

Am I Living A Lie?
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Romans 6:1-14

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.
(Romans 6:12-14, ESV)

Introduction

The Gospel ("good news") of Jesus Christ explicitly promises us redemption and freedom from sin and death, but not all of this happens at once (see Romans 5:1-21). We have been "saved by grace through faith, not by works" (see Ephesians 2:8-10) and promised that the work which God has begun in us, God will bring to completion (see Philippians 1:6). Yet our daily personal experience with the power of sin, if not death, brings many of us to the place where we either live a lie--in denial of our experiences with temptation, failure and sin--or where we doubt the goodness of God.

1. Am I Living A Lie? (Romans 6:1-4)

- a) The conflicting realities of our now and not yet.
- b) What does it mean to have been buried with Christ by baptism into death?

2. United with Christ in both His death and life. (Romans 6:5-10)

- a) Redemption and forgiveness now, resurrection and freedom not yet.
- b) We have been promised freedom from sin and death, but from when does this begin?

3. Choosing to follow the passions of the Spirit over our flesh. (Romans 6:11-14)

- a) "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions" (v.12)
- b) Which rules your life: the passion for self, or the passion to worship?

Conclusion

The passion for self--"give me what I need (or want badly) now!"--is just the first of four fleshly, carnal passions that pull us away from God and can cause us to doubt His goodness. Let's take some time over the next four weeks to take a closer look at the passions of our flesh (for self, control, to define and perform) and the passions of the Spirit of Christ (to worship, trust, grow and obey) warring within us, and learn how we can share in Christ's victory over sin and death.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

1. Read Romans 5-8 (yes, four chapters!) this week and prayerfully ask God about Paul's experiences.
2. What does this mean to you: "let not sin rule therefore reign in your mortal body" (Romans 6:11-14)
3. What are the Word and Spirit of God saying to you?

070719cdg@hch