

Are You a "Dead" Person Walking?

A good number of New testament passages reinforce the reality of "death" having occurred at some point in a Christian's past. "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:3). "I have been crucified with Christ..." (Galatians 2:20). "...you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world..." (Colossians 2:20). "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:2). "...our old *self* was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with..." (Romans 6:6). "...reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin..." (Romans 6:11). What does it really mean to be "dead" in this way?



What was the name of the dying king who was propped up in his chariot for a day?

The context of these passages indicate that when a person seeks to become or continue to be a Christian, that person "dies" to *sin*. The sinful way of living is "put to death." Yes, that way of living should stay dead!

When a person dies physically, the influence and appetites of this life no longer have any effect on the deceased. And though you may really like chocolate, it will not affect you once you die. It will not revive you. It will not be a craving. In a similar way, when we "die" to sin in the process of conversion to Christ (specifically that action of repentance), our sinful influences and appetites will no longer affect us. What? You say sometimes the influence returns? Kill it! Repent!

The sinful way of life is often called "the old man" or "the old self" and for good reason. The Ephesians were instructed to "put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (4:22). To the Colossians these words were written, "Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds..." (3:9).

Therefore, a Christian has DIED in practicing sin. The old way has ceased. True life is now characterized by obedient trust in God, and not the persistent exercise of sin. That "old life" has been crucified. It does not exist anymore.

This "death to sin" does not mean a Christian will never sin *at all*. To deny that reality is to be, in the written words of John, a LIAR (1 John 1:8). Christians will commit momentary acts of sin, but they do not "live in sin." Their practice is to "walk in the light (1 John 1:7), while the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses those occasional sins.

Though "dead to sin," every true Christian is "alive to God" (Romans 6:11). Though at one time "buried with Him through baptism into death" we must truly understand "that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). How are you living your life?

The Scripture describes our new life this way: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1-3 NKJV). It is Jesus Christ who "died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:15). The new life IS lived totally and completely by faith IN Christ. We are alive—but not for ourselves.

When we "get it in our heads" we are "dead" and "put it into practice," then there will be no need to be politely prodded, pushed or provoked into *any* spiritual activity. Is gathering with others to study the Bible a spiritual activity? Yes, you know it is. Egos will be lost in humble service to others. Complaining will give way to gratitude. Edification will replace gossip. Control and manipulation of others will cease. More congregational works will be built up and less torn down. The list could go on...

We are, as Christians, a "dead person" walking...and thus, there is no better way to truly LIVE!

To our valued visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible. Any response is up to you and will be kindly received. We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Birthday/Anniversary Lunch: 2nd Sunday of the month...
NMCCH: Zip Lock Bags (all sizes) & Fabric Softener Sheets (10/19 pick up)
Friday Bible Study: 7PM to 8PM yes, every Friday... Lord willing!
Woman2Woman: at Lewisville, Saturday 8AM (9/22) "Life is like a Box of Chocolates"
Singing: at Morton St, Tuesday 7PM (9/25) a sweet sound of vocal chords
Ladies Day: at Howe, Saturday 9AM (9/29) "Are You a Salt Shaker?"
FALL GOSPEL MEETING: Here, Sunday thru Tuesday, (10/14-16) "UNITY" please see our WEBSITE or posted flyer for times to attend.