

**Sermon Series:** Dying and Living in Jesus—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—3/29/09  
**Title:** “Flooding Out the Old and Rinsing In the New”  
**Text:** Romans 6:1-14  
**Intro.:** *Illus.: Bondage of the Will?*  
**Theme:** Counting ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ doesn’t start with good intentions or renewed effort but begins in the waters of our baptism which daily connect us back to the forgiveness and power of Jesus.

***Does grace encourage sin? (Romans 5:20-21)***

- The risk that God took is that He sent Jesus to die for the sins of the whole world, even when many would not believe
- 1. *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*
- 2. We are given free grace, not cheap grace, which cost God’s Son his life and so we do not treat it haphazardly
- That amazing grace prompts us respond to his call to faith and respond with a life that walks away from sin
- 1. **Illus.: Freedom of the will?**
- 2. Not a divine coercion but a loving conversion of our heart from being an enemy to a friend of God
- 3. It is out of devotion and relationship flooded into our lives at our baptism, that we want to be around our Father

***What really happened at the cross and when Jesus came into my life? (Romans 6: 1-11)***

- A death—once for all (*any one who has died has been freed from sin. v7 & the death he died, he died once fo all vs. 10*)
- 1. No longer responsive to sin because we consider it “dead,” and we are repulsed by it
  - a. Sometimes dying to something will hurt but when compared to the alternative
  - b. **Illus.: Participating in the pain of dying to sin**
- 2. No longer submitting ourselves to the slavery of guilt, repressive relationships, or worldly philosophies
  - a. *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. Colossians 2:8*
- A new life’s beginning – lasting forever
- 1. In our baptism when we participated not only in Jesus’ death, we also participated in his life-giving resurrection
- 2. *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3*
- 3. Through his Spirit in the floods of baptism we have had a new breeze blow in (*a cold breeze replacing humid air*)

***So what does that all mean? (Romans 6:12-14)***

- A submission of our mind, passion, and love to the Father
- 1. *Jesus replied: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38*
- 2. **Illus. Living Proof Video on Emotion, Intellect and, Will**
- A mastery of the head
- 1. *Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus*
- 2. Intentionally/systematically choose to allow into your lives only those things that are from God and lead to him.
- 3. Let the mind of the master be the master of your mind. **Source Unknown.**
- A mastery of the will
- 1. *Do not let sin reign in your mortal body. vs. 12*
- 2. It may means some trips and outings, friendships and job opportunities will be let go because it is not God’s will
- 3. *Rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. vs. 13*
- A mastery of heart
- 1. *So that we do not obey its evil desires. vs. 12*
- 2. The hardest and last hill to conquer is our emotional attraction to sins allure – to be like, to be happy, to be safe
- 3. But all this comes not by law/coercion/concession but by the Spirit’s inner prompting to choose life not death
- 4. *For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. vs. 14*

### **Bondage of the Will**

Toad baked some cookies. "These cookies smell very good," said Toad. He ate one. "And they taste even better," he said. Toad ran to Frog's house. "Frog, Frog," cried Toad, "taste these cookies that I have made."

Frog ate one of the cookies, "These are the best cookies I have ever eaten!" said Frog.

Frog and Toad ate many cookies, one after another. "You know, Toad," said Frog, with his mouth full, "I think we should stop eating. We will soon be sick."

"You are right," said Toad. "Let us eat one last cookie, and then we will stop." Frog and Toad ate one last cookie. There were many cookies left in the bowl.

"Frog," said Toad, "let us eat one very last cookie, and then we will stop." Frog and Toad ate one very last cookie.

"We must stop eating!" cried Toad as he ate another.

"Yes," said Frog, reaching for a cookie, "we need willpower."

"What is willpower?" asked Toad.

"Willpower is trying hard not to do something you really want to do," said Frog.

"You mean like trying hard not to eat all these cookies?" asked Toad.

"Right," said Frog. Then Frog put the cookies in a box. "There," he said. "Now we will not eat any more cookies."

"But we can open the box," said Toad.

"That is true," said Frog.

Frog tied some string around the box. "There," he said. "Now we will not eat any more cookies."

"But we can cut the string and open the box," said Toad.

"That is true," said Frog. Frog got a ladder. He put the box up on a high shelf. "There," said Frog. "Now we will not eat any more cookies."

"But we can climb the ladder and take the box down from the shelf and cut the string and open the box," said Toad.

"That is true," said Frog. He climbed the ladder and took the box down from the shelf. He cut the string and opened the box. Frog took the box outside. He shouted in a loud voice. "Hey, birds, here are cookies!" Birds came from everywhere. They picked up all the cookies in their beaks and flew away.

"Now we have no more cookies to eat," said Toad sadly. "Not even one."

"Yes," said Frog, "but we have lots and lots of willpower."

"You may keep it all, Frog," said Toad. "I am going home now to bake a cake."

**Ray and Anne Ortlund, Renewal, 1989, Navpress, Page 73-74**

### **Freedom of the Will?**

A young man and his fiancé met with their pastor for pre-marriage counseling. They were filling out a preliminary questionnaire which asked various logistical and informational questions. One of the questions stumped the groom to be and so he read it aloud: "Are you entering this marriage at your own will?" he looked over at his fiancé. "Put down 'Yes,'" she said. **Lilyan van Almelo, *Reader's Digest*, May 1993, p. 138.**

### **Participating in the pain of death**

Patrick was a Celtic monk who evangelized the British Isles for Christ. The story is told about the baptism of King Aengus by Patrick in the middle of the fifth century. Sometime during the rite, Patrick leaned on his sharp-pointed staff and inadvertently stabbed the king's foot. After the baptism was over, Patrick looked down at all the blood, realized what he had done, and begged the king's forgiveness. Why did you suffer this pain in silence, the Saint wanted to know. The king replied, "I thought it was part of the ritual."

## Romans 5: 20-21

<sup>20</sup> The Ten Commandments were given so that all could see the extent of their failure to obey God's laws. But the more we see our sinfulness, the more we God's abounding grace forgiving us. <sup>21</sup> Before, sin ruled over all people brought them to death, but now God's grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. [LB]

## Romans 6:1-14

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup> If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- <sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. [NIV]