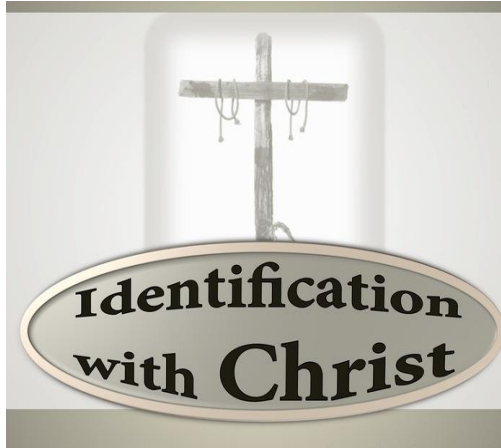


Victory Through Identification with Christ

Pastor Kelly Sensenig



The Biblical truth and teaching about Christian IDENTIFICATION with Christ means that we have participated with Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension which results in a death to our "old man" relationship to sin (Rom. 6:6) and our prior relationship "to the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2). God has granted us spiritual deliverance from these condemning and enslaving relationships (Rom. 6:6; 7:6) and promises a new way of life, power, victory over

sin, and authority over the Devil. Prior to our salvation, we were viewed as being "under the law" (Rom. 3:19; Gal. 3:10; 3:3; 4:5), a relationship that was comparable to living in a prison with a slave master, who condemned us for our sins, but not giving us the remedy and power to live victoriously (Rom. 7:5,9).

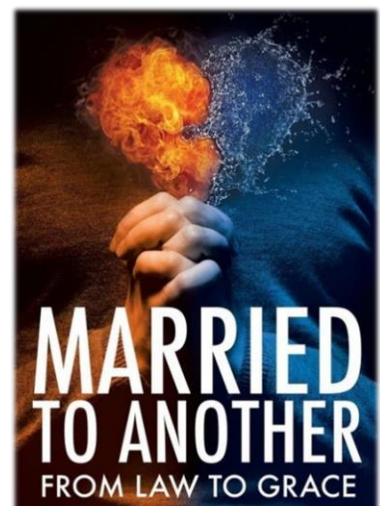
John Bunyan wrote:

"To run and work the law commands, but gives us neither feet nor hands. But better news the gospel brings, it bids us fly and gives us wings."

When we came to personal faith in Christ, we were removed from this old relationship and position of being enslaved to sin and under God's judgment through our identification with Jesus Christ's saving and sanctifying work.

Romans 7:4 gives us this picture or analogy:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law (*our old condemning and enslaving relationship with the law was broken and severed*) **by the body of Christ** (*through His death on the cross and our co-crucifixion with Him the law relationship ended - Col. 2:14*); **that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead** (*joined to Jesus Christ, sharing His life in a new relationship of love and freedom from the law's demands, condemnation, and slavery to sin*)



through our co-resurrection with Christ), that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (transformation of living through our new union and identification with the risen Christ, as we share His life and nature).

Since we have been united to Christ, we are no longer under the authority and domain of the old law relationship. Instead, we now possess a newfound victory through our union or identification with the death and resurrection of Christ, which is explained as being “under grace” and not law (Rom. 6:14-15). Living under grace (a new rule, regulation, and direction for living) in the context of Romans chapter six and other New Testament passages means to experience Christ’s victorious provision through identification with His death and resurrection. In particular, it means to experience His resurrection life within us (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:10), as the Holy Spirit points us to Christ, His completed victory, and our newfound freedom from the old law relationship that kept us under the power of sin (Gal. 5:18; Rom. 8:2; Phil. 1:19).

Our union with Christ speaks of our spiritual identification with Christ and means that we share the victories Christ achieved for us through His finished work in the Gospel (His death, burial, and resurrection). We are so intricately woven together (identified) with Christ’s work (“together with him” – Col. 2:13) that we become the recipients of the blessings provided through His Gospel work and the full authority that He possesses in Heaven today (Eph. 1:3; 2:6). Identification means that whatever happened to Christ also happened to us. When He died, we died with Him. When He was buried, we were buried. When He arose again, we arose with Him, and when He ascended into Heaven, we also ascended with Him. We will research all these identification blessings in this study.



New Testament theology teaches us that our victory as New Testament saints is rooted in our positional deliverance from the old way of life and in God giving us a new way of life through our identification with Christ. It’s something that occurred at the time of our conversion or salvation. It is an accomplished fact. As God’s people, we are not to fight FOR victory but FROM the victory we already possess through our union and identification with Christ. We fight from a

position of victory that we already possess through our identification with Christ's own victory. To state succinctly, our victory as God's people today resides in the completed work of Christ (His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension) and our identification with this work from a union and positional perspective. In order to possess victory, we must go back into the past and rediscover where it originates and then apply it to our present-day living. In essence, if we don't go back, we cannot move forward in our Christian experience and live in victory.

The Bible teaches we have died with Christ and have been raised with Christ (Romans 6:1-14; Gal. 2:20) which results in the death of the old person with all of its sinful inclinations and lusts (Gal. 5:24). Our spiritual identification with Christ's crucifixion (death) results in the power of sin being destroyed and broken over our life (Rom. 6:6) and our identification with Christ's resurrection (Rom. 6:4-5, 11; Col. 3:1) results in God giving us a new birth, life, and nature to complete our victory in Christ.

These identifying and victorious truths are rooted in the Biblical words and phrases of "dead" (Rom. 6:1, 7, 8, 11; 7:4, 6; Col. 3:3), "death" (Rom. 6:3, 5), "crucified" (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; 5:24; 6:14), "buried" (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12), "raised" (Rom. 6:4), "resurrection" (Rom. 6:5), "risen" (Col. 2:12; 3:1), "quicken together with him" (Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13), "sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6; 1:3), "together with him" (Col. 2:13), "live" (Rom. 6:7; Gal. 2:20), "alive" (Rom. 6:11), "liveth" (Gal. 2:20), "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4), "newness of spirit" (Rom. 7:4) and "married to another" (Rom. 7:4).

These terms and phrases relate to the believer's experiential union with the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. In His sufferings and death, Jesus not only paid for the *penalty* of sin, He also paid for our release from the *power* of sin. In His resurrection Jesus not only gives us *eternal life*, but an abundant and *new way of life*, a victorious life over sin through His new birth and nature being communicated to us, whereby we become "alive from the dead" (Rom. 6:13). In His ascension, Christ gave us full authority over the devil and the evil spiritual powers present in this world (Eph. 1:19-23). The Bible teaches that each Christian is related in some theological way to Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. When placing faith in Christ, God looks at us in a new way as having been legally joined to Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, as if we

ourselves had been there and it had happened to us. This unseen union with Christ's saving work delivers us from the *penalty* of sin but also the *power* of sin.

When we talk about our position, we are referring to our position or standing in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:3), which is something we have because of our spiritual union or identification with Christ in His victorious death and resurrection. This is amazing and life changing truth. When you apply positional, union, and identification truth to your life, you can experience daily victory over the sin nature and powerful lusts that seek to rule your life. This is God's plan for victorious Christian living today. If we are going to live in victory over sin, we must go back and remember what happened in the past, when we were saved. We were spiritually identified with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection which grants to each believer a full-fledged victory over sin.

Our co-participation with Christ's death and burial confirms that the old man was defeated and our co-participation with Christ's resurrection assures us that we have been given a new birth, life, and nature because of our union with Christ's risen life. According to God's reckoning or records (the way God sees things), we have already shared a death and resurrection union with Christ. Out of this past union, victory was already acquired for us. As a result, we can possess victory today, the victory Christ provided for us over sin and Satan when He died and rose from the grave.

Ephesians 4:22 explains this positional victory in the terms of putting off:
"That ye put off (*lay aside*) concerning the former conversation (*lifestyle*) the old man, which is corrupt (*morally and spiritually decayed*) according to the deceitful lusts."

The fact "That ye put off" (have put off - PAST TENSE) is a description of what has already happened at the point of salvation or conversion. The Greek aorist tense used here indicates a once-and-for-all action and transaction that occurred in the past when we were saved. It is an accomplished fact! It happened and it is still true today. There may be a continuous "putting off" as in verse 8 (the application of the position – "ye also

OLD Man



NEW Man



put off all these”), but this daily routine rests on the one-time historical “put off” at conversion, when we were united to Christ’s death. The phrase “concerning the former conversation” speaks of the manner of our corrupted and lustful lifestyle during our unsaved (old man) state, prior to salvation. Ephesians 2:3 also reminds us of our preconversion days: “Among whom also we all had our conversation (*manner of living*) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

Who is the “old man” of Ephesians 4:22? The biblical expression of “the old man” refers to the old person we used to be, when we were bound to sin by our sinful disposition, our unconverted nature, when we were ruled by evil desires and practices. It speaks of our character and way of life before becoming a Christian or prior to regeneration. The old man is not your pop or father but refers to the old self, the person we were before God the Holy Spirit united or joined us to Christ. It is our former standing apart from Christ and how God viewed us prior to our salvation and new birth. The old man is a reference to our old self, the unsaved person we were in our unregenerate state with his sinful nature, disposition, evil passions, lusts, and enslavement to sin. It references our pre-conversion days while we were still positioned in Adam and not in Christ.

In practice, the believer must reckon this old man to be dead. Here Paul is emphasizing the positional side of the truth that we have put off the old man once for all through our identification with Christ’s crucifixion (Rom. 6:6). Positionally, the laying aside of the old man has been done for the believing sinner by the death of Christ. We are to count this to be true in our past and make it applicable to our present Christian life and experience today. God gave us the victory at the time of our salvation! We have it already – now we must live it out in our daily lives. It’s a matter of fact, “ye have put off the old man” through your identification with Christ’s death.

The good news is that the Bible teaches this “old man” (who we were under sin’s power) has been crucified or put to death, but it does not end here. The Bible goes on to teach that a new man has emerged, which is a born-again man or person who has new life, a new nature, new drives, and new determination to live for God. This occurred because of our union with Christ’s resurrection.

