

Lesson Outline

Galatians 2:20 ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

I The Believer's Conflict

- A. The Unsaved Man - natural**
- B. The Saved Man**
- C. The Great Struggle**
- D. Four Spiritual Laws**

II The Believer's Condition

- A. Two Fundamental Realities**
- B. The Believer's Standing (position)**
- C. The Believer's State (condition)**

III The Believer's Cross

- A. The Physical Significance of "The Cross."**
- B. The Spiritual Significance of the Cross for the Believer**

IV The Believer's Crucifixion

- A. Know – "Assimilation" (the recognition of our position in Christ)**
- B. Reckon – "Appropriation" (turning these facts into reasons)**
- C. Yield – "Affirmation" (turning reasons into reality in our daily experience)**

V The Believer's Cultivation

- A. Life**
- B. Likeness**
- C. Liberty**

Lesson Outline

This lesson deals with the KEY to living the Christian life. Paradoxically, it is all about dying. In Galatians 2:20, the apostle Paul wrote: ²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.* Also Jesus said in John 10:10 ¹⁰ ... *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

Sad to say, many Christians have never experienced this “abundant” life. For them, the Christian life consists of “do’s”, “don’ts”, and conditions by which they hope to live acceptably for God.

While they have received the truth of justification through Christ (salvation), they have missed the truth of identification with Christ. Instead of enjoying their Christianity, they **ARE ENDURING IT!**

Like most important doctrines of the Bible, that of the Crucified Life has been tarnished by extremes. There are those who believe one must undergo an actual “crucifixion” experience, while others become overly introspective (and thus self centered) through the pursuit of a “deeper spiritual life.”

I **The Believer’s Conflict** – The first to understand is the doctrine of the believer’s ‘two natures’:

A. The Unsaved Man – natural

1. Read I Corinthians 2:14 ¹⁴ *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* The natural man does not receive the things of God – he is spiritually blind!

2. The natural man (before your salvation) was spiritually dead. Read:
 - a. Ephesians 2:1 ¹ *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*
 - b. Ephesians 2:5 ⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

3. Read Ephesians 4:18 (17-19 because it is so powerful) ¹⁷ *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,* ¹⁸ *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:* ¹⁹ *Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

The natural man has his understanding **darkened**, he is alienated from the life of God through his **ignorance and blindness** (needs the WORD, the light!)

4. The natural man's only hope is to be "quicken" (made alive) through a supernatural work of God. Read previously in Ephesians 2:1 and also by Jesus in John 6:56 ⁵⁶ *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.* ⁵⁷ *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.* ⁵⁸ *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.* ⁵⁹ *These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.* ⁶⁰ *Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?* ⁶¹ *When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?* ⁶² *What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?* ⁶³ ***It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*** ⁶⁴ *But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.* ⁶⁵ *And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.* ⁶⁶ *From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*

Discussion: The natural man is ignorant of his ungodly condition. He must be given light (the Gospel). This is why a primary obstacle to salvation is the acknowledgement of one's sinful (unsaved) condition. The realization that you are dead in your sins without Jesus Christ! Exposure to the Gospel (the WORD) will bring you to the realization of your failed condition without Christ.

B. The Saved Man – When we are saved, we DO NOT lose our old nature. The Bible teaches that the spiritual man has two natures: the old sinful, Adamic nature (received through his natural birth and connection to Adam. Read Romans 5:12 ¹² Wherefore, as by one man [ADAM] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:); and the new spiritual nature (received through his new birth and connection to Christ). Compare and contrast the two natures of a believer:

Old Nature	New Nature
<p>Called the “old man” who is “corrupt.” Read Ephesians 4:22 ²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³</p>	<p>Called the “new man” created in righteousness. Ephesians 4:24 ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.</p>
<p>Has no good thing. Romans 7:18a ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.</p>	<p>“Partakers of the divine nature.” Read 2 Peter 1:4b ⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.</p>
<p>Profits nothing John 6:63 ⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.</p>	<p>Is born of God. Read 1 John 3:9 ⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.</p>
<p>Called the flesh. John 3:6a (from verse 5) ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.</p>	<p>Is renewed. Colossians 3:10 ¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:</p>
	<p>A new man! 2 Corinthians 5:17 ¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.</p>
	<p>The new man is spirit. John 3:6 ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷</p>
<p>Flesh (the old man) is weak. Matthew 26:41 ⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.</p>	<p>The new man is willing. Matthew 26:41 Matthew 26:41 ⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.</p>

C. The Great Struggle

Because of Man's dual nature, every Christian will experience an inner conflict.

