

Your New Responsibility

Living the Christian Life, Lesson 4

Living the Christian Life is a Bible study series that explores Paul's teaching about Christian growth and sanctification in Romans 6:1–8:17.

Introductory Thoughts

After a lengthy discussion of the need for and basis of justification by grace through faith in Christ (i.e., salvation or conversion), Paul now explains how this same truth should transform our mindset and lifestyle as Christians (i.e., sanctification or Christian growth). The believer's close identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection places him or her in a new position. He is no longer a slave to sin but serves Jesus Christ instead.

Passage: Romans 6:12-14

In English (NKJV)

- v.12 Therefore do not let sin **reign** in your **mortal** body, that you should **obey** it in its **lusts**.
- v.13 And do not **present** your **members** as **instruments** of unrighteousness to sin, but **present** yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your **members** as **instruments** of righteousness to God.
- v.14 For sin shall not have **dominion** over you, for you are not **under law** but **under grace**.

In Greek

- v.12 μη ουν βασιλευετω η αμαρτια εν τω θνητω υμων σωματι εις το υπακουειν αυτη εν ταις επιθυμιας αυτου
- v.13 μηδε παριστανετε τα μελη υμων οπλα αδικιας τη αμαρτια αλλα παραστησατε εαυτους τω θεω ως εκ νεκρων ζωντας και τα μελη υμων οπλα δικαιοσυνης τω θεω.
- v.14 αμαρτια γαρ υμων ου κυριευσει ου γαρ εστε υπο νομον αλλ υπο χαριν

Key Words and Insights

Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006) together with an interlinear Bible, like *The NKJV Greek English Interlinear New Testament* (Thomas Nelson, 1994) is an excellent way to get accurate definitions for your Bible study based upon Greek and Hebrew meanings.

- *Reign* (βασιλεύω):
- *Mortal* (θνητός):

- *Obey* (ὕπακούω):
- *Lust* (ἐπιθυμία):
- *Present* (παρίστημι):
- *Member* (μέλος):
- *Instrument* (ὄπλον):
- *Have dominion* (κυριεύω):
- *Under* (ὑπό):
- *Law* (νόμος):
- *Grace* (χάρις):

Questions for Meditation and Reflection

1. “Therefore” refers back to what was said previously. In your own words, state what Paul is referring back to as the reason or basis for what he is about to say next.
2. What should you not allow to happen to your physical body?
3. What will you do if you do allow this to happen?
4. What does it mean to “present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin”?
5. What should you do instead?
6. What does this statement mean? “Sin shall not have dominion over you.”
7. What does “under the law” mean? Then what does “under grace” mean?

Questions for Personal Application

1. Give some ways that we can choose to “obey” wrong desires by placing our body parts at the disposal of sin?
2. Give some ways that we can choose to “obey” God by submitting ourselves to him instead to do what is right?
3. What must you remind yourself about when you are facing strong desires to make wrong choices?