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June 23 & 26, 2022  
Week 17 – No Longer Slaves (Romans 6:6)

**Introduction:**

Last time we discovered that Paul addressed the following:

- 1. The natural \_\_\_\_\_ – verse 1 (possibility of abusing grace)
- 2. The foundational \_\_\_\_\_ – verses 2-10 (placement into Christ)
- 3. The call to \_\_\_\_\_ – verse 11 (pursuit of confidence)

**Our Basic Needs According to Genesis 1-3**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Most People Try to Get These Needs Met Through the FLESH

**A Working Definition of The Flesh (or the “Self-Life”):**

*The flesh is the condition whereby my focus is primarily on myself and in which I am living out of my own resources in order to cope with life, solve my problems and meet my basic needs of acceptance, significance and worth.*

**Some Dominant Characteristics of The Flesh:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (performance-based acceptance, bragging, overbearing, exaggerating, poor listener, always being right, winning at all costs, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (blame, withdrawal, cover-up, victim mentality, indulgent or self-medicating behaviors, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (bullying, hostility, manipulation, stirring the pot, etc.)

**Romans 6:6 is Key...**

Our co-crucifixion with Christ is just as much an act of God's \_\_\_\_\_ as the forgiveness He provided when Christ died in our place!

“Romans 6:6 magnifies not our works (legalism), but the abundant work of God who at great cost to Himself made His gift free to us (grace). He does not leave us with two natures. Our old, Adamic nature, our old man, He executed with Christ at the cross. Victory for us comes not through our striving, but through what Jesus has done for us. That is grace-based victory. Our part is not to crucify or starve or do anything else to the old man. Rather, it is to believe and appropriate what God has already done for us in death with Christ and life in Christ.”  
*(John Best, Th.D., Romans 5-8:16 Commentary and Study Notes, Research Edition, p. 89)*

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

### Personal Life:

1. As we dive deeper into the heart of the gospel in Romans 6, what aspects of the weekend message were especially helpful or thought-provoking for you? Please share as honestly as possible with the group...

### Ponderings:

2. In the weekend message, it was noted that some misunderstand grace to imply that God is lenient or permissive when it comes to sin. Given Christ's gracious, violent and self-emptying work on the cross in our place, what do we learn about God's opinion of sin? Discuss...
3. In the message, it was also mentioned that Adam and Eve's basic needs of *acceptance*, *significance* and *worth* were met fully in the Garden. Revisit the narrative of Genesis 1-3 and discuss how each of these three needs were met specifically by God and the environment He created...
4. This past weekend, the *flesh* was given a working definition (see message notes). Based on that definition, how prominent is the flesh in governing your day-to-day life? Be honest. You are growing and are still in the discipleship process, so there is no shame in admitting where you're at...
5. The three prominent manifestations of the flesh mentioned in the weekend message were: *pride*, *self-protection* and *control*. Reviewing your message notes under each category, which area(s) do you need to yield most to Christ's work of grace in your own life?
6. Review Romans 6:6 and Paul's use of the passive verb "was crucified." According to God's Word, God's part was the "crucifying" (killing off your old man/woman) and raising you to new life. Your part is to "count yourself" dead to sin but alive to God in Christ (Rom. 6:11). Have you been practicing this in the past week as encouraged? Please share from your experience...

### Promptings:

7. Pray as a Life Group for clarity and confidence to walk in your true identity. Pray these things also for your children, grandchildren, friends and the members of Valley Church!