiritual maturity merely by the presence of gifts. By themselves they are an inadequate basis for a man's lasting influence to God. They may be present and they may be valuable, but the Spirit's object is something far greater—to form Christ in us through the working of the cross. His goal is to see Christ inwrought in believers. So it is not merely that a man does certain things or speaks certain words, but that he is a certain kind of man. ...In the long run it is what we are, and not simply what we do or say, that matters with God, and the difference lies in the formation of Christ within.*

—Miles J. Stanford, *The Green Letters*

## In Romans 1-5, Paul teaches us five great UNIVERSAL truths regarding sin and salvation:

1. All of us (i.e., all of humanity) have sinned and fallen short of the perfect righteousness of God (1:18-3:20).
2. All of us are spiritually dead, being born in Adam, and deserve eternal death because of our sin (5:12-21).
3. All of us need the free gift of justification through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (3:21-31; 5:12-21).
4. All of us can be declared righteous before God by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (4:1-25).
5. All those who trust in Jesus Christ are reconciled to God and recipients of all the blessings of salvation (5:1-11).

In Romans 6-8, Paul shifts his focus specifically to believers and teaches us about our sanctification in Christ—our progressive transformation into the image of Christ, being set apart from the world and reflecting more and more of His character.

## THE THREE IMPERATIVES FOR OUR SANCTIFICATION ARE...

- \_\_\_\_\_ (6:3-10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6:11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6:12-14)

*This epistle [Romans] is really the chief part of the New Testament and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with, the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes. —Martin Luther*

**“All”** (Greek, *pas*) occurs 71x in Romans. Paul's focus is universal.

*Knowledge isn't everything. But everything rests on knowledge. Jesus said, “you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32). To the degree that we do not know the truth, we are vulnerable to ignorance and deception. To the degree that we do know the truth, we are free to become all that God has for us. —Max Anders*

*Our “reckoning” ourselves dead to sin does not make it a fact—it is already a fact through our union with Him. Our reckoning it to be true only makes us begin to realize the fact in experience.*

—James R. McConkey

Twelve essential truths that we are to know as believers:

1. We are immersed into Christ and into His death (6:3).
2. Our old self was crucified with Christ (6:6; cf. Gal. 2:20).
3. Christ has defeated death through His resurrection (6:9).
4. In Christ, we are dead to sin but alive to God (6:11).
5. We are slaves to whatever we obey—God or sin (6:16).
6. We have died to the law in order to be joined to Christ (7:1-6).
7. The law is spiritual but I am, on my own, fleshly in nature (7:14).
8. In my flesh (my old self-life) nothing good dwells (7:18).
9. Our future glory far outweighs our present suffering (8:18).
10. The whole creation is groaning, longing for redemption (8:22).
11. All things work together for good to those who love God (8:28).
12. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (8:38-39).

### THE TWO PRIMARY DANGERS TO OUR SANCTIFICATION ARE...

- Going back into bondage to \_\_\_\_\_ (6:15-23)
- Going back into bondage to the \_\_\_\_\_ (7:1-25)

### THE ONE PRIMARY POWER TO OUR SANCTIFICATION IS...

- \_\_\_\_\_ (8:1-30)

The Spirit of God regenerates us (Titus 3:4-7), immerses us into Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), indwells us (Rom. 8:9), changes our mindset and our desires (Rom. 8:5) leads us (Rom. 8:14), confirms to us that we are God’s children (Rom. 8:16), helps us in our weakness (Rom. 8:26), intercedes for us (Rom. 8:27), and conforms us more and more into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).

### God’s Process of Transformation in Christ through the Spirit:



The good news of Romans 8 is that this process of transformation is all under the reign of grace. There is NO condemnation in Christ! And NOTHING can separate us from His love. In God’s eyes, the process is not only guaranteed but also already complete.

*You can still be a slave experientially, even when you are no longer a slave legally. Whatever you may feel, whatever your experience may be, God tells us here, through His Word, that if we are in Christ we are no longer in Adam, we are no longer under the reign and rule of sin. And if I fall into sin, as I do, it is simply because I do not realize who I am.* —D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

**Flesh** (Greek, *sarx*) is used 147x in the NT. It can refer to human nature in general, to the weakness and mortality of humanity, or to the self-focused, worldly, proud nature of sinful humanity. In this last sense, it is “King Self.”

*Anything we seek to do, or keep from doing, in our own strength brings us under legal bondage. The principle of law applies to the self-life and can produce nothing but self-righteousness.*

—Miles J. Stanford

*“Being in the Spirit” is a power sphere or realm in contrast to the realm of the flesh. A change in dominion has occurred for those who are united with Christ.*

—Thomas R. Schreiner

*In the simplest possible terms, God’s eternal purpose for His people is that we should become like Jesus.* —John R. W. Stott

*Grace is the most powerful force in the universe.* —Dr. Gerald May

*Nothing therefore should give greater joy to all God’s people than to meditate upon this love of Christ. Indeed, our chief defect as Christians is that we fail to realize Christ’s love to us.*

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones