

## 70 - To Whom are we living?

### Romans 14:7-9

#### NIV:

For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

#### CLNT:

7 For not one of us is living to himself, and not one is dying to himself.

8 For both, if we should be living, to the Lord are we living, and if we should be dying, to the Lord are we dying. Then, both if we should be living and if we should be dying, we are the Lord's.

9 For for this Christ died and lives, that He should be Lord of the dead as well as of the living.

“Dying,” comes from the word “dead,” (nekron in Greek, from which we get the word in medicine, “necrosis,” meaning, “lacking life, dead to or oblivious to.” It is used literally and figuratively in the scriptures.

**“for this Christ died and lives”** in v.9 is a definite statement of physical death, and it is there where we are first identified with Christ:

### Galatians 2:20

20 [Together] With Christ have I been crucified, yet I am living; no longer I, but [ or “yet”] living in me is Christ. Now that which I am now living in flesh, I am living in faith that is of the Son of God, Who loves me, and gives Himself up for me.

I’m compelled by this look at “living to the Lord,” which we saw in Romans 14:8. I have to ask, “How am I doing?” Better yet, perhaps I ought to be asking, “What does it mean?”

### Colossians 3:

1 If, then, you were roused together with Christ, **be seeking that which is above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 **Be disposed to that which is above, not** to that on the earth,

3 for you died, and your [the] life is hid together with Christ in God.

4 Whenever Christ, our [the] Life, should be manifested, then you also shall be manifested together with Him in glory.

5 **Deaden**, then, your members that are on the earth:

Now Paul makes a list of what we need to deaden our members to (literally our limbs and organs):

### **Prostitution**

(porneia [porn-“A-ahh”] in Greek, from which we get ***pornography***). Interestingly, other versions read “fornication,” which is basically ***any*** illicit sexual activity! Improper, illicit use of our bodies is the number 1 thing to die to. It only took me a second to realize how often the scripture refers to Israel, Judah, and Jerusalem as Prostitutes. It is a position of utter faithlessness. For the Body of Christ, it is unthinkable, let alone abhorrent!

Uncleanness - in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living; of impure motives

Passion (pathos) - a feeling which the mind suffers, “including the whole world of active lusts and desires” Trench’s synonyms

evil desire

and greed, - desire to have more, covetousness, avarice

which is idolatry, ***“You shall have no other Gods before me”*** (Exodus 20:3, Deuteronomy 5:7)

6 because of which the indignation of God is coming on the sons of [the] stubbornness –

These are the things that bring God’s indignation...His anger, His temper, His violent emotion! Any takers?

7 among whom you also once walked [*that is, referring to the sons of THE stubbornness in verse 6*], when you lived in these things.

You were once just like this, Paul says. Now deaden your members to all these things.

Let’s read the whole thing once more...

1 If, then, you were roused together with Christ, be seeking that which is above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 Be disposed to that which is above, not to that on the earth,

3 for you died, and your life is hid together with Christ in God.

4 Whenever Christ, our Life, should be manifested, then you also shall be manifested together with Him in glory.

5 Deaden, then, your members that are on the earth: prostitution, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and greed, which is idolatry,

6 because of which the indignation of God is coming on the sons of stubbornness --

7 among whom you also once walked, when you lived in these things.

Keep Reading . . .

8 Yet now you also be putting away all these: anger, fury, malice, calumny, obscenity out of your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, stripping off the old humanity together with its practices,  
10 and putting on the young, which is being renewed into recognition, to accord with  
the Image of the One Who creates it,  
11 wherein there is no Greek and Jew, Circumcision and Uncircumcision, barbarian,  
Scythian, slave, freeman, but [the] all and in all is Christ.  
12 Put on, then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, pitiful compassions,  
kindness, humility, meekness, patience,  
13 bearing with one another and dealing graciously among yourselves, if anyone  
should be having a complaint against any. According as the Lord also deals graciously  
with you, thus also you.  
14 Now over all these put on love, which is the tie of maturity.  
15 And let the peace of Christ be arbitrating in your hearts, for which you were called  
also in one body; and become thankful.  
16 Let the word of Christ be making its home in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and  
admonishing yourselves; in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual songs, singing, with grace in  
your hearts to God.  
17 And everything, whatsoever you may be doing, in word or in act, do all in the name  
of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God, the Father, through Him.

We now have a picture, from Colossians 3:1-9, of what living to ourselves looks like,  
versus a peek into what living to the Lord looks like, in verses 10-17.

It is apparent from Paul's discussion in Colossians, that our natural tendencies are  
toward the qualities and actions associated with everything in verses 1-9. That is his  
picture of living to ourselves.

But he wrote in Romans 14:

if we should be living and if we should be dying, we are the Lord's.

9 For for this Christ died and lives, that He should be Lord of the dead as well as of the  
living.

How can we be the Lord's?

1. Recognize the truth contained in **Galatians 2:20:**

20 [Together} With Christ have I been crucified, yet I am living; no longer I, but [or  
"yet"] living in me is Christ. Now that which I am now living in flesh, I am living in  
faith that is of the Son of God, Who loves me, and gives Himself up for me.

Oswald Chambers wrote about having our own "white funeral." Getting a grip on what it  
means to be "crucified with Christ" so that it is no longer I, but Christ Who lives in me" is

not just a nice scripture to read; it is making His death on our behalf COUNT or MATTER.

Here's my perspective of this: For me to accept Christ and for Him to make His home in me, according to **John 14:23** –

"If anyone should be loving Me, he will be keeping My word, and My Father will be loving him, and We shall be coming to him and making an abode with him.

For me to die with Christ and for Him to live in me, requires nothing less than laying down – becoming dead, or “deadened” to – EVERYTHING I have thought or believed, and every attachment to anyone or anything, so that there is room for the Father and the Son to live with me and in me.

This is serious business – not in a religious, law-pounding sense; it is not about currying God's favor – such a notion is counter to the grace He lavishes on us. Rather, this carries a very real, personal and pervasive sense that involves everyone in my life and everything I have ever been taught to believe by anyone. If it did not come from God, it is on the cross!

Read it again:

**Galatians 2:20:**

20 [Together} With Christ have I been crucified, yet I am living; no longer I, but living in me is Christ.

***“Living in me is Christ.”*** That statement makes me want to ask, “How's He doing in there, amongst all my garbage?” What kind of environment am I providing inside me for the Son of God, AND the Father...God help me!

Now that which I am now living in flesh, I am living in faith that is of the Son of God, Who loves me, and gives Himself up for me.

These declarations by Paul are statements of fact, yet we have no real, firsthand experience of being crucified literally, so it must arrive in us by realization – by identification with the Son of God, Who is our Lord and Savior, and who is also our elder brother.

Do I have an opinion about something? Christ can't live in that! Do I have an idea to do something? Christ can't live there either. Can I not think and do? Of course, but then it is not Christ but I who am living. And how's that working for me?

For me, my best Geiger counter is my wife. Her relationship to God is reflected in her relationship to me, and I often find it disconcerting when mine is in any way – dare I say, in many ways? – less than if Christ were manifested in me.

Here's **Colossians 3:8-10** again:

Yet now you also be putting away **all these**: anger, fury, malice, calumny, obscenity out of your mouth. **All of these must go!**

9 Do not lie to one another, stripping off the old humanity together with its practices,  
10 and putting on the young **[the fresh]**, which is being renewed **[made new again]** into recognition **[precise and correct knowledge]**, to accord **[agree]** with the Image **["eikon" from which we get Icon, it means "figure or likeness"]** of the One Who creates it,

11 wherein there is no Greek and Jew, Circumcision and Uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but [the] all and in all is Christ.

It is God Who creates this young, fresh humanity so that it—or we—can be recognizable to Him and unrecognizable within any other racial or ethnic (and we could add gender) identity, agreeing with His own likeness.

What does it say in **Genesis 1:26**:

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...

Here again is my perspective: In order to DO the constructive things Paul wrote about in Colossians, we MUST FIRST be crucified with Him, hidden in Him, and completely identified with Him in both His death and His resurrection!

Look at the outcome of God's "young" or new humanity, again, from Colossians 3:

12 Put on, then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, pitiful compassions, kindness, humility, meekness, patience,

13 bearing with one another and dealing graciously among yourselves, if anyone should be having a complaint against any. According as the Lord also deals graciously with you, thus also you.

14 Now over all these put on love, which is the tie of maturity.

15 And let the peace of Christ be arbitrating in your hearts, for which you were called also in one body; and become thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ be making its home in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing yourselves; in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual songs, singing, with grace in your hearts to God.

17 And everything, whatsoever you may be doing, in word or in act, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God, the Father, through Him.

Now look at Galatians 5, where Paul introduces “the fruit of the spirit.” He precedes the Fruit with its counterpart, similar to Colossians 3:

**Galatians 5:**

13 For you were called for freedom, brethren, only use not the freedom for an incentive to the flesh, but through love be slaving for one another.

14 For the entire law is fulfilled in one word, in this: "You shall love your associate as yourself."

15 Now if you are biting and devouring one another, beware that you may not be consumed by one another.

16 Now I am saying, Walk in spirit, and you should under no circumstances be consummating the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh is lusting against the spirit, yet the spirit against the flesh. Now **these are opposing one another**, lest you should be doing whatever you may want.

Let me break in here: Sons and daughters of God, often make the mistake of taking their salvation as license to do whatever they want...and some in the name of the Lord. This is a criticism especially leveled at those of us who hold fast to the truth that God will save all mankind, exactly as the scriptures declare, and that no one is relegated to burning torment in hell forever. The argument is that, without the threat of eternal hell hanging over our heads, there is no incentive to walk holy before God (as if that is some kind of burden), and instead is license to go off into totally satisfying all of the lusts of the flesh since, after all, there's no deterrent.

The fact is that our flesh lusts **against** the spirit, as Paul writes in **Galatians 5**, and the spirit against the flesh. They are opposing one another. That's how it is.

Allowing for God to fulfill His own word to save everyone, and understanding how He will do that, gives us an even greater incentive to get it right **NOW**, while grace superabounds – to “Become imitators of God, as beloved Children,” Paul writes in **Ephesians 5:1**.

If we need a deterrent to avoid misbehaving, we are NOT IN CHRIST. We have NOT been crucified with Him and He is NOT living in us! In that case, we have trashed Christ's sacrifice and, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:1, we have received “the grace of God for naught!”

Go on with me through **Galatians 5**:

18 Now, if you are led by spirit, you are not still under law.

19 Now apparent are the works of the flesh

In other words, they are manifested – they are obvious!

, which are adultery, prostitution, uncleanness, wantonness,

20 idolatry, enchantment, enmities, strife, jealousies, furies, factions, dissensions,

sects,

21 envies, murders, drunkennesses, revelries, and the like of these, which, I am predicting to you, according as I predicted also, that those committing such things shall not be enjoying the allotment of the kingdom of God.

Listen to me here...some of these things in Paul's list may be going on in our own marriages, such as enmities and strife, jealousies and furies, dissensions and envies! We may be displaying some of these things in our relationships with our spouses, our children, our coworkers, and others – whether they are in the world or in the Body of Christ makes no difference. Flesh is flesh and spirit is spirit.

Remember **Romans 8:1**, as we go through all this:

Nothing, consequently, is now condemnation to those in Christ Jesus.

Look with me through the good stuff here in **Galatians 5**:

22 Now the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 meekness, self-control: against such things there is no law.

24 Now those of Christ Jesus crucify the flesh together with its passions, and lusts.

25 If we **may be living** in spirit, in spirit **we may be observing** the elements also.

26 **We may not become vainglorious, challenging one another, envying one another.**

The DOING of verses 25-26 can only be through the strength and power of the regenerated “new humanity” – created fresh by Almighty God himself, so that we may fulfill **Romans 12:1-2**

...present your bodies a sacrifice, living, holy, well pleasing to God, your logical divine service,

2 and not to be configured to this eon, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, for you to be testing what is the will of God, good and well pleasing and perfect.

**And Romans 8:29:**

He designates beforehand, also, to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be Firstborn among many brethren.

Invitation – We won't have our ***Light Up The Scriptures*** study next week. Barbara and I will be on a “missionary trip” to the spiritual wilderness of New England. Just an early heads up that we may miss the following Tuesday as well, as we make our return trip home. I'll send an email either way, confirming the time and day of our next ***Light Up the Scriptures***.

My invitation to you is this: study – study Romans 8. Don't just read it. Certainly read it, but then study it. Do the word searches, look into the meaning of what Paul wrote.

You'll find that its theme follows much of what we have looked into tonight, and we may even plunge deeply into it when we return.

## **PRAYER**

Father, I pray for Your home in us. Lord Yeshua, I pray that You and the Father find a favorable environment in which to make your abode in us. Lord, You reveal in Your word what You are doing as You have made us fresh, young and new in Christ Jesus. You have done that and You have also revealed what **we** are to do because of who we are in Christ and who we are in You. You designate us as Your sons and daughters in Christ. You have poured out Your spirit on us to guide us into all the truth. Father, I pray in the name of THE Lord Jesus Christ, that every other lord in our lives is pulled down and every alliance and agreement, spoken or unspoken, knowing or unknowing, with any spirit that is not of Your Holy Spirit is cancelled and revoked now. God I pray that we will put a watch on our mouths and a guard around our minds...that we bring every thought, every desire of the flesh into captivity. I pray that we recognize and knit into every fiber of our character the recognition that we are crucified with Christ and the life we live today is not ours but Christ's life in us by His faith working in our own.

I pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in each of our lives, in Jesus' name. I pray that we manifest all of the fruit of the Spirit as our lives are wrapped up in Christ and in You, Holy Father. You are God, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, holy are you, Father. We give you praise tonight. We give all honor and glory to Your name, in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who's name is above every name; Who gave His life for us, that we may live in Him now and always.

**AMEN**