Ephesians 4:24 goes on to further explain this victory in the terms of putting on: “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created (born again) in righteousness and true holiness.”

The “new man” is the Christian, the post-conversion person, in contrast to the “old man,” the pre-conversion person. Our union in and with Christ’s death put to death the OLD YOU or OLD MAN under sin’s power but our union with Christ’s resurrection gave us life, which is a new life, nature, power, and complete victory over the mastery of sin, so that we became a NEW YOU or NEW MAN. And this spiritual transaction occurred at the moment of conversion or salvation when, according to God’s records, we were joined to Christ’s death and resurrection and passed through the victory with Him.

Our victory is a done deal! It was already given to us at the cross and resurrection of Christ. Today we don’t fight FOR victory, we CLAIM the victory that we already possess through our positional death and resurrection in Christ. Yes, it’s true, we actually share in the victory Christ provided for us when He died on the cross and was raised from the dead. To look for victory outside the parameters of Christ’s death and resurrection will only end in legalism and defeat (Rom. 7:14-25).

Colossians 3:9-10 teaches the same positional truth as it relates to putting off the old man: “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds” (PAST TENSE). The Bible then goes on to say in Colossians 3:10: “And have put on the new *man* (PAST TENSE), which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.” This once again references the old person we used to be under sin’s power and enslavement. The old person was defeated at Calvary’s cross and our co-crucifixion with Christ. The new person we are in Christ is a born-again man possessing spiritual life, God’s nature, and victory. This new man emerged with our co-resurrection with Christ.

Galatians 3:27 uses the same imagery: “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (clothed yourselves with Christ). This means that the Holy Spirit baptizes or immerses us in Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), uniting us with Christ and therefore identifying us with His death and resurrection life, which is explained as an accomplished fact in the past - “have put on Christ.” Putting on Christ is the result of the believer’s spiritual union with Christ. It is a positional statement that

means the Holy Spirit puts us in Christ and Christ in the believer (John 14:20) creating a union with Christ's death (crucifixion) and resurrection life.

In some spiritual and supernatural way, which transcends time and space, the believing person who places his trust in Jesus Christ is crucified, buried, and resurrected with his Savior, putting on Christ, or being spiritually immersed (identified) in the person and work of Christ (our position). Again, this spiritual immersing in Christ by the Holy Spirit occurred at conversion and the physical baptism in water (our profession) is a symbol of this transaction. Water baptism dramatizes what has positionally occurred with the putting off of the old man (death to sin) and the putting on of a new man (new life in Christ - Rom. 6:4). It signified surrender and willingness to follow through in daily practice with what occurred positionally with the believer's identification with Christ's death and resurrection (death to sin and newness of life). The early Christians were baptized in water following their salvation indicating their willingness to put off their old way of life and in a practical way put on a new way of life.

Old Cloth



New Cloth



The word "put off" is a figure of speech and means to strip off and discard like a filthy, worn-out garment, tossed on the rubbish heap. As previously stated, the old man is a reference to our old self living under the power of sin, the lost and unregenerate person we once were before we were crucified or died with Christ through our IDENTIFICATION with Christ's death (Rom. 6:6; Gal.

2:20). The putting on of the new man ("And that ye have put on the new man" – Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:22) is essentially the regenerated man, the new person that is created in Christ Jesus, who now possesses a new nature and the life of God (Eph. 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:17). Because of our IDENTIFICATION with Christ's resurrection, we have become a "new man" and "new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17) by receiving a new birth, life, and inward disposition that enables us to live victoriously.

I usually keep my old pants out in the garage that I use for mowing and weed eating. The reason is they are forever grass stained and soiled. Instead of walking through

the house and getting grass over my wife's floor, I change before coming into the house. No grass on the kitchen and living room floor makes for a happy marriage! This is what Paul is teaching us. When we came to faith in Christ, the sin-stained clothing of our old life was removed, and God gave us a new set of clothing to wear that were brand spanking new! The old pants reference our sin nature, the old way of living, the old patterns of lustful dominance and the new pants speak of our new birth, life, and nature in Christ.

Let me tell you the story of our salvation. Once we were an "old man" (person) that was conquered and defeated by sin but through our union with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection we have become a new man (person) sharing Christ's resurrection life and nature. You are familiar with the expression, "Out with the old and in with the new!" This is the story of our salvation. It's the story of what took place at the time of our salvation or when we became a Christian.

1 John 5:4 -5 reminds us:

"For whatsoever is born of God (*our human spirit that resides within us is spiritual conceived and given spiritual life – a new birth from the realm of spiritual death – John 3:6*) **overcometh the world** (*by virtue of our identification with Christ's resurrection life we are world conquerors*): **and this is the victory that overcometh the world** (*1 John 2:15-17*), **even our faith** (*our initial faith in Christ's death and resurrection which identifies us with His victory*). **Who is he that overcometh the world** (*positionally, through our identification with Christ, we have already overcome the evil world system that is against God, as in 2 Peter 1:4, with all of its lusts and sinful allurements*) **but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"** (*when we believed on the Son of God to give us eternal life – 1 John 5:11-12*).



This again is talking about what happened at the time we expressed faith in Christ. When a person places personal faith in Christ for salvation, their human spirit is regenerated, given new life, and they become a new person united to the resurrected Christ. By virtue of our position in Christ (sharing our identification with His death and life) every believer at the moment they are born again has overcome the world, which is an evil system of sins, sinister beings, and

secular ideas or attitudes that are against God and Christians. We have overcome the world! This again is a done deal – an accomplished fact!

Faith in Christ brings us into a new living and vital union with Jesus Christ that results in our human spirit being born again and receiving a new victorious life. So, in the records, annals, and mind of God, we have “put off” our old man (the old self and sinful disposition) and “put on” a new man (a new self and disposition) at the very moment we are born again (Eph. 4:22, 24; Col. 3:9-10). Today we recognize



that we must be born again (John 3:7) to enter into this newfound victory and way of life. Without possessing God’s life and nature, without being “married to another” (Rom. 7:4), joined to the resurrected and living Christ through union and identification with Him, we cannot live in victory. We must be married to the Victor to possess victory!

The Bible goes on to say that the new man or self is actually a new creation of God: “which after God (God’s likeness) is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24). The contrast could not be clearer. The old man life revolved around corruption and *deceitful* lust (vs. 22) whereas the new man lifestyle is linked to righteousness and *true* holiness. What a change! Again, this new man transformation (God’s work or recreation) is something that occurred at conversion. We became a new creation patterned after God, within the realm of our human spirit, because of the infusion of God’s life and nature through our identification with the resurrected Christ. As a result, we are now capable of producing a new way of life because of WHAT happened and WHAT we are in Christ. By position in Christ, we are created in perfect righteousness and holiness (being born again with God’s nature and life) and in practice we spend a lifetime applying this new man position. We used to sing a chorus that reflects this instantaneous transformation that results in a new way of life.

“Things are different now,
Something happened to me
When I gave my heart to Jesus.

Things are different now--
I was changed, it must be,
When I gave my heart to Him.

Things I loved before have passed away,
Things I love far more have come to stay.
Things are different now,
Something happened to me
When I gave my heart to Jesus.”

Why are we different? It's because something did happen when we believed on Christ to be our Savior. We were immediately and forever given a new identification with Christ's resurrection which resulted in us becoming a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), sharing His own life and nature, a Godlike nature which is completely righteous and holy, and which can lead us on to a new way of life. In virtue of our union and identification with Christ's resurrection life, we are a new creation, by possessing God's life and nature, and therefore have received the righteousness and true holiness we need to live a new way of life.

The word “created” (Eph. 4:24) describes the New Birth which results in every Gospel believer becoming a new creation and therefore receiving all the spiritual incentives related to righteous and holy living. In other words, our new man identification with Christ's resurrection implants a new, Godlike nature within us that is totally righteous and holy, and which gives us new drives and determinations to produce godliness in our life.

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus (*by implanting within us a new life and nature though sharing Christ's life and nature*) unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

2 Peter 1:3-4 explains it like this:

“**According as his divine power** (*sanctification through Godlike Power*) **hath given** (*past action at the time of our conversion*) **unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness** (*godly living*), **through the knowledge of him** (*a relationship with God and Jesus Christ through our union with Him as in verse 2 – Phil. 4:13*) **that hath called us** (*past action relating to initial salvation – 1 Pet. 1:15*) **to glory and virtue** (*to reflect the shining splendor or excellence of Jesus Christ through the virtues of*

moral excellence and goodness): **Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises** (*Gospel and salvation promises – regeneration, redemption, imputed righteousness, eternal life*): **that by these** (*with this result*) **ye might be partakers** (*co-sharers, partners, participants*) **of the divine nature** (*sanctification through the Godlike Nature – sharing the essential and inherent characteristics of God – not the essence of God – through being united to Christ*), **having escaped** (*a liberation that occurs at conversion*) **the corruption that is in the world through lust** (*through sharing the Godlike power and nature we have been delivered from the moral decay of the world system which is compared to a prison from which we have been delivered*).

Peter reminds us that God’s spiritual provisions for them made them adequate and in need of nothing when it comes to living a victorious Christian life. Think of it like this. A normal baby is born with everything he needs to maintain his life and only needs to grow. In a similar way, the Christian has all that he needs to maintain his spiritual life and only needs to grow. Notice that we have already escaped the lustful corruption which is in this world (“having escaped” – past tense) because we have shared in the “divine power” and “divine nature” given to us at the New Birth through our union with Christ.