1. **Read Galatians 5:17 (from verse 16)** ¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* ¹⁷ **For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.** ¹⁸ *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.* ¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,* ²⁰ *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,* ²¹ *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* ²⁴ *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* ²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* ²⁶ *Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*
 - a. **The flesh and the spirit lust against one another.**
 - b. **Because of this, the believer often finds he cannot do the things that he should**

2. **Read James 4:5 (from verse 1)** ¹ *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?* ² *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.* ³ *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.* ⁴ *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.* ⁵ **Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?** ⁶ *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.* ⁷ *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* ⁸ *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

In verse 5, the Spirit lusts to the point of “envy.” This shows just how much God wants to control our lives.

3. **Read Romans 7:18** ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Paul's experience in Romans 7:18 was that he had the desire "will" to do right, but struggled in its performance. Isn't this like all true Christians??

D. Four Spiritual Laws – Romans 7

Romans 7 presents four (4) laws which operate in the arena of the believer's inner conflict. Read all of Romans 7:

¹ Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ² For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³ So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. ⁴ Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. ⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. ⁶ But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. ⁷ What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. ⁸ But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. ⁹ For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. ¹⁰ And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. ¹² Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. ¹³ Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. ¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

1. The Law of God

Read: Romans 7:1 ¹ Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

Romans 7:12 ¹² Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

- a. **This law is Holy, Just, Good, and Spiritual (verse 14)**
- b. **This law enables us to KNOW sin (verse 7)**
- c. **This law makes sin exceedingly sinful (verse 13)**
- d. **This law declares man GUILTY before God (read Romans 3:19** ¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.)
- e. **The believer's new nature (INWARD MAN after accepting Jesus Christ) delights in this law. (Read Romans 7:22** ²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man)

2. **The Law of Sin – Romans 7:21** ²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

This law is discovered to be a reality by every Christian! It states that evil is present even though we have been saved!

3. **The Law of the Mind – Romans 7:23** ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

The mind is the decision making faculty in man. Inverse 18 it is called the "will". ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

4. **The Law of Conflict – Romans 23 (again)** ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

- a. **This law operates in our members (i.e. the flesh)**
- b. **This law is constantly warring against the law of the mind.**

There is another law to be considered... later

II The Believer's Condition

It is now necessary to distinguish between a believer's standing and state.

- Our STANDING (fixed and constant) refers to what we are IN Christ
- Our STATE (variable) refers to what we are WITH Christ

Christians often struggle with assurance of salvation (or fail to experience victory on a daily basis) because they don't understand the difference between their standing and state.

A. Two Fundamental Realities

Before any real forward progress can be made in the Christian life, two essential facts must be grasped by the believer:

1. I am ACCEPTED in Christ.

Read Ephesians 1:6b (from verse 4) ⁴ *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:* ⁵ *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,* ⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, **wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*** ⁷ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

There is nothing I have to do to merit God's love/acceptance – or to keep myself in His love!

Problem: Many Christians in actuality base their feelings of acceptance on performance or circumstances. When they are doing right or when things are going along "good," and when they feel God is blessing them, they feel accepted. But, when sin comes into their life and they stumble, or things seem dry and difficult and trials come, they doubt their acceptance by God or feel that somehow they must renew it.

The fact is that our acceptance in the first place was:

- Never performance based: Ephesians 2:9 (from verse 8): ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**
- Circumstance based Romans 5:8 ⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We are accepted IN (on the merits of) Christ then and now!

2. I am COMPLETE in Christ

Read Colossians 2:10 (from verse 6) ⁶ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: ⁷ Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. ⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰ **And ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power:

There is nothing more God has to do to add to the finished work of salvation – I have it all NOW! I do not have to help God out. I simply need to let Christ work out His life in me!

