The Village Church – Rancho Santa Fe
Adult Bible Study – Week #9 – 2026 & 2027

Romans 6:1-14 **November 10 & 11, 2026**

Review – Romans 5:12-21

1. Adam and Jesus
2. Through Adam, sin entered the world, and impacted/infected all
    a. Adam can mean one single man
    b. And (or) Adam can mean all human beings – sin is in our very nature
3. Through Jesus, God has dealt with sin, for the sake of all

Romans 6:1-14

4. With this passage, Paul begins a new conversation that follows on to what he has just been discussing
5. This new conversation deals with Sin, Grace, and Law
6. First, Paul asks a logical question, and one that apparently some were asking
    a. If sin gives opportunity for God to act graciously, which is a good thing, is it not then a good thing for human beings to sin all the more (so that God can "grace" all the more)?
7. Paul's answer is simple: No
8. One would expect Paul to say something about the absurdity of the "logic" that would actually encourage the bad rather than the good, however…
9. Paul goes an entirely different direction
10. Paul asserts that those who are "in Christ" (as opposed to being "in Adam") have actually DIED!
11. This death is part of what Christian baptism is all about
12. The logic flows this way:
    a. Christ defeated and paid for sin through his death
    b. Someone who has died is no longer subject to the power of sin
    c. But, if you have to die to escape the power of sin, that doesn't help you at all while you are still alive!
    d. Furthermore, once you have died, all of this becomes a moot point
    e. What must happen is that *a person would have to die (and thereby escape sin) and then come back to life (and continue living free from the power of sin).*
    f. By baptism, a Christian shares in the death of Christ
    g. And, by baptism, a Christian also shares in the resurrection of Christ
        i. (Baptism by immersion best captures this meaning as a person is "buried" under the water and then "raised up/resurrected" up from the water)
    h. Put another way: By dying, Christ conquered sin, and by rising, Christ conquered death
    i. In baptism, a Christian dies (and sin no longer holds power over him/her) and in the future a Christian is raised (just as Christ was raised)
        i. This raising / resurrection involves our receiving spiritual bodies, a total transformation of our present reality into something entirely new (see I Corinthians 15)
    j. Baptism both:
        i. Alters our past – by freeing is from sin, through Christ's perfect, sacrificial death
        ii. Alters our future – by bringing us into the reality of Christ's resurrection

k. Through this spiritual transaction – accomplished by God through Christ – we (human beings) are now freed from the penalty and power of sin and freed to live without sin
    i. In essence, we are a new race
    ii. Though the reality of our sinless lives comes gradually into being, as we choose to embrace, remember, and manifest our baptism
l. Christians who fully realize their new relationship with God are people who begin to act differently
m. Only when the new age comes (with Christ returned) will Christians fully manifest their sinless selves, but until then, there are the beginnings of such holy and good lives
n. Baptism expresses faith in God:
    i. Faith that God has dealt with our sin (by Christ's death on the cross)
    ii. Faith that God has acted graciously to restore the relationship that we broke with God
    iii. Faith that we can now live differently—as a thankful response—rather than a fearful attempt to continue to deserve God's love

Questions for Your Life Today

A. How do you understand baptism?
B. If baptism means identification with Jesus (participating in a spiritual sense with all that Jesus said and did) then how does this change your life?
C. Give examples of how a person dies to an old way of life
D. Give examples of how a person is born to a new way of life
E. How might you do things that would help you remember your baptism and thereby more fully enter into its meaning for your life every day?

Notes by The Rev. Dr. Jack Baca, Senior Pastor, The Village Church, Rancho Santa Fe, California
Primary Source: Romans, Interpretation Commentary, Paul Achtemeier
Other Sources: The Message of Romans, The Bible Speaks Today, and *Romans: God's Good News for the World, both by John Stott* and *The Epistle to the Romans, Harper's New Testament Commentaries, C.K. Barrett*