

United with Christ
Romans 6: 1-14

1. Have you ever tried to break a bad habit but found it difficult to do on your own? When you fail, do you usually give up, hide it, or start again?
2. Paul begins with a question: "Shall we continue in sin so that grace may increase?" Why might someone think this way?
3. Verse 3 mentions being baptized into Christ's death. What do you think it means to die and be buried with Christ? Besides being a ritual, what spiritual realities does baptism symbolize?
4. In verse 4, Paul says that we should "walk in newness of life." What do you think are the most obvious characteristics of a new life? In what ways can others see the change in a Christian's life?
5. Verse 5 says that if we have been united with Christ, we will also be united with Him in His resurrection. What hope does this promise give you? How does it affect your attitude toward difficulties, failure, or death?
6. In verse 6, what do you think the "old self" and "no longer slaves to sin" mean? What kinds of things can people become slaves to today? How does the gospel bring true freedom?
7. Verse 11 says: "Consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Why does Paul emphasize how we "consider" ourselves? How can we view ourselves through God's eyes rather than being defined by our past?
8. Verse 12 says: "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body." What things most easily compete for lordship in your life? How do you discern whether God is leading you or whether your own desires are in control?
9. In verse 13, Paul speaks of offering the parts of our body to God as instruments of righteousness. In practical terms, how can you offer yourself to God? How can God use your time, talents, or resources?
10. Verse 14 says: "You are not under law, but under grace." How is living under grace different from indulging yourself? When you sin and stumble, how can you return to God's grace?