



Unless The Church Is Dead It Will Never Please God

Romans 6:11-6:14

You see, as our scripture tells us this morning, I must be able to say, “Yes Lord, I am dead.”

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

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

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

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

Let’s read our scripture;

Romans 6:11-14: 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

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

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

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

Folks, in order to be a dead church, its members must first die to their sins.

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

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

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

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 that; Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

15. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

16. So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view.

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

We cannot try to cling to our old life. That life ought to be dead.

That old vessel that was filled with sin and shame is to be torn apart and a new person is to emerge.

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

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

A man who was selling an old warehouse:

The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Gangs had damaged the doors, smashed the windows and thrown trash everywhere.

As he showed a prospective buyer the property, he took pains to say that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage and clean out the garbage.

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

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

Everything else must die and Jesus must take control and build a whole new creation in us.

A dead church is one where the members are dead men and women walking.

Christians are dead men walking. They have died to their sins and they are allowing Jesus to resurrect them into a new life.

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

They have been reborn. Born again, as Jesus told Nicodemus over in the third chapter of John.

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

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

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

Look at verse 12-13; Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

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

Folks we have to die to self... We have this new life that has been given to us through being born again the old life is dead.

- Our priorities change.
- What used to be important has changed.
- No longer are we to be the old selfish got to have my way person.
- We have died to that old selfish life, we must die to ourselves.

A great illustration of that is the Apostle Paul.

This is what Titus 1:1 says; 1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives.

The King James translation translates slave as Bond Servant Paul writes that I am a slave or a bondservant.

The best definition here is "devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests."

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

1. A bondservant disregards their own self-interest their own will.

2. Their own desires and even their own emotions.

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

When we think of slaves we think of our history of slaves being captured in foreign lands and transported somewhere to be in bondage against their will.

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

A bondservant is someone who voluntarily submits to another.

If a person had been a servant for someone and had been treated well and they wanted to be bound to and provided for the rest of their lives they would voluntarily become a bondservant.

The master would take an awl and pierce their ear to signify that they were in voluntary servitude to him.

They became utterly dependent upon the master.

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

They die to themselves.

This was saying a lot about Paul. This one seemingly small description of himself but if we look at this statement, he is describing death to self.

Paul was a big deal in his former life folks.

If you remember, Paul was standing giving approval at the stoning of Stephen right after the death of Jesus.

Paul was given the authority to drag Christians from their homes and punish them.

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

Paul reminds Titus when he writes him that I have died to that person I used to be.

· I am no longer the man I used to be.

· I am a bondservant of God.

· I am his to do with as He pleases.

I am dead to my own desires. All what is important to me now is the will of God.

In the Garden as Jesus prayed to God that the cup of death pass from Him he said "not my will but your will be done" Father.

When a person is dead to self that is their prayer not my will but your will God.

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

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

That's what a dead church looks like unselfish, looking only to follow Jesus.

We must become dead to sin and dead to self if we are to become true followers of Jesus Christ.

Paul writes in verse 13 here that if we become Dead to Sin and Dead to Self then we become:

Alive in Christ Verses 13 says; Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin.

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

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

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

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

A dead church realizes that it has no strength on its own.

As we die to sin and self, the world sees us as Jesus wants them to see us.

Alive in Christ.

Three friends were talking about death one day and one of them asked the others a question.

We need to look at ourselves as being dead to sin and self and let others look at us and see us alive in Christ Jesus.

As a church we need to be dead as a church within the body, dead to sin and selfishness

When we are a dead church, people will look at us and say those people down at the creek are really alive to Christ. In order for that to happen, we need to be a dead church.