Read Philippians 2:13 and more ¹³ **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.** ¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings: ¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

B. The Believer's Standing (position)

In addition to being ACCEPTED AND being COMPLETE in Christ, there are things we ARE or HAVE in the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. **I have peace with God.** Romans 5:1 ¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
2. **I have obtained an inheritance.** Ephesians 1:11 ¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
3. **I have boldness and access with God.** Ephesians 3:12 ¹² In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.
4. **We are more than conquerors.** Romans 8:37 ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other

creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. **We are sons of God.** 1 John 3:2 ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

6. **We are sealed.**
 - Ephesians 4:30 ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, **whereby ye are sealed** unto the day of redemption.
 - Ephesians 1:13 ¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

7. **We are blessed with ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places.**
 - Ephesians 1:3 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places** in Christ: ⁴
 - Ephesians 2:6 ⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

8. **I am crucified with Christ.** Galatians 2:20 ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

9. **We are dead from the rudiments** (the elements or first principles of a subject) **of this world.** Colossians 3:3 ²⁰ Wherefore **if ye be dead with Christ** from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances

What a wonderful standing (fixed and permanent) we have in Christ! Notice in these scriptures that everything we are or have is “through” or “in” Jesus Christ.

C. The Believer's State (variable condition)

What's the difference between standing (permanent) and state (variable)? There should not be any difference but often there is.

We have peace **with** God but don't enjoy the peace **of** God. We have an inheritance but live like spiritual paupers. We have free access to God's throne but have not had a prayer answered in a long time. We are conquerors but in constant defeat. We are showered with blessings but yet are so miserable. We are sealed but go through life as doubters.

Condition is based upon control. The question is, "Who controls my life?" For the believer, there are only two choices. I am either:

1. If I am Christ controlled – Christ is on the throne and in control of my life.

Read Romans 8:1-8 and more: ¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

a. This is called "walking after the spirit."

b. To be spiritually minded is life and peace. (verse 6b)

2. If I am Self controlled – My old nature is in control of my life:

- **My old nature is in control of my life:** II Corinthians 1:9b ⁹ *But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:*
- **My old nature is in control of my life:** Romans 12:3c ³ *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think*

soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Self control leads you to be carnal and worldly:

- a. I may be carnal. Driven by the flesh and its appetites resulting in the works of the flesh. Read Romans 8:5-6 ⁵ *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.* ⁶ *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* [You KNOW this to be true!]

- b. I may be worldly. This means my old nature is influenced and controlled by the things of this world.
 - 1) Read Romans 12:2 ² *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

 - 2) Read I John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* ¹⁷ *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

We readily understand the following ‘self problems’ as being sin:

Self-centeredness	Self-admiration	Self-gratification	Selfishness
Self-pity	Self-will	Self-assertiveness	Self-esteem

But what about:

Self-respect	Self-control	Self vindication	Self-motivated
Self-dependent	Self-made		

And how about (?):

Self-conscious	Self-effacing	Self-critical	
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Are not ‘self’ sins just another form of The Way of Cain: Rejecting God’s GRACE and an attempt to do it yourself?

III The Believer's Cross

In Matthew 16:24, Jesus says: ²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

There has been considerable misunderstanding about what this cross is or means. It does NOT mean (for example) a physical handicap, health problem, way word child, or some other 'personal' problem or tragedy.

Understand the physical and spiritual significance of the cross:

A. The Physical Significance of "The Cross."

Death by crucifixion was introduced by the Romans and was reserved for the people they conquered and not Roman citizens.

1. It is an instrument of shame: there was nothing private or pretty about a crucifixion. The condemned were stripped naked and left hanging for all to see. All vestiges of honor or class were gone.

For a prophetic description of Jesus' crucifixion, Read Psalm 22:6-13 ⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ⁷ All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ⁸ He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. ⁹ But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. ¹⁰ I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly. ¹¹ Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. ¹² Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. ¹³ They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. ¹⁸ They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. ¹⁹ But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. ²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns. ²² I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

2. It is an instrument of death: A Roman cross meant a death most cruel. The victim would suffer a slow agonizing death often taking days to succumb (as read in Psalm 22:14-17 above)

B. The Spiritual Significance of the Cross for the Believer

Obviously, The LORD does not intend for us to be literally impaled on a wooden cross, He applies the cross of the Christian life in a spiritual sense. Nevertheless:

1. It is an instrument of shame.
 - a. We bear His reproach. Read Hebrews 13:13 ¹³ *Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.*
 - b. We suffer it's (the cross') offense. Read Galatians 5:11 ¹¹ *And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased. [refusal of to submit to circumcision and OTHER Jewish customs/traditions]*
2. It is an OFTEN an instrument of death.
 - a. Death to self: Mark 8:34 ³⁴ *And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*
 - b. Death to possessions: Mark 10:21-22 ²¹ *Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.* ²² *And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.*
 - c. Death to family: Matthew 10:37 ³⁷ *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* ³⁸ *And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*
 - d. Death to the world: Galatians 6:14 ¹⁴ *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*
 - e. Death to ALL: Luke 14:33 ³³ *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

