



1. Last week, we discussed the spiritual transformation that takes place in the life of the Christian. How does believing in and living the gospel, that God sent Christ to die for our sins and reconcile us to Him, make us more like Jesus? What does eternal life look like for those that are in Christ?
2. Throughout this series, we have said that Christians are saved by *grace alone* through *faith alone* in *Christ alone* for *the glory of God alone*. But if we are saved entirely by grace, “are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?” The New Testament teaches that the believer is dead to sin in two ways (Romans 6:1-14).
 - * We are dead to (freed from) the guilt and condemnation of sin
 - * We are dead to (freed from) the reign and dominion of sin

What is the guilt of sin and how are we freed from it (Romans 6:22-23)? What is the reign of sin and how are we freed from it (Romans 8:1-4)? How have you experienced this?

3. According to the Bible, Christians are freed from the guilt and power of sin in a single moment (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Colossians 1:13-14). Theologians call this *definitive sanctification*, a decisive break from sin based solely on the work of the Holy Spirit at the moment one trusts in Christ. Why is it important that our freedom from sin is based on something we believe, not something we do? How might you count yourself dead to sin on a daily basis?
4. Although definitive sanctification frees us from bondage to sin, the presence of sin remains in the life of the new Christian. Although we receive a new heart and Christ’s power, we must actively fight against sin’s presence. The lifelong process of fighting against sin and growing in Christlike character is called *progressive sanctification*. Read and discuss 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 and 2 Peter 1:3-8. How is this different from definitive sanctification? Why is it important that our sanctification is centered on the gospel and not our own efforts? What does this look like in your everyday life?
5. An old theologian said that if we are to grow in holiness, “we must get to the cross, and dwell there.” What does it mean for you to dwell in the cross today? What would it look like to die to sin today? What habits of sin have you let remain in your life?

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