

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, *whats 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.³
- 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.

³ Swindoll, Romans, pg.5 (slightly modified)

(a) **All** His work brings about *Redemption!*

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 **Tattoo 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 didn'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 Gods 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.