

Unless The Church Is Dead It Will Never Please God

Romans 6:11-14 NLT - You see, as our scripture tells us this morning, I must be able to say, **“Yes Lord, I am dead.”**

- In order for you to have eternal life with our savior Jesus Christ
- You also must be able to say, **“Yes Lord, I’m dead.”**

In order for our church to be a living, breathing part of the body of Christ, **we must also be a dead church.**

- **We must** be able to say **yes Lord** we are a dead church.
- I tell you this morning that my prayers for you are **that you will die.**

This may sound a bit strange but I love you so much that I want you to die.

Romans 6:11-14 NLT

¹¹ So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

¹² Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.

- In order to be a dead church, its members **must first die to their sins.**

Paul writes, people who have accepted the free gift of salvation are **dead to sin.**

Look at verse 11 again: ¹¹ So you also should ***consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin*** and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

In order to be a Christian we must die to our sin.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 that; ¹⁴ Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

How differently we know him now! Verse 17. ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! – **Because** We have **died** to our old life....

- **We cannot try to cling to our old life.**
- **That life ought to be dead.**
- **That old vessel that was filled with sin and shame –**
- **Is to be torn apart and a new person is to emerge.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV - ¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, ***he is a new creature:*** old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- In order for this **new creation** to be built, **the old must die.**

A man who was selling an old warehouse:

The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Gangs had damaged the doors, smashed the windows and thrown trash everywhere. As he showed a prospective buyer the property, he took pains to say that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage and clean out the garbage.

The buyer smiled and said, “Forget about the repairs.” When I buy this place, I’m going to build something completely different. I don’t want the building; I want the site.

When we die to Christ all that is left of us is the site.

- **Everything else must die**
- Jesus must take control and build a whole new creation in us.
- **A dead church** is one where **the members are dead** men and women walking.
- **Christians are dead men walking.**
- They have died to their sins
- And **they are allowing Jesus** to resurrect them **into a new life.**

When someone is baptized they are buried with Jesus through baptism and they are supposed to be raised with him **into a newness of life.**

They have been reborn.

- Born again, as Jesus told Nicodemus in the third chapter of John.

In order to be born again, we must first die.

John 3:1-8 NLT - There was a man named **Nicodemus**, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ² After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that **God is with you.**"

³ Jesus replied, ***"I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."*** ⁴ "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

⁵ Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ **Humans can reproduce only human life,** but the **Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.** ⁷ So don't be surprised when I say, ***'You must be born again.'*** ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, **so you can't explain** how people are born of the Spirit."

Churches can never flourish and be successful in its mission of making disciples until its members are dead people.

- **Dead to sin** not only are we to be dead to sin, ***we must also be dead to self***.

Look at **Romans 6:12-13 NLT** -

¹² **Do not let sin** control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

¹³ **Do not let any part of your body** become an instrument of evil to serve sin.

Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

- Folks we have to **die to self**...
- We have this new life that has been given to us through **being born again**
- The old life is dead.
- Our **priorities change**.
- What used to be important **has changed**.
- **No longer are we to be the old selfish got to have my way person**.
- **We have died** to that old selfish life, **we must die to ourselves**.

A great illustration of that is **the Apostle Paul**.

Titus 1:1 NLT –

This letter is from Paul, **a slave of God** and **an apostle of Jesus Christ**. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them **to know the truth** that shows them **how to live godly lives**.

The **King James translation** translates **slave** as -

- ***Bond Servant*** Paul writes that I am a slave or a bondservant.
- The best definition here is –
- ***“devoted to another to the disregard of one’s own interests.”***

On its basic level a bondservant is simply following your master **to complete disregard of your own will, emotions, desire.**

- **A bondservant disregards** their own self-interest their own will.
- Their own desires and even their own emotions.

A bondservant **was a slave** as the NIV and the NLT translate the word but **they were voluntary slaves.**

When we think of slaves

- We think of our history of slaves being captured in foreign lands
- And transported somewhere to be in bondage against their will.

That's **not the slave that Paul is talking about.**

- **A bondservant** is someone who voluntarily submits to another.
- If a person had been a servant for someone -
- And had been treated well -
- And **they wanted** to be bound to and provided for the rest of their lives
- They would **voluntarily become a bondservant.**

They became utterly dependent upon the master.....

They gave up whatever rights and self that they had ***in order to serve the master.***

- **They die to themselves.....**
- This was saying a lot about Paul.
- This is one seemingly small description of **himself**
- But if we look at this statement, he is describing death to self.

Paul was a big deal in his former life.

- Paul was standing **giving approval at the stoning of Stephen** right after the death of Jesus.
- Paul was given the authority **to drag Christians from their homes** and punish them.

All the religious leaders of the day knew who he was.

Paul reminds Titus when he writes him that -

- I have died to that person I used to be.
- I am no longer the man I used to be.
- I am a bondservant of God. I am his to do with as He pleases.

I am dead to my own desires.

- All that is important to me now **is the will of God**.
- In the Garden as Jesus prayed to God that the cup of death pass from Him
- He said **“not my will but your will be done”** Father.

When a person is dead to self that is their prayer

- Not my will but your will God.
- When a church is dead, that's their prayer also;
- Not my will around here God.
- It doesn't matter what I want Father. What matters is **what you want**.

We have got to be dead to our desires and wills and surrender to the will of the Father.

That's what a dead church looks like

- Unselfish, looking only to **follow Jesus**.
- We must become **dead to sin**
- And **dead to self**
- If we are to become **true followers** of Jesus Christ.

Paul writes in **Romans 6:13a NLT** – ¹³ Do not let any part of your body become ***an instrument of evil*** to serve sin.

- If we become **Dead to Sin** and **Dead to Self** then **we become:**
- **Alive in Christ!**

Vs13b - Instead, **give yourselves completely to God**, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

CLOSE:

- If we become **Dead to Sin** and **Dead to Self** then we become:
- **Alive in Christ!**

The NKJV says ***“present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead,”***

- A dead person comes alive from the dead through Christ Jesus.
- A dead church comes alive from the dead through Christ Jesus.

We must die to sin and to self in order ***for Jesus to be alive in our lives*** and ***in our ministry***.

- A dead church realizes that it has **no strength on its own**.
- As we **die to sin and self**, the world sees us as ***Jesus wants them to see us***.
- **Alive in Christ!!!!!!!!!!!!**

PRAISE TEAM:

We need to look at ourselves as ***being dead to sin and self***!

- And let others look at us and ***see us alive in Christ Jesus***.

As a church we need to be dead

- As a church within the body, ***dead to sin and selfishness***.

When we are a dead church, people will look at us and say those people down at ***“My Church” are really alive to Christ***.

In order for that to happen, **we need to be a dead church**.