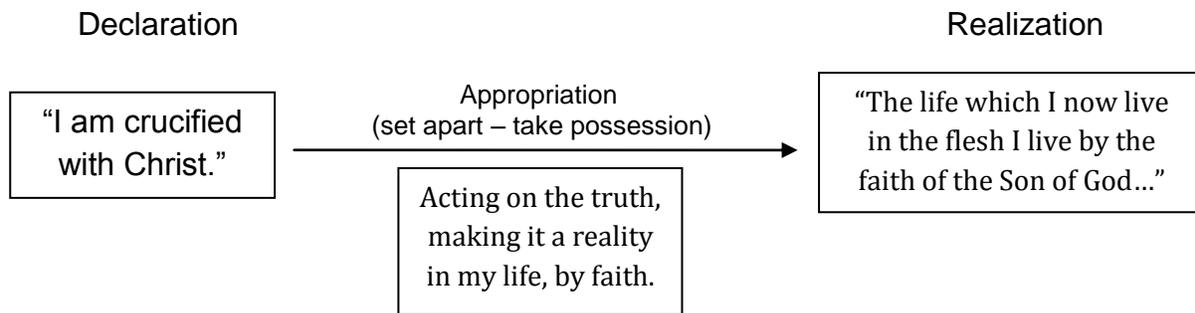
This is the cost of discipleship (not salvation) for the believer. This is what it means to “take up our cross.” **Shame and death.**

Every Christian has to make a choice. Read Mark 8:35: ³⁵ **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.**

We can save our life, but lose it. OR, we can lose our life, but save it.

IV The Believer’s Crucifixion

The Bible declares that we are dead, that we are crucified with Christ – yet it also admonishes us to deny self and take up our cross! The explanation for this lies in the difference between truth stated and truth substantiated.



The question is: “How do I make what Christ has done for me a working reality in my life?” “How do I live the crucified life?.”

The answer is found in **Romans 6**. In this chapter, 3 key steps are given:

- Know – assimilation (the recognition of our position in Christ)
- Reckon – appropriation (turning these facts into reasons)
- Yield – affirmation (turning reasons into reality in our daily experience)

A. Know – “Assimilation” (the recognition of our position in Christ)

If we don’t know what God says we cannot do what God commands, and neither can we hope to enjoy the abundant life He has given us. Therefore, the 1st step of the crucified life is to recognize the fact of our position in Christ.

In Romans 6, the Bible makes three statements of fact, each of which is essential in this matter. Let's read this entire (but short) Chapter 6 in Romans:

Romans 6 ¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰ For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. ¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. ¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. ²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. ²¹ What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. ²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Know – Assimilation)**1. The Picture of Baptism – verse 3 (our allegiance)**

Romans 6: ³ *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

- a. The word “into” is used twice in this verse has been misunderstood by those who teach a so-called “Spirit-baptism.” However, verse 3 is expanded by verses 4 and 5: ⁴ *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* ⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*
- The act of Scriptural baptism is a BURIAL (verse 4a) and a PLANTING (verse 5a) – hence immersion.
 - The words “like” (verse 4) and “likeness” (verse 5) show Scriptural baptism is symbolic.
 - The historical facts behind I Corinthians 10:2 also explain the expression. When Israel followed Moses through the Red Sea, they were identifying with him: Scriptural baptism is our VISIBLE (public) identification with Christ Jesus.
- b. Witnessing a baptism (and remembering our own baptism) ought to be a constant reminder of the fact that our allegiance is no longer to the flesh, the world, or the Devil – but to Jesus Christ.

Note: Baptism is like a military uniform. The wearing of a uniform is a public declaration of one’s own allegiance. It tells others what country you are from, what branch of armed forces you belong, etc. But remember a uniform does not make a soldier just as baptism does not make a Christian. Conversely, a soldier without his uniform is still a soldier, and an unbaptized believer is still a believer (saved).