In other words, we are to produce a new way of life because of our new man IDENTIFICATION with Christ’s resurrection life and nature which recreated us into a new person with the full potential to live in “righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24), or as Romans 6:18 says, “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” Yes, things are different in our lives because something happened to us – we were born again, created in Christ Jesus, and fully supplied to live a new, transformed way of life (2 Pet. 1:3-4). We put off the old man and put on the new man, becoming a brand new person in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 explains about the believer becoming a new creature in Christ: **“Therefore if any man be in Christ (WHERE WE ARE – our position in Christ, sharing His life and nature through a living and dynamic union with Him – Gal. 2:20) he is a new creature (WHAT WE ARE - a new and fantastic creation of God because we now possess new**



life, a new nature, new drives, and a new determination to live a holy life – Eph. 2:10): **old things are passed away** (WHAT WE WERE - we have been severed from our past position in Adam, the old man position, and slavery to sin with all of its dominating and empowering effects in our old way of life – Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24); **behold, all things are become new**” (WHAT WE BECAME – positionally, we were brought into a living union with Christ with newfound spiritual blessings of freedom, liberty, victory, a new nature, and new desires, which we now possess as a result of our new position and life in Christ – Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24 – “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” – but practically we must apply this position over our entire life = progressive sanctification).

Yes indeed, God takes us from the realm of defeat into the realm of victory when we become a Christian through identifying us with the risen life of Jesus Christ. Immediately, we are transferred into a new realm of spiritual life, possessing a new position in Christ, a new nature, a new orientation to live for God, and a new love for those things that we once had no interest in as an unbeliever.

“New Life in Christ! Abundant and free!
What glories shine, what joys are mine,
What wondrous blessings I see!
My past with its sin,
The searching and strife,
Forever gone, there's a bright new dawn!
For in Christ I have found New Life!”

This well-known Bible verse (2 Cor. 5:17) teaches a similar truth of putting off the old and putting on the new, which is the same imagery seen in the books of Ephesians and Colossians. My wife and I were cleaning out the attic this last week. This always proves to be a test on anyone’s marriage! We were getting rid of some old things in the attic that needed to go – old clothing, old and worn-out Christmas tree lights, and other old items we no longer needed. Most of the things you store in an attic are old things that you really do not need anymore!

Well, Paul is teaching us repeatedly that upon faith in Christ, the old things were discarded and taken away from us (the attic was emptied!) and we must never again clean out the attic because what happened to us was very thorough, complete, and final. When we placed faith in Christ and were therefore placed in

Christ, the old things related to our unregenerate way of life (our old standing in Adam, our old sin nature, our old evil lusts and enslavement to sin) were from a positional perspective, completely, and finally severed from us. This is because by virtue of our union with Christ's death and resurrection we have shared in His complete and total victory over sin.

When we become a new creation (a new regenerate person linked to the living Christ) the Bible says, "old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). Again, this is speaking of a change from our old position "in Adam" (1 Cor. 15:22) under sin's power to a new transforming and victorious position in Christ and union with Him.



Butterflies make a chrysalis, while other insects, like the tobacco hornworm caterpillar, makes a cocoon and becomes a moth. They will stay and transform over time into a butterfly or a moth. Most butterflies and moths stay inside of their chrysalis or cocoon for between five to 21 days. Of course, from caterpillar to butterfly is a beautiful way to illustrate what happens when we are removed from

the old position under sin's power and given a new position in Christ. We become by virtue of our union with Christ, a new creation, sharing Christ's very life and nature, and therefore are no longer associated with our old caterpillar state, under sin's power and slavery, and have reemerged as a completely new butterfly (a new creation in Christ).

Yes, we become a new creation the moment we place faith in Christ. We are NOT reformed but regenerated and totally remade into a new person. We were given new life, a new nature, and a new outlook on life because we were transferred from our past position as a slave in Adam to a new position of freedom and transformation in Christ.

When the Bible speaks of how all things become new, it is not talking about our PRACTICE but our POSITIONAL newness we received the moment we trusted Christ. Out of our new position in Christ we receive a new birth, life, nature, and complete victory over sin. This means we can live differently in our Christian life. But we do

not become totally and perfectly sanctified in our Christian experience when we are saved. Sanctification is a lifelong process.

Philippians 2:12-13

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** (*progressive sanctification*) **with fear and trembling** (*reverential awe and respect for God*). **For it is God which worketh in you** (*the new dynamic and rule of life for New Testament Christianity*) **both to will** (*new desires*) **and to do** (*new power*) **of his good pleasure**”

You will notice that the Bible does not say we are to work for our salvation (legalism) but work out our salvation (sanctification) which pertains to our everyday living. In other words, we are to experience daily deliverance over sin through the new victorious relationship we have with God’s life and nature indwelling us. This is called progressive sanctification. We are to keep striving to become more like Jesus and getting rid of sin throughout our entire Christian life (2 Cor. 3:18). But everything about our past and present immediately changes the moment we place faith in Christ. We are immediately removed from our old man position in Adam and given a new man position in Christ, which means we are forever delivered from the power and enslavement of sin and transferred into a new position in Christ, receiving a new birth, life, spirit, nature, and victorious union with Christ, whereby we share His own resurrection life which enables us to live victoriously.

Beloved, we are a new creation! 2 Corinthians 5:17 is also a done deal! The attic with all of its old junk has been emptied out forever! God did this for us – He gave us a complete victory! This is something that happened once, at the time of conversion, and now we must reckon all of this to be true in our daily living and Christian experience.

“Tis done, the great transaction’s done
I am my Lord’s and He is mine.
He drew me and I followed on
Charmed to confess His voice divine.”

Paul victoriously exclaimed in Philippians 3:10

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”

We must live on resurrection ground! The power of Christ's resurrection once again looks back to our co-resurrection with Christ, something that we passed through with Christ and which was applied to our life at the time of our salvation when we were joined to Him. It also speaks of the continual union we possess and share with Christ's resurrection life (Phil. 1:21), which enables us to live victoriously over sin as we tap into His life, power, and nature. There is victory in Jesus!

Someone once remarked:

"Too many Christians are betweeners: they live between Good Friday and Easter, believing in the Cross but not entering into the power and glory of the Resurrection."

Romans chapter six further explains the putting off (laying aside) of the old self with our identification with Christ's death and the reemergence of a new person to newness of life (Rom. 6:4) because of our identification with Christ's resurrection. Romans six might be defined as the Christian Constitution on how to live the Christian life.

In order to experience victory in our Christian life today we must first of all KNOW something. We must know the truth of what occurred when Jesus died and rose from the grave. If we do not know about identification truth, then we cannot effectively live a victorious Christian life. Romans chapter six is teaching us about the vital baptizing work and ministry of the

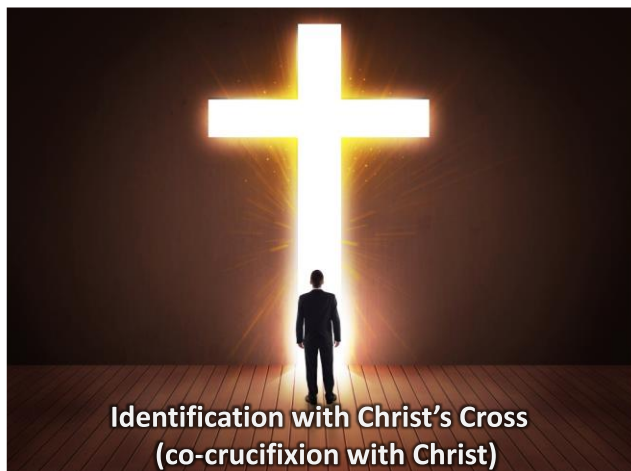


Holy Spirit which unites us to Christ's saving and sanctifying work, making us a co-participant with Him (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12).

Water baptism neither saves nor sanctifies us. Nor does water baptism place us in Christ. However, water baptism is the enduring picture behind the Spirit's baptism which places us into Christ, forming a spiritual union with Christ, which promises us newness of life (Rom. 6:4). The doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was repeatedly taught by Paul. Our victory does not come by water but by the Spirit's identifying work with Christ. To emphasize water baptism without Spirit baptism in Romans chapter six is to miss the whole point of where our victory lies and will not

get us to the place of victory. It would be like attempting to drive to Hawaii without using an airplane or ship. Our salvation and sanctification do not come from water; it comes from the Spirit's saving and identifying work, when the Spirit, through a spiritual operation ("by the circumcision of Christ" - Col. 2:11), unites the believer to Christ and His finished work.

When we speak of our union with Christ's death and resurrection through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are talking about spiritual transactions and events that occur which radically alter our inner being. Spirit baptism is the real baptism whereas water baptism is the picture. At conversion the old man dies and a new person arises to walk in newness of life because of one's identification with Christ through Spirit baptism (Rom. 6:2–11). Baptism is a dramatic portrayal of this wonderful truth. Therefore, we should approach Romans six by teaching the theology of Spirit baptism or immersion in Christ while realizing that the illustration behind this theological teaching is the water ceremony of baptism. So, there is a case to be made for both the theology of Spirit baptism and the picture of water baptism being portrayed in Romans chapter six. Union with Christ, which takes place at the time of conversion, is confessed in water baptism.



Romans 6:6 reveals to us our victorious history or past: "**Knowing this, that our old man** (*the inner self of the old unregenerate person we used to be under sin's power and slavery with all of our old habits and appetites, prior to our union with Christ and when we were still positioned in Adam*) **is crucified** (*has been crucified or put to death*) **with him** (*our union in Christ's death*), **that the body of sin** (*the enslaving*

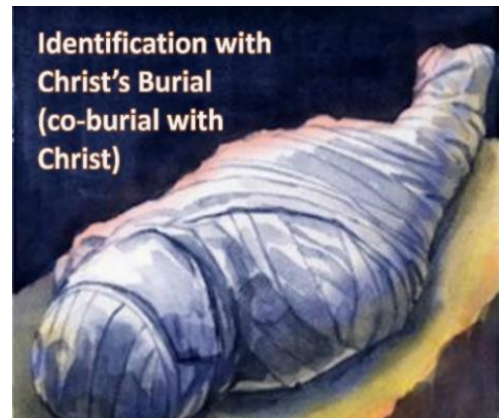
relationship that sin had with the body during our unregenerate state) **might be destroyed** (*rendered inactive – put out of business – its power is broken over our lives but its presence is not removed*), **that henceforth we should not serve sin**" (*no longer be a slave to sin*).

