Romans 6:1-14

Newness of Life!

I. Announce:
   A. Slide #1 Today @ 3pm our Children@Risk we are showing the film, Nefarius, Merchant of Souls. Behind the Veil of the sex industry. [Ni-fair-ee-uhs = extremely wicked]
      1. It’s a documentary that exposes the disturbing trends in modern day slavery.
   B. Slide #2 Chaplain Ordination: both John Uriarte & Gator Gant.
      1. Both already working as Chaplains for the Riv. Sheriff Dept.

II. Slide #3 Intro: [Title: Newness of Life]
   A. Ok, what’s Paul shared w/us so far?
      1. We’ve been Justified by faith. We are standing in Grace. And, rejoicing in Glory.
      2. We formerly belonged to Adam (the author of sin & death) & now belong to God.
      3. Paul put works, ritual, & the law in its rightful place!
      4. And where sin abounded, Grace super-abounded!!!

   B. Slide #4 I have a Riddle: When asked this riddle, 80% of kindergarten students got the answer, compared to 17% of Stanford University seniors. “What is greater than God - More evil than the devil - The poor have it - The rich need it - And if you eat it, you’ll die?”
      1. HINT: The answer is 1 WORD and is 7 letters long. Give up? – “NOTHING!”
   C. Slide #5 Today’s Riddle: What is both dead & alive at the same time? [A: believers]

III. Slide #6 OUR POSITION IN CHRIST! (1-5)
   A. Slide #7 DEATH! (1-4a)
   B. We need not "continue in sin that grace may abound."
      1. We are sinners and need only to confess, that grace may abound.
   C. Being a Christian is a matter of life or death?
      1. This question was stimulated from 5:20.
      2. “If God is gracious, then we should sin more so we can receive more grace…right?”
         a) Certainly not! – or, “No way Jose!”
         b) They’re thinking, Paul’s unlimited grace encourages sin doesn’t it?
            (1) Slide #8,9 His answer – God’s grace frees us from sin not to sin!
               (a) True - Saints are safe; False - They can live as they like.
               True - God will keep His own; False - Sin will do them no harm.
               True - God gives us liberty; False - That He gives us license.
               True - He gives us protection; False - He allows us presumption.
(2) Can you speak of liberty while you are still wearing handcuffs? Can you boast of healing while the disease is still growing worse? Can you boast of Victory when your army is about to surrender? Can you have salvation in Christ when you continue to give full swing to evil passions?¹ (Spurgeon)

D. Believers identify w/Christ’s death, burial, & res in the symbol of baptism.
   1. That old life of sin in Adam is past for us.
   2. Note: In the early church people didn’t “walk an isle” or “raise a hand” to receive Christ. Instead, they made public their confession of faith in Christ by submitting to baptism.
      a) Slide #10,11 Have you “gone public”? Have you submitted to baptism?
         ½ hour Class Wed night, after service April 25th - Baptism is April 29th 2:30pm.

E. (4a) The old life is buried!
   1. Obviously this doesn’t mean that our struggle w/sin is over.
      a) Paul will deal with this struggle in chapter 7 as a “normal part of the Christian life”.
      b) Paul’s point? – We are no longer under sin’s mastery!
   2. Slide #12 Yes, our old life is buried...but we are like my dog Rambo, who remembers right where he buried his bone. Digs it up. And finds enjoyment with it one more time.
      a) Any ol’ sin you’ve gone and dug back up lately?
      b) Kelly’s dad Bob has a Blue Jay that he hand feeds. At Easter he showed up. In his case he’s buried so many he forgets where they are! [Let’s be more like the blue Jay]

F. Slide #13 LIFE! (4b,5)

G. (4b) Paul isn’t talking about our eventual bodily resurrection (though that’s included).
   1. He is talking about living the resurrected life here & now on earth.
   2. A life free from sin’s domination, a life of “newness”.
      a) Newness = life that has a new or fresh quality.
      b) “The resurrected of Jesus was not just a resuscitation; it was a new form of life.”²
   3. Christ’s death & resurrection are as important for living out your faith (Sanctification) as they are for being saved (Justification).

IV. Slide #14 HOW TO LIVE OUT OUR NEW LIFE! (6-14)

¹ Adapted from, Spurgeon At His Best, pg.319.
² Witmer, Romans, pg.462 (quoted from Swindoll, Romans, pg.4)
A. Here is a **3-fold strategy** for living out our new life! **Know; Consider; Present!**

B. **Slide #15 KNOW!** (6-10)

C. *Right Living* grows out of **Right Thinking.**

D. So, **step one** is **knowing** how His death & resurrection affects us!
   1. Know that, old man **is** crucified…**but** he is **long at dying!**
   2. Know that, **When death stung Jesus Christ, it stung itself to death.** [Like a bee stinger]

E. So, living the **new life** starts with **Knowing...**
   1. **Knowing** that He **died** to set us free from sin.
      **Knowing** that our old self was **nailed** to the cross w/Him.
      **Knowing** that just as Jesus **rose** from the dead & will **live forever**, we have been **raised** to a new life in Him, that has **no end**.
      **Knowing** that we live no longer by the **tyranny** of sin.