2. The Position of Crucifixion – verse 6 (our association)

Romans 6: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

- a. “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him...
- b. Read Ecclesiastes 9:5b ⁵ *For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.* According to Ecclesiastes 9:5, the dead know not any thing. A dead man (unsaved) is unaware of his surroundings.
- c. Read Romans 6:7 ⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.* Unserved people are unaware of their sinful nature and existence. They are not aware they are in a ‘burning building’.
- d. Read Galatians 5:24 ²⁴ *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* Saved persons no longer purpose to seek the affections and lust of the flesh.
- e. Through justification we understand that Christ has dealt with our sin (as to its penalty). Through our union with Christ we understand He has dealt with the old man (**the vehicle**) of sin!

3. The Power of Resurrection – verse 9 (our authority)

Romans 6: ⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

- a. Knowing that Christ is immortal
- b. Read Ephesians 2:4-5 ⁴ *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,* ⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened** [to become alive; receive life] **us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)***
- c. Read Colossians 3:3b ³ *For ye are dead, and **your life is hid with Christ in God.***

- d. Read II Corinthians 13:4d ⁴ *For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, **but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.***
- e. Resurrection power is the greatest power there is.
- It is the power that raised Christ from the dead (read Romans 1:4 ⁴ *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead*).
 - The same power is available to every believer. Read Ephesians 1:19-20 ¹⁹ *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰ Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*

B. Reckon – “Appropriation” (turning these facts into reasons)

It is not sufficient to give mental assent [agreement, concurrence, acquiescence, compliance] to these facts. We must also be fully persuaded that they are so for us personally. This regardless of how we feel.

- Read Romans 6:11 ¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The word “reckon” means to “count it so.” It is here that the matter extends to the MIND, the decision making faculty of the soul. Read also:

- Romans 7:25b ²⁵ *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*
- I Peter 4:1-2 ¹ *Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; ² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*

C. Yield – “Affirmation” (turning reasons into reality in our daily experience)

Here is the crux of the matter: It is not enough to know. It is not enough to believe. There must also be **actions**.

Read Romans 6:13 ¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: **but yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

The crucified life is making real in our life what is true by virtue of our standing in Christ – we make actual in experience what the Word Of God says is so.

1. **How** do I **yield** myself to God?

The word “yield” means to present one’s self (unreservedly). It means to give right of way. When we yield to God, we replace SELF’s control with CHRIST’s control allowing Him to live HIS life through us.

Yielding determines victory or defeat – Read Romans 6:16(a): ¹⁶ *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? [i.e.; “Don’t you know that you are servants to the person you obey?”]*

Yielding is NOT a passive act... It is a call to determined action. Read:

- a. Romans 6:12 ¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*
- b. Romans 13:14 ¹⁴ *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*
- c. Ephesians 4:22 ²² *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

- d. Ephesians 4:24 (and more because it is so awesome) ²⁴ *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

The Meaning of “Yielding”

²⁵ *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.* ²⁶ *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:* ²⁷ *Neither give place to the devil.* ²⁸ *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.* ²⁹ *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.* ³⁰ *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.* ³¹ *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:* ³² *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

- e. Colossians 3:5-6 ⁵ **Mortify** [to subjugate (the body, passions, etc.) by abstinence, ascetic [[a person who dedicates his or her life to a pursuit of contemplative ideals and practices extreme self-denial or self-mortification for religious reasons.]] discipline, or self-inflicted suffering.] therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

2. **What** do I **yield** to God?

- a. Read Romans 12:1 ¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.* We are to present our bodies as living sacrifices.
- b. We can yield our bodies as members of righteousness or unrighteousness according to Romans 6:13 ¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*
- c. We are to yield ourselves as those that are from alive from the dead.

- d. We cannot yield the old life to God, for that was crucified with Christ. Besides there is nothing God can do with the flesh [read Romans 7:18(a) ¹⁸ *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:...*]. We must yield our new life to God, allowing Christ to live His life through us.
- e. Study carefully II Corinthians 4:10 ¹⁰ *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.* The Apostle Paul says there were two things he carried about in his earthly tabernacle:
- The dying of the Lord Jesus – i.e. your death in Him
 - The life of Jesus – i.e. His life in us.

Why are so many believers frustrated in their Christian lives – continually dedicating and rededicating their lives to the Lord? Could it be that they have not yielded their old lives to Christ and are trying to live for Him in their old life (which is impossible.)