Here is more "old man" terminology. Once again, the old man is a reference to our old self, the unsaved person we were in our unregenerate state with his sinful

nature, evil passions, lusts, and enslavement to sin. It references our pre-conversion days while we were still positioned in Adam and not in Christ. This “putting off” of the old man (Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9-10) came about through being positionally crucified with Jesus Christ on the cross. Actually, you are a dead Christian! You died to the power of the sin nature. Passing through a spiritual union and identification with Christ’s death, each believer enters the victory that Christ provided for him through His crucifixion and death. The road to victory begins with KNOWING what happened to us in the past through our identification with Christ’s death.

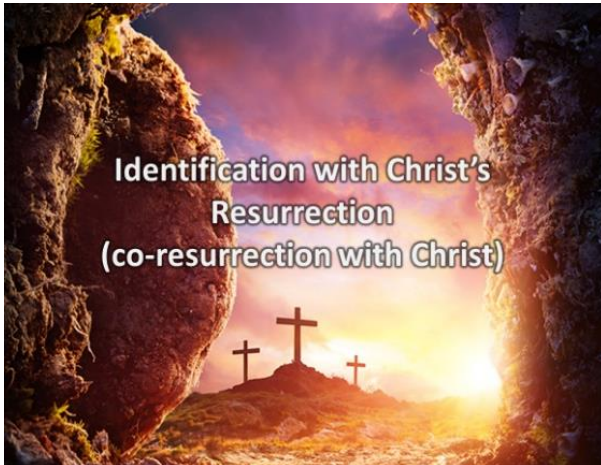
We have seen that Colossians 3:9 taught the same truth when it states: “seeing that ye have put off the old man (in the past) with his deeds.” The old person we used to be is no more! It was put to death with the death of Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches we died with Christ and in our death with Christ the power of sin has been canceled out and forever broken in relation to our Christian life.

Scripture also verifies that we were buried with Christ to prove the finality of our death with Christ, being completely identified with His death, and the victory over our old man or the sinful self that was once enslaved to sin’s power. Romans 6:4 reveals our identification with Christ’s burial: “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death (*co-sharing in Christ’s burial through our union with Christ*): that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”



Colossians 2:12 also reminds us that we are “Buried with him in baptism” which conveys the truth that in the reckoning of God, we were also *co-buried* with Christ. The burial of Christ was a necessary part of the Gospel story (1 Cor. 15:3-4) for His burial was the final proof that Christ actually died on the cross, that He had paid for the penalty of our sins. In a similar way, our joint participation with Christ’s burial brings the reassurance and proof of the finality of the believer’s death with Christ.

But there is something else we must KNOW! Romans 6:5 now speaks of our identification with Christ’s resurrection. We not only died and were buried with Christ, we also were raised with Christ.



“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death (participating in Christ’s death and receiving the death sentence upon our old man), we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection (participating and sharing in the benefits of Christ’s resurrection).”

Romans 6:8 also confirms:

“Now if we be dead with Christ (sharing in the experience of Christ’s death), we believe that we shall also live with him” (sharing in the experience of Christ’s resurrection and life).

The Bible teaches that because of our union with Christ, we also were raised with Christ, which means that we have received His very own life, nature, and victorious power to live a sanctified and separated life. Our resurrection with Christ in the outworking of God’s saving plan amounts to our new birth, when we were “made alive unto God” (Rom. 6:11) and became “alive from the dead” (Rom. 6:13). Through this new birth, with the infusion of God’s life and nature, we become a “new man” possessing the full potential for victory over temptation and the Devil.

The hymnwriter explained it like this:

“Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine;
 Living with Jesus a new life divine;
 Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine,
 Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.”

Colossians 2:11-12 speaks of this same identifying experience:

“In whom (our position in Christ) also ye are circumcised (a spiritual circumcision or cutting away) with the circumcision made without hands (a non-legalistic, positional and spiritual circumcision – defined here as a spiritual operation that occurs through a joint-crucifixion or identification with Christ’s death), in putting off (the spiritual circumcision results in the casting away or laying aside - a clear break from the old way of life that occurs at conversion) the body of the sins of the flesh (the body, as the vehicle for sins, while conditioned and controlled by the sinful disposition; the sinful, fallen human nature, which was the source or factory house

*of our sins, which once ruled over our human body, was decisively put off and cut off by Christ's death – Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24 - not eradicating the sin nature, but stripping away the power of the sin nature so that a believer does not need to obey its dictates anymore) **by the circumcision of Christ** (by the spiritual circumcision with Christ's death the sin nature has been cut off as depicted by circumcision - what the knife did in ritualistic, Old Testament circumcision and in picture form, the Cross of Christ now does for us in New Testament reality – cutting away the power of the sinful disposition from ruling our life):*

*“**Buried with him in baptism** (burial presupposes death and portrays how we were jointly entombed or identified with Christ's burial to confirm our death with Christ, proving that a real death has occurred and the old life is now a thing of the past – Rom. 6:4; Eph. 4:5), **wherein also ye are risen with him** (jointly resurrected or identified with the risen Christ to share in His life and nature – Rom. 6:8; Col. 3:1) **through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead**” (we need to possess faith in the supernatural activity of God's power that raised Christ from the dead in order to become identified with the risen Christ – Rom. 10:9 - those who believe that God raised Jesus from the dead will also be raised with Him).*

It's important to realize that in the New Testament the word baptize has both a literal and a figurative meaning. The literal meaning is “to dip, to immerse” in physical water. The figurative meaning is to be spiritually immersed in Christ and become identified with His death, burial, and resurrection through the Spirit's work. In both cases (the literal and figurative) baptism connotes the thought of being identified with someone as the Jewish nation was “baptized unto Moses” of identified with Moses when it went through the Red Sea (1 Cor. 10:1–2). Although water baptism by immersion pictures the procedure of death, burial, and resurrection, it is not the means to secure our identification with Christ. It takes the identifying baptism of the Holy Spirit to do this (1 Cor. 12:13). Water baptism is the picture of this change, but it does not affect the change. Water baptism is the outward sign of this marvelous Spirit-wrought victory and transformation.

In this passage, Paul used the word baptism in a figurative sense of spiritual immersion or identification with Christ since no amount of material water could bury a person with Christ or make him alive in Christ. *It was the power of God that changed us - not the power of water.* This verse is talking about Spirit baptism and

this saving experience, as in Romans 6, but this saving and sanctifying identification with Christ (joining a believer to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection) is certainly illustrated or pictured by water baptism. Water baptism beautifully illustrates what the Holy Spirit does for us at conversion and becomes a testimony of a person's individual faith to walk in newness of life.

The Spirit of God identified us with Jesus Christ (spiritually immersed us in Christ), and we died with Him, were buried with Him, raised with Him, and made alive with Him, co-crucified, co-buried, and co-raised to bring about our complete salvation and sanctification. Water baptism pictures this union that believers have with Christ. It symbolizes the believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection unto newness of life (Rom. 6:3–4). The imagery of burial (death) and resurrection (new life) comes from the New Testament practice of baptism by immersion (Acts 8:38). Burial symbolized death to the old life and the emergence from the water symbolized the new resurrected life in Christ.

John Philips states:

“Baptism, then, is a graphic illustration, a one-time ordinance, that symbolizes to a watching world the believer's identification with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection because this is what we share with Christ.”

Here is the main point. Being spiritually raised and identified with Christ (a co-sharer of His resurrection) comes about when we place our faith in Christ to save us (“through the faith”). At that very moment when we place our faith in Christ, a spiritual operation occurs (“the operation of God” – Col. 2:12) whereby He identifies us with Christ, causing us to share Christ's resurrection experience and to therefore enter all of the spiritual blessings of salvation and victory that are related to it. Through our resurrection union with Christ, we have been born again, born with a new nature, and born to live a different way of life. Oh, the wonder of it all! But there is more!

Our resurrection with Christ presupposes our ascension with Christ. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1). In other words, we not only have been raised with Christ but also ascended with Christ into the very throne room



of Heaven itself! Ephesians 2:6 says: “And hath raised *us* up together (*co-resurrection*), and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus” which speaks of our *co-ascension* with Christ. Through baptism in Christ’s resurrection, by default, we also become spiritually identified or associated with His ascension work. Making us spiritually alive (giving us a new birth) through our identification with Christ’s resurrection life, we were also transported into the “heavenlies” (*the sphere of our spiritual experience within God’s throne room through our position in Christ*).

In other words, we share in Christ’s ascension – we are also co-ascended with Christ. Through our identification with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 1:3), we receive all the spiritual riches and blessings provided for us through Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, such as regeneration, redemption, righteousness, justification, and forgiveness (Eph. 1:3). In a general way, the Father sees us “complete” (fully furnished and perfectly supplied) in all of Christ’s saving and victorious work as we share (through identification) this exalted position with His Beloved Son (Col. 2:10). But in a specific way, there withing the heavenlies, we share Christ’s power and authority over every wicked and evil spiritual being, including the Devil himself.



Ephesians 1:19-22 links Christ’s victory with His Church: “And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe (*we share in Christ’s resurrection and ascended power*), according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand

in the heavenly *places*, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church” (*which by virtue of her position in Christ shares these same blessings!*).

Through Christ’s resurrection and ascension, all things are placed under Christ’s feet, which references a complete and final victory Satan. Satan is under the feet

of Jesus, fully defeated and subjugated, completely defeated and under His control. The good news is that we (“the church”) share this victory with Christ through our co-ascension with Him! In other words, Christ in the heavenlies means that “all things are under his feet” (Eph. 1:22), which also means that in view of our co-ascension with Christ, that all things are placed under our feet as well – His Beloved Church. Amazingly and graciously, our positional seating in Christ within the heavens is not only a position of eternal forgiveness, justification, and acceptance through Christ’s finished work (Rom. 5:1-2), it also pertains to a positional and provisional victory that we possess in Christ through His finished work (His death and resurrection).

