

The Body of Sin

(Rom 6:6-7)

- Remember Paul is answering the accusation of antinomianism (v.1)

I. Rom 6:5- Divided into 2 parts:

A) “Planted together in the likeness of His death”

1. Expounded in v.6-7

B) “Also in the likeness of His resurrection”

1. Expounded in v.8-10

II. Rom 6:6- The old man was crucified in order that:

A) “The body of sin might be destroyed”

1. Body of sin

i. Negative

a) The body of sin does not refer to the “old man”

1) It makes no sense whatsoever to say the old man was crucified that something might now happen to the old man

2) Paul said the old man was not only crucified, but buried and put away forever

3) The old man is not the old nature

(a) We spent an entire class establishing that for this very reason in these verses

b) The body of sin is not the entire mass of our sins, neither is it the entirety of mankind’s sin

ii. Positive

a) “Body” must first be defined

1) We are never to take a word as being figurative unless we have ample reason to do so in the text

2) We also should consider the meaning of a word as normally consistent within a passage

(a) Chapters 6-8 have a lot to say about the believer’s body:

(1) Rom 6:12- “Your mortal body”

(2) Rom 6:13- “Your members”

(3) Rom 6:19- “Flesh/members”

(4) Rom 7:17-18- “No I but sin that dwelleth in me, that is in my flesh”

(5) Rom 7:20- “Sin dwelleth in me”

(6) Rom 7:23- “Sin which is in my members”

(7) Rom 7:24- “The body of this death”

(8) Rom 8:10- “The body is dead”

(9) Rom 8:11- “Your mortal bodies”

(10) Rom 8:23- “The redemption of our body”

(11) Rom 12:1-2- Paul begins the exhortation of applying the doctrine he has taught by saying “present your bodies a living sacrifice”

3) “Body” therefore refers to the human body

b) “Body of sin” (also “flesh”= body tyrannized by sin)

1) The physical body as it is possessed of and affected by sin

(a) The body of man since the fall and in this present evil world

(b) Rom 8:23- This is why Paul longed for the redemption of the body

2) It doesn’t refer simply to the “human body”, as it was created perfect and unaffected by sin

(a) This is the Hindu teaching

(b) They say the spiritual is pure and the material is sin

(1) But we must never forget the Lord Jesus Christ had a body

3) The human body is not the source of sin, it is instead able to be ruled over by sin, affected by sin, controlled by sin

(a) We do not need delivering from the body but from sin

B) “Destroyed”

1. “Nullified, rendered ineffective, no longer able to exert the same dominating influence”

2. Able now to be overcome (just as the giants in Canaan)

i. Heb 2:14- As Christ “destroyed” the devil

a) See Rom 3:3, 3:31, 4:14, 7:2, 7:6

3. Sin took complete dominance of man in the fall: body, mind and spirit, as Paul proved in Rom 5:12-21

i. Therefore fallen man is now dominated by his body rather than dominating it

ii. Eph 2:2-3- Fallen man is controlled by the lower part of his nature (body) with its lusts and desires rather than the higher part (spirit) with its desire for God

a) But in a Christian this no longer must be the case, we have been set free from the dominion of sin, thus:

b) Augustine:

1) Before the fall Adam was *posse peccare* (able to sin)

2) After the fall Adam was *non posse non peccare* (not able not to sin)

3) After regeneration man is *posse non peccare* (able not to sin)

4) Once glorified we will be *non posse peccare* (*not able to sin*)

C) “Henceforth we should not serve sin”

1. The Christian is no longer a slave to sin

i. The distinction between “me” and “my body”

a) The “old man/old self” is forever gone, and the new man/self now stands in his place, yet the body remains the same

- 1) I (old self) is dead and buried and the new “I” resurrected in its place, sin no longer has dominion over “me” but it still has much power where my “body” is concerned
- 2) The “old man” is dead, but the old “body” is not
 - (a) I am a new man, but not yet a new body
 - (b) The example of Israel in the land of Canaan
 - (1) Jud 2:22-23- God delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt and brought them into the promised land, but He left the Canaanite nations there and Israel had to struggle constantly against the remaining corruption
 - (c) The “old man” is not to be struggled against, it is the “old nature” that we must fight
- b) Sin no longer dominates the Christian as before, but we are still affected by it, and so often allow it to rule us through the body/flesh
 - 1) The body with its natural instincts is not sinful, but sin uses those instincts to try and govern us
 - (a) Hunger, sex, sleep, etc. are all God given instincts and good in their proper place, but they are not to govern us
 - (1) Yet fallen man is completely controlled by his fleshly desires and lusts, thus he is the slave of sin and the devil
 - (2) Heb 4:15- The devil attempted to use these same fleshly instincts to tempt the Lord but without success
 - I. Christ was not dominated by His physical desires, but instead dominated them
 - c) Matt 1:21- Christ died to deliver us from sin
 - 1) Knowing this, our old man (the old “me/self”) was crucified in order that the hold sin had on me, even on my body might be rendered ineffective and might be overcome in this present life
 - 2) Thus the suggestion of Rom 6:1 is an evil absurdity
 - (a) To continuing wallowing in sin would defeat the very purpose for which Christ delivers us
 - (b) Gal 2:20- “I (old self) was crucified with Christ and that ‘I’ (old self) no longer lives, but Christ has made a new life (new I/self) in me (body) and that new life (new I/self) now lives in the same flesh where the old ‘I’ (self) used to live, but not under the same conditions of slavery, but instead by the faith of Christ, having been delivered, being delivered and expecting future deliverance”
 - (c) We are no longer “bound” to sin, but are free not to sin, and every sin we now commit is completely due to us and our weakness