Read Philippians 2:13: ¹³ *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* **God's work involves both WILL and DO. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God produce the "want to" but many times we think that it is up to US to perform the doing of it. NO! That is word's work too.**

YIELD TO GOD AND HE WILL CRETE THE WILL AND ACTION (DO).

3. **When should** I yield myself to God?
- a. Luke 9:23 ²³ And he said to them all, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.*
- b. I Corinthians 15:31 ³¹ *I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily**.* Paul is referring to his constant state of physical jeopardy, but he would not have served the Lord as he did by means of an un-crucified self.

4. A new law to live by.

- a. Romans 6:14b ¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you: **for ye are not under the law, but under grace.***
- b. Romans 7:4 ⁴ *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*
- c. Romans 7:6 ⁶ *But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*
- d. Romans 8:2 ² *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*
- e. Galatians 5:16 ¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
- f. Galatians 5:25 ²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

What does it take for the Law of the Spirit to free us from the law of God? Power – resurrection power! Read:

Philippians 3:10 ¹⁰ *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

KNOW – RECKON – YIELD

These three (3) steps amount to faith. Faith is never wishful thinking but is based upon facts (believing God's Word and acting upon it (action)). We are saved this way (by faith) and we are to live this way. Read:

- Romans 1:17c ¹⁷ *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just [saved] shall live by faith.***
- Galatians 2:20e ²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: **and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God,** who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

- Colossians 2:6⁶ *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk ye in him:***
- II Corinthians 5:7⁷ *(For we **walk by faith**, not by sight:)*
- Hebrews 11:6⁶ *But **without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a **rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***
- Romans 8:8⁸ *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

V The Believer's Cultivation

A. Life

Read Philippians 1:21a²¹ *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

The believer is under new management. The old self was crucified with Christ and can no longer dominate our life (unless we allow it to), despite the struggle it puts up.

In Christ, we have received new life, have entered a new kingdom, and are under a new law. By yielding ourselves to God every day, the life that we live in the flesh is that of Christ living in and through us.

B. Likeness

As we yield to Christ we become more like Christ. Read Philippians 3:10-16

¹⁰ *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;* ¹¹ *If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.* ¹² *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.* ¹³ *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,* ¹⁴ *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁵ *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.* ¹⁶ *Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*

In Philippians 3:10-16, we have an outline of Paul's Christian experience:

1. His Goal – “That I might...”
 - a. Verse 10a: “know Him”
 - b. Verse 10b: [know] the power of His resurrection.
 - c. Verse 10c: [know] the fellowship of His sufferings.
 - d. Verse 10d: Be “made conformable unto his death;”
 - e. Verse 11: Attain “*unto the resurrection of the dead.*”

Paul refers to this as being perfect (mature). Read verse 12: ¹² *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend [to grasp the meaning of; understand, esp. intuitively; perceive.] that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

2. The Distance He Had To Go – Paul wasn't there yet! Read Philippians 3 verses 12, 13a ¹² *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.* ¹³ *Brethren, **I count not myself to have apprehended:***

Consider the conflict he experienced in Romans 7:14-25

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. ¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

3. The Way Ahead

Read Philippians 3 verses 13-14: ¹³ *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

- a. Verse 13c: “but this one thing I do... (Paul was focused)
- b. Verse 13d: “forgetting those things which are behind,”
- c. Verse 14: “Reaching forth unto those things which are before.
- d. Verse 14: “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God.”

4. The Distance He Has Already Gone

Philippians 3:16a ¹⁶ *Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*

C. Liberty

Romans 6 concludes with the blessings of true liberty. Note the following order:

- **We are dead to sin.** Romans 6:2 (from verse 1) ¹ *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*
- **We are free from sin.** Romans 6:7 ⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*
- **We have become servants of righteousness.** Romans 6:18 ¹⁸ *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*
- **We produce fruits unto holiness.** Romans 6:22 ²² *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

Most Christians achieve results but what is needed is fruit:

- John 15:5 ⁵ **I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**
- John 15:16 ¹⁶ **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

Remember:

There is a past, present, and future aspect to the work Christ has for us:

Past	Justification	Are saved from the penalty of sin
Present	Santification	Being saved from the power of sin
Future	Glorification	Will be saved from the presence of sin

Living the “crucified life” ensures we will have victory over the flesh, even though it will always be there vying for control.

Galatians 2:20 ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.