Colossians 3:1 links together our identification with Christ’s resurrection and ascension: **“If ye then be risen with Christ (*co-resurrection with Christ*), seek those things which are above (*Christ’s character traits and virtues*), where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God” (*co-ascension with Christ*)**. If you are a Christian, the victory is already yours! The victory was already won at the cross and Christ’s resurrection. Our participation and identification with Christ’s victory through our union with Him guarantees that we are already victors over sin. This is because the old person we once were has been positionally executed and put to death and we became a new person in Christ. Furthermore, our identification with Christ in His ascension, our co-ascension with Christ, reminds us that according to God’s records, we are also seated in the heavenlies (God’s heavenly throne room), which speaks of a positional union with Christ that grants us untold privilege, authority, power, and victory with Christ over sin and the enemy (the Devil).

Ephesians 1:3 declares:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us (*praise God from whom all blessings flow!*) with all spiritual blessings (*our spiritual riches that we receive through our identification with Christ which includes a position of complete authority and victory over Satan*) in heavenly places in Christ” (*within the throne room of Heaven, where we share in a spiritual sphere of existence Christ’s risen and victorious life, through union and identification with Him*).

Our identification with Christ’s resurrection assumes or presupposes our identification with Christ’s ascension within the “heavenlies” or throne room of God. At the very moment we place faith in Christ, we are immediately transferred from the realm of spiritual death to spiritual life through being united with Christ’s

risen life, but we are also immediately translated into the heavenlies (God's throne room) through being united or identified with Christ's ascension, where He shares with His Church full authority over all the evil forces in the universe! Our union with Christ's resurrection and ascension assures of new life, new victory and a new authority over sin and Satan. We are victors in the Victor who is Christ! We share in His victory over the old man and "that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan" (Rev. 20:2).

Through reading this study, I trust that you have a better understanding about your identity in Christ. Identification truth speaks of each believer in Christ sharing in the same experience of Christ, passing through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension which guarantees a completed victory over sin, Satan, and sinister beings (demons) which are seeking to destroy our spiritual lives (Eph. 6:12).

A Civil War veteran used to wander from place to place, begging a bed and bite to eat and always talking about his friend "Mr. Lincoln." Because of his injuries, he was unable to hold a steady job. But as long as he could keep going, he would chat about his beloved President. "You say you knew Mr. Lincoln," a skeptical bystander retorted one day. "I'm not so sure you did. Prove it!" The old man replied, "Why, sure, I can prove it. In fact, I have a piece of paper here that Mr. Lincoln himself signed and gave to me." From his old wallet, the man took out a much-folded piece of paper and showed it to the man. "I'm not much for reading," he apologized, "but I know that's Mr. Lincoln's signature." "Man, do you know what you have here?" one of the spectators asked. "You have a generous federal pension authorized by President Lincoln. You don't have to walk around like a poor beggar! Mr. Lincoln has made you rich!"

As Christians, we do not have to walk around in defeat because of our heavenly identification with Christ. Through our union with Christ, all the spiritual riches of God's grace have been transferred to us in Christ (Eph. 1:3). Above all else, He has supplied us with complete salvation and sanctification (victory). Now, by faith, claim His victory."

The next key word that pertains to experiencing victory in our Christian life is the word RECKON. Romans 6:9-11 goes on to say: **"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion**



over him (*death has lost its authority or dominion over Christ in the sense that He will never die again to its claims, wages, demands, and penalty, since He paid the necessary price of judgment for our sins*). **For in that he died, he died unto sin once** (*with reference to the wage or payment for sin – Heb. 7:27; 9:28; 10:10*): **but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God** (*in His new relationship with the Father as the risen Christ and in a new sphere where sin can never enter*). **Likewise reckon** (*in the practical outworking of our union with Christ, we must count this to be true*) **ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin** (*because of our union with Christ’s death, we have also died with reference to sin’s authority and power over our lives, through which the power and principle of sin residing within us was defeated*), **but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord** (*because of our union with Christ’s resurrection and risen life, we are made spiritually alive, born again, possessing a new life and nature, but also a new relationship with God as our Master to whom we can yield and live free from the power of sin*).

The word “reckon” means to count something as being true. It’s actually a banking term. When we count on something as being true, we must act upon it, and claim it for our daily lives right now. The key is to RECKON by faith that our past co-crucifixion and co-resurrection with Christ is true, that our old man died, and we are now a new man sharing Christ’s resurrection life of victory. This tremendous change of position is to have a lasting impact upon our lives today. Essentially, we must count on this victorious experience with Christ (identification with Christ) to grant us victory in our daily living. We must by faith claim this to be true and stand in our victorious position that Christ has acquired for us through His death and resurrection and our subsequent union with Him. Because of unbelief, self-reliance, or ignorance, many Christians never live in the freedom Jesus paid for on the cross and delivers to them through His resurrection life.

Reginald Wallis adds:

“God says in effect, ‘My child, as you reckoned on the substitutionary work of the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, now go a step farther and reckon on His representative work for your victory day by day.’ You believe the Lord Jesus died for your sins because God said so. Now take the next step. Accept by faith the further fact that you died with Him, i.e., that your ‘old man was crucified with Him’”

Of course, we must also accept by faith that we have risen with Christ and now share His own life, power, and nature to live victoriously. Yes, in the mind of God,

our victorious identification with Christ is something that has occurred in the past with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection from the grave, but it becomes activated and actual when believing on Christ. At this point forward in our Christian experience we can know and reckon that our past connection with Christ has continual application to our Christian life as we face the power of temptations and sins.

James R. McConkey said:

"Our 'reckoning' ourselves dead to sin in Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:11) 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"

I must KNOW what happened (the old man was defeated and conquered) and I must RECKON (count) this to be true. But there is a third key word related to our daily victory within our Christian lives. It is the word YIELD. We must yield to God as our new Master and Lord, surrendering our bodies Him, and therefore claiming our victory in Christ. Romans 6:13 reminds us to put our position into practice: "**Neither yield ye**



your members (*the members of your body – your eyes, ears, mouth, feet and every part of our human bodies*) **as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield** (*surrender*) **yourselves unto God** (*as your new Master who has provided complete victory for you through Christ*), **as those that are alive from the dead** (*spiritually alive through sharing in Christ's resurrection life*), **and your members** (*the members of the human body*) **as instruments of righteousness unto God."**

So, there you have it. **Knowing, Reckoning, and Yielding** to God. This is New Testament victory in a nutshell. KNOW that our old person (man) was defeated with Christ's death and that we became a new person (man) through Christ's resurrection life being communicated to us, producing a new birth and new way of victory. We must then RECKON all of this to be true (count it to be true by faith). Then you are ready to YIELD to God, surrendering your body to the Lord and applying this acquired victory to your life, when facing the "evil day" (Eph. 6:13) or time of temptation. Sanctification is not to be a struggle but rather a surrender. Beloved, we must claim the victory Christ has already won and granted us through

His death and resurrection and our subsequent IDENTIFICATION with His victorious work over sin.

We should not beg for our victory, hope for it, grope for it, interject or impose our thoughts on how to possess it, or rely on our own strength to maintain it, but simply believe we already possess it and claim it as an accomplished fact, a finished work, and final victory given to us through Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord! It's ours for the taking – believe it, reckon it to be true, and yield to God out of loving appreciation and surrender for what He has given to you!

Romans 12:1

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*”

A man asked his neighbor to “take care” of his OLD cat while he was away on vacation. The neighbor agreed. When the man returned home, his cat was nowhere to be found. He ran next door to his neighbor and said, “Where’s my cat.” He received a puzzled look from the neighbor and this response, “I shot him.” The cat owner said, “What do you mean – you shot him?” The neighbor said, “I thought you said, ‘Take care of him.’”

Apparently the lines of communication broke down somewhere along the way! Nevertheless, we can conclude that when we placed faith in Christ, and were united to Christ’s death and resurrection life, God took care of the OLD cat, the old nature, the old man and the old way of life with its sinful disposition, evil lusts, and cravings. He killed the old man! He crucified it through our position in Christ and it no longer must have dominance over our Christian lives. This means that when sin comes knocking on the door, we must KNOW and remember what has happened at the cross and resurrection of Christ, our old man was crucified and conquered, and we were raised possessing new life and victory. We must then COUNT our identification with Christ to be true, and then YIELD to God and claim our victory over sin.

When Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves, they were officially free from their many years of servitude, but some of them went on living as if they were still slaves. The President’s proclamation gave them legal standing as free citizens. It was a done

deal—they were no longer slaves. But, out of habit and way of thinking, many of these poor people still lived like slaves. So, they needed to live in accordance with the new facts. When they were tempted to think like a slave, they needed to say, “No, the truth is I am now a free man!” They needed to appropriate that truth into their daily experience.

The same is true for God’s New Testament saints. Romans 6:18 says, “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” We have been “made free from sin” through our identification with Christ’s death and resurrection life which brought us into a new grace relationship with Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:14-15). We must now appropriate the truth of our identification with Christ’s victory to our daily lives and live like a free man in our Christian experience and walk. When temptation comes our way, we can now say: “No, the truth is I am now a free man!”

Galatians 5:24 also speaks of this victorious transaction that frees us from sin’s power: “And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” As seen before, the aorist verb tense here indicates something that happened decisively in the past. It actually occurred at the time of our conversion. It is an accomplished fact. When expressing faith in Christ, our old, evil, corrupt nature was nailed to the cross (crucified with Christ) with all its affections and lusts. Not only was our sin debt nailed to the cross (1 Pet. 2:24), along with the indictment of the broken law that was against us (Col. 2:14), but our sin principle (disposition) was also nailed to the cross, providing us with a complete salvation and victory from what we were prior to conversion. We have seen that our old man, the old person we were under sin’s power, along with the sin nature and all its evil cravings and passions, was at the time of conversion positionally crucified and put to death and this crucifixion (death) is to have a lasting impact upon our Christian lives today. Looking back, we can say with the hymn writer:

“He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.”