F. **Let me add what I think we need to know today CM saints!**

G. **Slide #16** The Gospel...not only **rescues us** from the **penalty** of sin; it rescues us currently from the **power** of sin; & will one day rescue us from the **presence** of sin, altogether.
   1. Christians today need a **radical reorientation** to the **NOW** power of the Gospel...in your life, in your church.
   2. I used to think Rom.1:16 only brought about conversion, **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.** I thought this was only for evangelism.
      a) **Slide #17** But it is for **salvation** past, present, future. [It justifies; sanctifies; glorifies]
      b) **Slide #18** But the Gospel doesn’t simply rescue us **from** the **past**; It doesn’t only rescue us **for** the **future**, but it is the power of God that rescues us **in** the **present!** (Tchividjian)
         (1) **Its not just** the power of God to **convert** us; Its the power of God to **change** us, once we’re saved.
   3. Jerry Bridges said, **“We need to be preaching the gospel to ourselves every single day!”**
      a) **Its Jesus’ Law fulfilling life; His death defying death; His res that guarantees 1 day all things will be made new.**
      b) **All** of Jesus’ work is the center of the gospel.
         (1) **His life alone is not** the center of the gospel; **His death alone is not** the center of the gospel; **His res alone is not** the center of the gospel.

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3 Swindoll, Romans, pg.5 (slightly modified)
H. Slide #19 CONSIDER! (11)
I. What is both dead & alive at the same time? (we are!)
   1. Believers are both dead & alive. Dead to sin & alive to God.
      a) And by faith we must live accordingly!
   2. Slide #20,21 A cartoon read, "Well, I haven't actually died to sin, but I did feel kind of faint once."
J. Reckon – Consider, or calculate. Regard or recognize.
   1. It means, see the truth of your situation!
   2. This doesn’t just happen! - It is something the believer can & must do daily.
   3. Christ’s’ death & resurrection has altered their position, & they should live in accordance w/the new reality.
K. He doesn’t say that sin is dead! But that, we are to count ourselves as dead to it!
   1. The sin of an unbeliever is a natural consequence of the fact that he’s a slave to sin! The sin of a believer is quite out of character...he has been set free!
L. Alive to God – We’ve not only been free from something, but we’ve been freed for something.
   1. We are now free to love & serve God.
M. Lazarus’ life, death, & life again give us a good picture of this concept!
   1. Jesus raised him from the dead then said, “Loose him, and let him go.” (Jn.11:44)
      a) Lazarus left the grave, got rid of his grave clothes, & began a new life.
N. Consider, recognize, remind yourself that you are dead to sin & alive to Christ!

O. Slide #22,23 PRESENT! (12-14)
P. (13) Do not go on presenting the members(parts) of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness(weapons). (NASB)
   1. Instrument – tool, weapon.
      a) Sin is regarded as a sovereign(vs.12 reign) who demands the military service of its subjects (present your members).
      b) Don’t let sin reign in your mortal body!
Q. Present – to put at one’s disposal, to place beside.
   1. “The most useful members of a church are usually those who would be doing harm if they were not doing good.” (Spurg)
      a) Our goal isn’t to domesticate/tame you! [I think of Tatoo Brian. He has a crazy past. But coming to Jesus didn’t make him docile, he’s just crazy for Jesus now!]
      b) Remember Jesus din’t come to make bad people good, but dead people alive!
c) Present yourself how you are.

R. (14) Has sin **dominion** over you?

1. The believer not only **hates** sin, but has the power to say **no** to it!
   a) Sin doesn’t **own** us, *even though it still tries*. **Christ** owns us. He is our Lord/Master.
      1. **He** has won the victory over sin & death for us.
      2. One day (heaven) we will enjoy the **fullness** of that victory.
         a) For now, the battle rages!

S. Legalism says God will **love** us if we **change**; The Gospel, or being under God’s grace says God will **change** us because in Christ He has **infinitely** loved us. [Big difference!]

1. Slide #24 It’s not **behaving** better, it’s **believing** better. Believing better?

2. Slide #25 Become increasingly **what you already are**! [what Christ has already **secured** for you]
   a) Slide #26,27 It does not say, “become something you’re not”.
      It says, “become **practically** what you already are **positionally**!”

T. Our problem as saints is not thinking we can **earn** God’s favor (we know better). No, our daily struggle is thinking we can **keep** God’s favor!

1. Our hearts are naturally bent on trying to **maintain** favor w/God. Sustaining a **performance driven** relationship w/God.

U. We must depend on His **gospel**. We must depend on His **grace**.

1. We focus more introspectively on our **sin**, & our need to improve, than we do Christ’s victory over sin, and our guaranteed success.

2. If you focus more on your sin than on your Savior, you will become a neurotic narcissus. [when we focus on our sin (that’s miserable) & we think because its miserable it’s good for us]

V. Slide #28 Wrap Up!

A. **Know** that **who you once were** has been crucified w/Christ & that you are a **new creation**!

B. **Consider**, recognize, **remind yourself** that you are **dead** to sin & **alive** to Christ!

C. **Present** this **new life** to God for His **glory** & **service**.

1. This side of heaven **sin** will always be with us; but so will the truth of Christ saving us from it!

D. Slide #29-31 Oliver Wendell Holmes said, The great thing in this world is not so much where we **stand** as in **what direction** we are moving. To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes **with** the wind and sometimes **against** it - but we must **sail**, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.4

4 Oliver Wendell Holmes, Leadership, Vol. 10, no. 2.