



ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

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Week 16 – A Funeral and a Birth

Introduction:

Romans 6:1-11

1. Paul addresses the _____ (6:1 – the possibility of abuse)
2. Paul affirms the _____ (6:2-10 – our placement into Christ)
3. Paul anchors us in _____ (6:11 – the pursuit of confidence)

The Flesh:

1. ...is something we can set our _____ on (Rom. 8:6-7)
2. ...is something we can _____ according to
(2 Cor. 10:3; Gal. 5:16)
3. ...battles against the _____ (Gal. 5:17)
4. ...is equivalent to the way of _____ effort (Gal. 3:3)
5. ...seeks to build strength and _____ – a resume
(1 Cor. 1:26; Phil. 3:4-6)
6. ...can become the _____ of our confidence (Phil. 3:4)

“The flesh is a network of habits and strategies that we employ to make it through life, avoid pain, and seek success.” (Dr. Andrew Farley)

Concluding Thoughts:

This is ultimately about a funeral and a birth. Perhaps it is time to get alone with God and confess to Him our lack of faith in this area. Perhaps it is time to attend our own spiritual funeral - to say goodbye once and for all to the old, sinful nature we once identified with. If not, we will remain stuck in spiritual immaturity.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Chapter 6 of Romans makes some shocking statements that, if true, make all the difference in the world. If it is true that your old nature was killed and buried with Christ and your new nature is alive in Him, what bearing does this have on your approach to living the life of Christ? Try to offer specific examples...

Ponderings:

2. Read Romans 6:1-11 again as a group, preparing to discuss the following thoughts and questions...
 - Verse 5 clearly teaches our spiritual bonding (union) with Christ. How does walking by faith in this reality differ from some of the things you may have heard in the past about "striving to live a Christian lifestyle?"
 - In verses 3-4, the picture of our union is described by the term "baptism" (being "immersed into"). In verse 5, the term "united" literally means "*to grow or fuse together with*" as a branch being grafted into a trunk of a tree or vine. If this grafting is successful, what do the main part of the plant and the grafted part share in common?
 - What do these pictures of immersion and fusing together teach us about the source of power by which we live?
 - Think of the implications of these truths. What would it mean to your life if you never again saw yourself in any way other than united to Christ (immersed in Him, fused to Him)? Explain...
3. In verse 6, the phrase "old self" (NIV) is literally "old man" – a reference to the "corrupt spirit we inherited from Adam, a spirit that was dead to God but alive to sin" (John Best, Th.D.). Verse 11 now commands us to "consider as fact by faith" that we are now just the opposite: *dead to sin but alive to God*. What does this mean in practical terms for our day-to-day lives?
4. Over the course of your life as a Christian, do you feel that you (and those who have taught you) have placed enough emphasis on these critical truths? Explain your answer...

Promptings:

5. In the week ahead, every time to feel thankful for the fact that Jesus died and rose FOR you, make a point to thank Him equally that you died and rose WITH Him. Praise Him daily in the week ahead that you truly are a NEW creation!