Notice that Galatians 5:24 does not refer to self-crucifixion or self-mortification. It would be impossible for someone to actually crucify themselves! Some of the so-

called “deeper life” Christians are always trying to crucify themselves and die to self (sin) and never experience the abundance of their new life (John 15:1-3) by acting on the position they already possess with Christ in His death and resurrection. We already died to sin’s power in the death of Christ. We are already “dead” to sin (Rom. 6:2, 7, 11, 13) and have already risen with Christ, sharing His life, nature, and power (Rom. 6:5, 8, 11; Col. 2:12; Phil. 3:10), which means through our identification with Christ we have already won the victory. There is no inherent power or strength within us that will enable us to achieve victory. We must live in the light of our crucifixion and express faith in the Son of God who lives within us to experience victory in this life (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20).

Galatians 5:24, among other victory verses, refers to the fact that by means of the baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-6; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27), Christians were spiritually immersed or identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, which resulted in a positional death to their old man, old nature, and old position in Adam. Paul declared that this has been the experience of every Christian and is something we must act upon by faith without personal striving, human strength, or legalistic pride if we want to experience victory in our life.

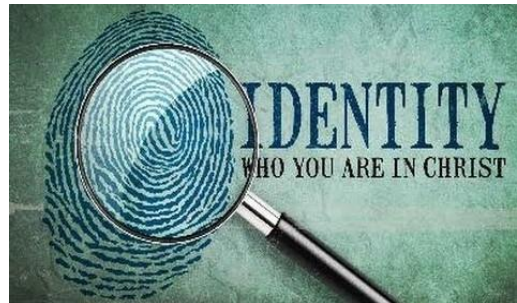


Of course, there is a practical side to our crucified position and identification with Christ when the Bible calls upon us to “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth” (Col. 3:5). Romans 8:13 reveals that “through the Spirit” we are expected to “mortify the deeds of the body” as Christians.

This means we must in a daily manner experientially apply the facts that are true of us positionally. Our *standing* is one of victory, now we must make it actual in our daily *state* as we live out our lives in the world. Every day we must reckon that we are identified with Christ, that we have shared an unchanging union with Christ’s death and resurrection and with the victory He provided over sin. We do this by prayerfully surrendering to God (Rom. 6:13; Rom. 12:1) and through obedience we put off everything associated with the

old life and put on the new life in Christ (Col. 3:8-9, 12-14; Eph. 4:25-32), which results in daily renewal and Christlikeness (Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10).

Romans 6:18 says, “Being then made free from sin (our *position* and identity in Christ), ye became the servants of righteousness (our *practice* in the Christian life). We must by faith acknowledge and then practice our identity in Christ. What we ARE is now what we must BECOME in our everyday living! What God



MADE us must be seen in our MANNER of living. What HAPPENED to us must now translate into HONORING God with our living. In other words, what happened to us positionally must impact us practically in our daily lives. We must stand on the solid ground of victory (our identification with Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, and ascension) and then apply the victory we already have through surrender and obedience. In doing, so we are in a practical way putting to death our sinful inclinations and worldly patterns of living as we yield to God and claim His victory. What God did for us positionally, we can now apply practically to our daily lives.

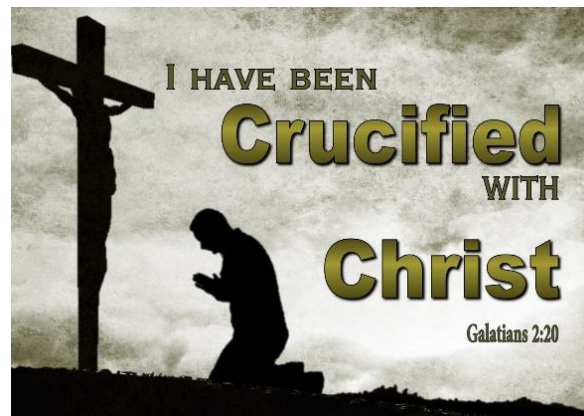
Here is another point of consideration. The old person we used to be under sin’s power (Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:9-10) along with our sinful nature or disposition (Gal. 5:24) has *positionally* died (it was killed at conversion), but this does not mean the old nature has in a practical sense died within us. The old self and old nature are still strongly present in our daily lives (Gal. 5:17). We are no longer “in the flesh” positionally (Rom. 7:5) but the flesh is still present in us (Rom. 7:8-25). We must “reckon” the sin nature and old way of life as being crucified and put to death (Romans 6:11) because it is still very much alive within us! The gravitational pull or force of sin is still being experienced as we seek to live out our new life in Christ.

The Bible never once mentions that our old nature disappears or is eradicated because of our crucifixion with Christ (Rom. 7:14-25; Gal. 5:17). The old sinful nature cannot be eradicated since we can still sin (1 John 1:5–2:6). In other words, its *power* is broken over our lives, but its *presence* has not been removed. In our practical living, the power of the sin nature has been broken as we yield to Christ and walk in the power of the Spirit. The old nature is like a chicken with its head cut off. The flesh has been dealt a death blow in view of our position in Christ. However, in our daily practice, it continues to flop around the barnyard until the last nerve is

stilled, and this won't happen until we are released from our bodies at death or the Rapture. The sin nature was in one sense drowned in spirit baptism, but the rascal can still swim! Every Christian knows this by experience.

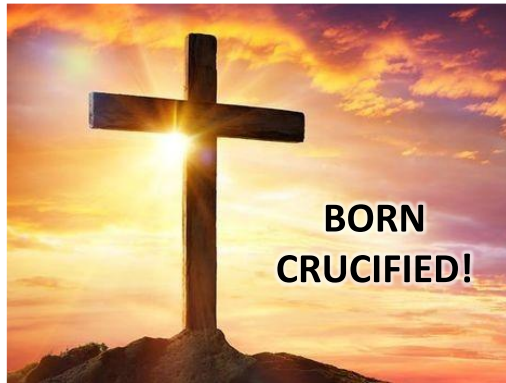
Galatians 2:20 also speaks of the death of the old man or person (self) we used to be under sin's dominance and power and the creation of a new man or person through our shared resurrection experience with Christ. Paul again relates our victory with the past (co-crucifixion with Christ) and our present through our co-resurrection with Christ which promises us new birth, life, victory, and transformation. This verse summarizes everything we have previously studied.

“I am (have been) crucified with Christ *(our union with Christ's death, which renders us dead to our old condemning relationship to God's Law, as in Galatians 2:19, the time when we lived in defeat and were ruled by the power of sin, as in Rom. 6:6 and Gal. 5:24 = CRUCIFIXION): nevertheless I live* *(through my union with Christ's resurrection life = REGENERATION); yet*



not I *(I do not live by my own power and strength = LEGALISM), but Christ liveth in me* *(to grant me power and victory = LIBERTY): and the life which I now live in the flesh* *(my earthly body and existence) I live by the faith of the Son of God, (RELIANCE = I depend on Christ's resurrection life and power within me, I trust or express faith in Christ's present-day power and spiritual provision for my life, as He lives within my heart – Eph. 6:10) who loved me, and gave himself for me”* *(MOTIVATION = out of loving appreciation for His sacrifice on my behalf, I will yield myself to His indwelling life and power, and live and serve Jesus Christ).*

“My life, my love I give to Thee,
Thou Lamb of God who died for me;
O may I ever faithful be,
My Savior and my God!
I'll live for him who died for me,
How happy then my life shall be!
I'll live for him who died for me,
My Savior and my God!”



In one sense, we were “born crucified” as L.E. Maxwell stated. Think about this. We were crucified with Christ, through our union and identification with Christ’s death, which brought us out of our old unsaved and enslaving position to sin. However, at the same time we were born again spiritually by being united to Christ’s resurrection which resulted in the infusion of Christ’s risen life within our spirit (John 3:6-8;

Gal. 2:20). We were born again with the resurrection life of Christ, but we were already crucified in the death of Christ. We were “born crucified.” We are born again but also born already crucified or dead to the power of sin over our lives! We were born already dead to the old ways of life and born to newness of life.

The old man and sinful disposition were positionally crucified (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24) in our death with Christ and when we were born again, through being united to Christ’s resurrection, we were essentially born crucified! The New Birth transaction brought newness of life to us but at the same time we were already crucified with Christ. Born crucified! Born dead to the power of sin. This is the wonder of the ages! Paradoxically, the Christian is dead and alive at the same time, as in Galatians 2:20, dead to sin and self but alive and responsive to God. In fact, a Christian is to give no more response to sin than a dead man can give. On the other hand, all the potential to live for God is given to us through our resurrection with Christ. Born crucified! Born dead to sin. Born free!

Carl Armerding recounted his experience of watching a wildcat in a zoo. "As I stood there," he said, "an attendant entered the cage through a door on the opposite side. He had nothing in his hands but a broom. Carefully closing the door, he proceeded to sweep the floor of the cage." He observed that the worker had no weapon to ward off an attack by the beast. In fact, when he got to the corner of the cage where the wildcat was lying, he poked the animal with the broom. The wildcat hissed at him and then lay down in another corner of the enclosure. Armerding remarked to the attendant, "You certainly are a brave man." "No I ain't brave," he replied as he continued to sweep. "Well, then, that wild cat must be tame." "No," came the reply, "he ain't tame." "If you aren't brave and the wildcat isn't tame, then I can't understand why he doesn't attack you." Armerding said the

man chuckled, then replied with an air of confidence, "Mister, he's old--and he ain't got no teeth!"

