

# Your New Spiritual Status

*Living the Christian Life, Lesson 8*

*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 7:5-6

### In English (NKJV)

- v.5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.
- v.6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

## 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.

Some words we have already considered from our study of Rom 6, so you can refer to those lessons or to Mounce for their definitions. As you study this passage, you should review the meanings of these words even though they are not listed on this study guide.

- *Flesh* (σάρξ):
- *Passions* (σάρξ):
- *Aroused* (ἐνεργέω):
- *At work* (ἐνεργέω):
- *Delivered* (καταργέω):
- *Held* (κατέχω):
- *Serve* (δουλεύω):

- *Newness* (καινότης):
- *Oldness* (παλαιότης):
- *Letter* (γράμμα):

### **Questions for Meditation and Reflection**

1. What does it mean to be “in the flesh” (v.5)?
2. How does “passions” describe the way that sin operates in our lives (v.5)?
3. What kind of affect does the law have on a nonbeliever’s sinful desires (v.5)?
4. In what ways do the sinful desires of a nonbeliever bring about death (v.5)?
5. How have we been “delivered” from the law (v.6)?
6. What is the “newness of the Spirit” (v.6)?
7. What is the “oldness of the letter” (v.6)?

### **Questions for Personal Application**

1. In ways do you find yourself still serving in the “oldness of the letter” even though you are a Christian?
2. Why is it challenging to serve in the “newness of the Spirit”?
3. How can we encourage one another to live in the “newness of the Spirit” as a church?