Buried and Raised with Christ

Romans 6:1-11

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self[a] was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free[b] from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

Having received God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we are no longer who we used to be. In Romans 6, Paul addresses a misunderstanding of the gospel: if God's grace increases when sin increases, should we continue living in sin so that grace may abound? His answer is an emphatic no. Those who have put their faith in Christ have been united with him in his death and resurrection. Baptism serves as an outward sign of this inward reality, reminding us that we have died to our old life and have been raised to walk in a new life in Christ.

Paul highlights two truths about our union with Christ:

1. Buried with Christ – We are no longer slaves to sin (vv3-7)
2. Raised with Christ – We are called to walk in newness of life (vv8–11)

DISCUSS:

1. Living Out Our New Identity in Christ

Paul reminds us that our old self has been crucified with Christ. This does not mean that we will never struggle with sin, face temptation, or stumble in our walk with God. Rather, it means that sin is no longer our master. We are no longer defined by our old desires, habits, failures, or the lies we once believed about ourselves. Through Christ, we have been set free from the dominion of sin and given a new identity as God's people.

Yet, it is easy to fall back into old patterns of thinking and living, even after coming to faith in Christ. We may continue to allow past struggles, unhealthy habits, or sinful desires to shape our lives.

What are some old habits, attitudes, or patterns of sin that you still struggle to leave behind? How has God helped you with certain sins or struggles?

What were some of the lies you once believed about yourself, and how does being a new creation in Christ help undo some of these false beliefs about yourself?

2. Walking in the Newness of Life

Being raised with Christ means that we are not simply called to leave our old lives behind, but to embrace a new way of living. Paul reminds us that just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too are called to walk in newness of life. Our lives are now to be lived for God, becoming increasingly like Jesus in our thoughts, words, and actions. Instead of harbouring bitterness and resentment, we learn to forgive. Instead of living selfishly, we learn to love and serve others.

This new life is not something we achieve through our own strength or willpower. It is by God's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit that we are continually enabled to resist sin and become more like Christ.

What might walking in the newness of life for God look like in your everyday relationships, decisions, and interactions with others? Are there areas of your life where God is calling you to become more like Jesus?

PRAY:

1. For a Deeper Understanding of Our New Identity in Christ

- Pray that we would continually remember that we have been buried with Christ and are no longer slaves to sin.
- Pray that we would not allow our past failures, sinful habits, or old identities to define us, but find our identity and worth in Jesus Christ.

2. For Strength to Walk in the Newness of Life

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us to resist temptation and turn away from sin.
- Pray that our thoughts, words, and actions would increasingly reflect the character of Christ, that we may grow in forgiveness, love, humility, and service towards others.

3. For Hearts That Depend on God's Grace

- Pray that when we stumble and struggle with sin, we would not give up or become complacent, but continually turn back to God.
- Pray that we would never take God's grace for granted or use it as an excuse to remain in sin, but allow his grace to transform us and enable us to live fully for him.