Essentially, because of Christ's defeat of sin on Calvary's cross and our union with His death and resurrection life, sin no longer has any teeth to bite and devour our lives. We have been given a complete victory over the wild cat! This is because we are no longer an old man living in the realm of spiritual darkness, death, and defeat but a new man who has been given a new birth, life, and complete victory in Jesus! We are "complete in him" (Col. 2:10) through our identification with Christ, which means we are fully furnished, filled up, and overflowing with Christ's victory!

"Complete in Thee! no more shall sin,
Thy grace hath conquered, reign within;
Thy voice shall bid the tempter flee,
And I shall stand complete in Thee."

Ray Pritchard writes:

"You don't have to sin any more. You don't have to live in defeat any more. You don't have to be down any more. You don't have to go years and years and years committing the same old dumb sins over and over again. Why? Because the law of the spirit of life of Jesus Christ has set you free. Therefore, if you choose to dwell in sin, if you choose to be defeated, it's because you've chosen to live that way, not because you must live that way."

God removed us from living "under the law" to living "under grace" (Rom. 6:14-15). Our relationship with the law placed us under God's condemnation and enslavement to sin (Rom. 7:5-10; 2 Cor. 3:9; Gal. 3:10), while living in our unsaved state, but this old relationship has been replaced by a new, intimate, personal, and victorious relationship with Jesus Christ (Rom. 7:4; Phil. 3:10). Baseball provides an analogy of this new relationship with Christ and depending upon His risen for transformation and victory.

Let's say we want to get to first base. But to do so the batter does not look at first base. He watches the ball. He focuses all his energy in concentrating on hitting the ball as it is pitched. In a sense the "righteous requirements" of God's moral law are compared to first base. We yearn to get there. But too many believers focus their attention on first base—and constantly strike out! What Paul said was to keep your eye on the ball, or on Jesus Himself (Gal. 2:20; Heb. 12:2), and you will discover that

you arrive on first base which is living according to the righteous character of the law (Romans 8:4) without even trying!

Here is what we have studied:

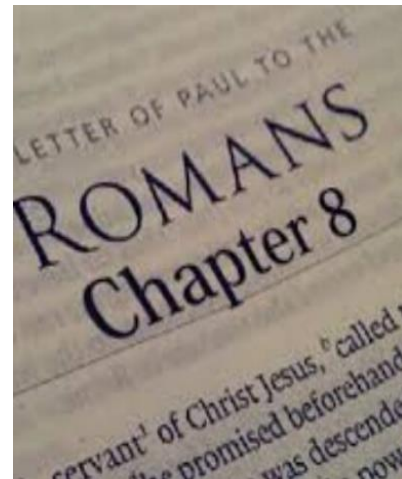
Co-crucifixion = death of the old man or person we used to be under sin's power and the sinful disposition (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24),

Co-burial = proof of the finality of our death with Christ (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12),

Co-resurrection = life of a new man or person which shares Christ's resurrection life for power and victory (Rom. 6:5, 8; Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:12; 3:1; Phil. 3:10)

Co-ascension = a heavenly position of authority and victory over the Devil and his evil cohorts which are demons (Eph. 1:3; 2:6; Col. 3:1).

Romans chapter eight adds to these identification truths and has been called the brightest jewel in the setting of the Bible! This is because it tells us of our emancipation from sin's penalty and power because we have been identified with Christ's death and resurrection through the work of the Spirit. Paul seems to be grafting together our justification and sanctification as the way of freedom for every Gospel believer. He is teaching that justification by faith does not lead to a sinful course of living but to newness of life or sanctification (Rom. 7:6). Christ died to free us from both the *condemnation* and *dominion* of sin.



Charles Trumbell once said:

“The eighth of Romans has become peculiarly precious to me, beginning with ‘no condemnation,’ ending with ‘no separation,’ and in between, ‘no defeat.’

In this chapter, Paul moves from “no condemnation” for sin to “no dominion” of sin in relation to our Christian life. Both aspects are needed to live the Christian life effectively and freely. We must believe in our permanent acceptance before God in Christ (Rom. 8:1, 31-39), which releases us from striving to gain or merit God's

favor, but we must also fully depend on our union with Christ for sanctification and victory through the Spirit's energizing ministry (Rom. 8:2-4). The legalism related to gaining or maintaining one's salvation and possessing victory through specific acts of sanctification are often interrelated (Matt. 19:16; Acts 15:1; Gal. 3:3) and both are departures from the doctrine of grace. Blessed noonday truth! No condemnation in the throne room of Heaven because of Christ's death on Calvary and no dominion of sin over our life on earth because of our sanctifying union with the risen Christ.

Henry Ward Beecher wrote:

"I defy any man to get out of the seventh chapter of Romans into the eight except by that one word, Christ."

Approaching Romans 8:1-4, we see the believer's identification and victory through Christ from a previous position of condemnation and control of sin: "**There is therefore** (introducing a conclusion while looking back to chapters 1-7, especially with Paul's final statement: 'I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord' – Rom. 7:25) **now** (since Christ came and died upon the cross and we are living in the Gospel age, and since we have placed faith in Him, the presence of sinful inclination in the Christian life is not the basis for God condemning us, as explained next) **no** (the verdict is not less condemnation because we legalistic contribute something to our salvation, but NO condemnation – we are not condemned, we will not be condemned, and we cannot be condemned) **condemnation** (this promise provides confidence and peace after the confusion and conflict that marked Romans 7 - since God the Father does not condemn Jesus, neither can the Father condemn those who are in Jesus, who was condemned in the sinner's place and therefore the condemnation we deserve passes over us, which brings a note for rejoicing and deep sigh of relief, since the sentence or execution of God's judgment and punishment for our sins can ever be raised again because of our justification before God, even when a believer struggles with sin, as in Rom. 7:14-25 - our judgment day is behind us and we have permanent acceptance before God – Rom. 5:1) **to them which are in Christ Jesus** (a place of positional forgiveness, righteousness, and security before God because of a person's faith in Christ and their identification with His saving work), **who walk not after the flesh** (not a qualifying clause that indicates legalism, but the practice and proof of a justified and non-condemned man, indicating that holiness of life is inseparable with our union with Christ - picking up the thought about fleshly living from Romans 7:25, Christians, to a lesser or greater degree, do

not consistently live or walk according to their sinful dispositions that exist within their human natures), but after the Spirit (sanctification is the fruit of justification and the no condemnation position, and progressive sanctification occurs according to the Spirit's power and victory which is the practice of those who are in Christ).

“For the law *(a new principle and force operating within us that now governs our life, a new regime of life which counteracts and offsets the old way of life - Rom. 3:27; 7:23)* **of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** *(our immersion, union, and identity with Christ's resurrection and regenerating life, a whole new sphere of victorious living in Christ, as in Romans 6:3-5; 7:4, which comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, who is the life-giver, energizer, and revealer of Christ within us, translating the life of Christ into Christian behavior – John 3:6-7; 16:13-14 – realizing that for Paul life in the Spirit is synonymous with life in Christ, to have one is to have the other, to live in the one is to live in the other, to please the one is to please the other)* **hath made me free** *(a once-for-all positional and legal transaction of release and freedom from the enslavement of our sinful disposition and also a newfound freedom to God's will, a transaction which occurred at the time of conversion, but a positional victory that should be applied to our daily living, since the sin nature tries to illegally control our lives – Rom. 7:24-25 - Romans 8:1 tells us we are free from the guilt of sin but Romans 8:2 tells us we are free from the power of sin)* **from the law** *(an old principle and way of governing our life as in Rom. 7:23-24)* **of sin and death”** *(the universal law of sin and death, the downward gravitational pull of our sinful inclinations and disposition, which pertains to our preconversion days when we were under the dominion and enslavement to sin, and which ultimately leads to a person's eternal, spiritual death and condemnation because they are not in Christ – Rom. 6:16, 23; 8:1).*

“For what the law could not do *(save and sanctify us – justify and transform us – deliver us from damnation and the dominion of sin – Rom. 7), in that it was weak through the flesh* *(the human deficiency of sinful depravity and the fallen sin nature of man was unable to meet the perfect standard of God's righteous law and therefore the law could not bring about deliverance), God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh* *(identifying with humanity but without a sinful human nature - Phil. 2:7; 2 Cor. 5:21), and for sin* *(made an offering or sacrifice for sin), condemned sin in the flesh* *(the law could not execute judgment on sin but only excite it, as in Rom. 7:5-10, but dealing with sin judicially and legally upon the cross, Christ pronounced a sentence of judgment on our sinful human nature, which is the*

source of sin, the seat and origin of transgression, releasing us from the power of sin, since sin was deposed from its rule within our flesh or human nature – Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24). That the righteousness of the law (righteous character of the law as it pertains to God’s moral laws is internalized within us, which is the New Covenant promise, as stated in Hebrews 8:10, which occurs when the Holy Spirit writes the sensitivity of God’s law upon our heart, providing us with divine enablement and motivation to live for God, so that no external law is necessary for sanctification – Eph. 5:18) might be fulfilled in us (our human nature), who walk not after the flesh (Christians, some more consistently than others, no longer live under the dominance and control of their sinful human natures and inclinations – all of us in God’s family manifest Christ’s character and righteousness but are at different levels – 1 John 3:8-10), but after (according to) the Spirit” (in the realm of the Spirit, following the impulses and dictates of the Spirit, experiencing the Holy Spirit’s inner work of communicating Christ’s life, victory, and resurrection power to us on a daily basis, resulting in a new way of life – Rom. 6:4; 7:6 – just as a fish lives and functions in the medium or sphere of water, Christians must live and function in the new realm of the Spirit).

John Wesley's testimony is well known, concerning the beginning of his life of real faith (in his 35th year, after 13 years in a relatively commonplace ministry): "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me, that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2).

“Moses’ law has right but not might.
Sin’s law has might but not right
The law of the Spirit has both right and might.”

There is a fable which brings out the teaching of Romans chapter eight. While walking through the forest one day, a man found a young eagle who had fallen out of his nest. He took it home and put it in his barnyard where it soon learned to eat and behave like the chickens. One day a naturalist passed by the farm and asked why it was that the king of all birds should be confined to live in the barnyard with the chickens. The farmer replied that since he had given it chicken feed and trained

it to be a chicken, it had never learned to fly. Since it now behaved as the chickens, it was no longer an eagle.

“Still it has the heart of an eagle,” replied the naturalist, “and can surely be taught to fly.” He lifted the eagle toward the sky and said, “You belong to the sky and not to the earth. Stretch forth your wings and fly.” The eagle, however, was confused. He did not know who he was, and seeing the chickens eating their food, he jumped down to be with them again. The naturalist took the bird to the roof of the house and urged him again, saying, “You are an eagle. Stretch forth your wings and fly.” But the eagle was afraid of his unknown self and world and jumped down once more for the chicken food.

Finally, the naturalist took the eagle out of the barnyard to a high mountain. There he held the king of the birds high above him and encouraged him again, saying, “You are an eagle. You belong to the sky. Stretch forth your wings and fly.” The eagle looked around, back towards the barnyard and up to the sky. Then the naturalist lifted him straight towards the sun and it happened that the eagle began to tremble. Slowly he stretched his wings, and with a triumphant cry, soared away into the heavens. It may be that the eagle still remembers the chickens with nostalgia. It may even be that he occasionally revisits the barnyard. But as far as anyone knows, he has never returned to lead the life of a chicken.

This is what God does for us when He removes us from our old man position in Adam and brings us into a new position in Christ. He emancipates us from sin, giving us wings to fly through “the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:2). Amen and amen!

“I’m free from the fear of tomorrow,
I’m free from the guilt of the past.
I’ve traded all my shackles for a glorious song,
I’m free, praise the Lord, free at last!”

Bringing everything together that we have studied, we can conclude that a great exchange took place from condemnation to no condemnation, from an old man to a new man, from death to life, from a bad marriage to a wonderful marriage (Rom. 7:4), from law to grace, from bondage to freedom! Romans chapter 8 reaffirms that our IDENTIFICATION with Christ is experienced through the Holy Spirit’s ministry, which results in our salvation, freedom from sin, and victory. The truth about our

identification with Christ can be understood by the words of the old hymn, "Were You There?"

"Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?
Sometimes I feel like shouting 'Glory, glory, glory!'
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?"



Yes, we were there! In the eternal mind and plan of God (Rom. 8:29-30), every believer was historically identified with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. When faith is placed in Christ, it becomes actualized or brought to pass for each individual believer. We participated in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and we were born again with new life, a new nature, and complete victory over sin. Glory hallelujah, Christ has

set me free! Glory hallelujah, a new life now I see!

Once we learn about our identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, we can apply this victory to our daily lives through meaningful prayer and meditation.

Ephesians 6:18

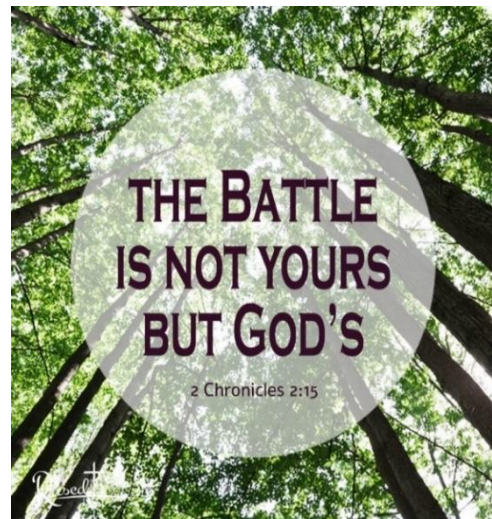
"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Here is a sample prayer. "Dear God, You are my Master. I own no other Master; my heart shall be Thy throne! I KNOW that I have been crucified with Christ, that the

old person of my past, what I used to be, has been canceled and totally defeated through Christ's death on the cross. I also know that I have risen with Christ and possess His resurrection life within me to grant me power and victory right now. By faith, I RECKON or count these spiritual realities to be true in my life. I've died to the power of sin and live today by the power of Jesus Christ. I want to live by faith today in the power of Jesus Christ as I YIELD my body to you as my Lord and Master, surrendering every part of my body, mind, and heart to you. In Jesus' name, Amen." There is an Old Testament illustration that in some way pictures and highlights the New Testament truth about our identification with Christ.

In 2 Chronicles 20:14-15, Jahaziel cried out:
"Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's."

In other words, Jahaziel was giving the promise to the people that the victory was already won, even before the battle took place! God would defeat the enemy for His people. They would not have to worry about losing the battle. Forwarding this to New Testament theology and identification truth, we understand that God already won the battle for us through Christ. The battle is not ours – it's God's, and He already won the battle for His people (the New Testament Bride) when Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended back to Glory! Your position in Christ and identification with Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension assures you of this victory and full authority over the enemy. For this reason we do not fight FOR victory but FROM victory!



This means as Christians we must claim victory over drugs, alcohol, nicotine, lust, an unforgiving spirit, envy, gossip, anger, covetousness, pride, and all worldly sins and works of the flesh that seek to haunt and overtake our lives (Gal. 5:19-20).

"On the victory side, On the victory side;
No foe can daunt me, No fear can haunt me,
On the victory side.

On the victory side, On the victory side;
With Christ within, the fight we'll win,
On the victory side."

**KNOW
RECKON
YIELD**

As we "wrestle" with sinister beings (Eph. 6:12) and "fleshly lusts" (1 Pet. 2:11) we can have victory over each battle for the simple reason that the battle has already been won through our identification with Christ - "having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Pet. 1:4). Colossians 1:13 also reminds us of our

positional victory: "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Likewise, Galatians 1:4 adds, "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver (rescue) us from this present evil world (age), according to the will of God and our Father." Once again, this is referring to a one-time deliverance from the world of intellectual, moral, and religious darkness. Christ's sacrifice occurred once and the deliverance He won for us occurred once. The truth is that because we are united to Christ we share in His victory over sin and darkness.

Dear Christian friend, there is a practical sanctification that comes through resting in our positional sanctification in Christ, as we share in the victorious benefits and spiritual riches we have through our union with Christ (Eph. 1:3). Our identification with Christ's victory means that the victory is already won, and we must now walk in light of it, applying it to our lives through faith and surrender to God. What have you been struggling with? The victory is yours, KNOW it, COUNT it to be true (claim it today), and YIELD to God.

"Jesus, my life is Thine!
And evermore shall be
Hidden in Thee.
For nothing can untwine
Thy life from mine."

- ✓ Do you really understand how to have victory?
- ✓ Can you summarize what the Bible teaches concerning your identification with Christ?

- ✓ What new things have you learned from this study that pertains to living a consistent victorious life?
- ✓ Have you been striving to live victorious by your own power and strength?
- ✓ Are you ready to claim your victory in Christ?
- ✓ Is there some specific sin you want to be released from today?
- ✓ Are you serious about getting victory over your enslavement to sin?
- ✓ Are you ready to yield to God today?

We need to understand and act upon our new identity in Christ. Christ died on the cross not only to free us from sin's *penalty* but also to free us from sin's *power*. God has granted us a *positional deliverance* in Christ from the power of sin through our spiritual IDENTIFICATION with Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. I need to apply my positional victory in Christ during those times I am faced with temptations and Satan's allurements. There is victory in Jesus! It is a victory that I already possess through my union with Christ!

OUR
IDENTIFICATION
WITH CHRIST



1 John 5:4-5 once again reminds us that the basis of our victory is our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ: **“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world** (*we are a world-conquerors through our identification with Christ's new life and nature being communicated to our human spirit, whereby we are spiritually conceived of God and born again as a new creation – 2 Cor. 5:17*): **and this is the victory that overcometh the world** (*the world system with all of its fleshly allurements, vices, and sins that are against God and righteousness – 1 John 2:15-17*), **even our faith** (*our initial faith in Christ's death and resurrection is what saves us and identifies us with His victory – Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-10*). **Who is he that overcometh the world** (*positionally, through our identification with Christ, we have already overcome the evil world system that is against God, with all of its lusts and sinful allurements, as in 1 Peter 1:4 – “having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”*) **but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”** (*who expresses faith in Jesus, who is God's Son, God in human flesh, and who came to provide eternal life for us – John 3:16-18, 36; 1 John 4:9-10; 5:11-12*).

“I heard an old, old story,
How a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning,
Of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins;
And won the victory.

O victory in Jesus,
My Savior, forever.
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him,
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.”

In 1939, Eugene Bartlett suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed, and he became bed-ridden. ... It was during this trying time in his life as he lay in bed thinking about Jesus that he wrote the words to "Victory in Jesus." And that was the last hymn that Eugene Bartlett wrote. But he realized on his way out (at his time of death) the victory that God gave him on his way in (when he was saved!). We need to always remember that our victory was already provided for us through Christ. We are identified with His victory.

This means that **the battle is not yours – it's God's!** This is because the battle and victory were already won at Calvary's cross “that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb. 2:14-15).

“I thank God for Calvary
For it's the blood that sets me free!
He bore my shame, O praise His name
I've never been the same!
Since I came to Calvary!”

We are on the victory side and Satan is on the losing side! We are the victors and Satan is the loser! A trilogy of verses brings this out as we finish our study. 2 Corinthians 2:14 triumphantly declares: “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ ...” Always remember that “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). Lastly, “We are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Rom. 8:37).



Every one of us can live in victory and triumphantly declare as John did: “ye have overcome (*conquered*) the wicked one” (1 John 2:13-14). While engaging in spiritual warfare, we can overcome the Devil through knowing what God’s word teaches about our identification with Christ’s victory and aggressively and practically applying it to our lives through faith and prayer. Beloved, we must walk in the light of our victory and claim what we already possess through our identification with Christ, or Satan will walk all over us and put us back under his feet. Thank God that through our identification with Christ (Eph. 1:22) - all things are under our feet!