

A NEW WAY TO LIVE

Romans 6:1-12

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Surveys are always being made about one's beliefs about God and always there is the great majority who say they believe in God and a large percent of those believing in God say they are trying to live a life that reflects their belief. Every person is "born" with a human nature, like that of Adam, which is alienated from God. However, those who believe in God's Son, Jesus, are given a "new birth," a new nature and therefore have two natures. Many Christians (born again people) have problems living their new nature as they seem to continue on to sin and do things contrary to what they know they should not be doing. They try to keep the Ten Commandments, go to Church, read the Bible, attend religious seminars and talk "Christian talk." However on the inside, they feel that nothing has really changed for they are still doing the same things they did before they became a Christian. What are they doing wrong? Why aren't their lives being lived better?

1. CHRISTIANS ARE TO LIVE THEIR NEW LIFE BY GOD'S GRACE, NOT BY WORKS (vv1,2)

1. The new way to live replaces keeping the law, the commandments and by works.
 - If not under the law anymore, then why can't the Christian sin as he/she wants to?
 - Such an attitude is still the old human, natural attitude, for the new way is a "spiritual" way.
 - Sin is what put Jesus on the cross, so is it still alright for the believer in Jesus to continue to sin?
 - The Christian is a part of the family of God and sin will bring separation between the Christian and God.
 - Christians are to change their life style not because some law says so, but because of their LOVE for God and what He and Jesus has done for them.
 - The more the Christian loves the Lord, the closer he/she wants to be to Him and please Him.

2. CHRISTIANS ARE DEAD TO SIN (v2)

1. In the eyes of God, believers in His Son, Jesus, died with His Son. Yes, earthly consequences of sin are suffered, but the eternal death penalty for sin is escaped.
2. Christians are dead to the penalty and rule of sin.
 - The old sin nature still is in control unless the Christian chooses to listen to his/her new nature that God has given to him/her.
3. Christians are dead to the power of sin, but sin is not dead to the Christian.
 - Sin will still try to take over and do things in the life of the Christian.
4. The Christian does not need to keep struggling to keep the commandments, the law and do good works for that is the old nature. Love for Jesus Christ is the way of the Christian's new way.
 - One must become aware of the new nature he/she has and begin to listen to it.

3. CHRISTIANS ARE NEW PEOPLE (vv3-7)

1. Becoming members of a new family makes the Christian a totally new person.
 - The Christian was born into the human family (Adam's) as has been every body else, but his/her believing in Jesus permanently changed his/her identity in God's eyes.
 - The blood of Christ covers the old sinful human nature, the believer is immediately indwelt with the Holy Spirit and is placed into God's family, forever changing that person.

2. The believer in Jesus has a totally new way of life to live.
 - In God's eyes, the believer has died to his/her old human nature and has been given a totally new way of life.
 - The believer is given by God all that he/she needs to live without sin and live in the way that God wants him/her to live.
 - As a part of God's family, the believer must make choices as to whether to sin or not sin and has the power and freedom to make such choices.

4. THE NEW WAY OF LIVING FOR THE CHRISTIAN (vv8-10)

1. The new way of living for the Christian began immediately at the moment of his/her belief in Jesus.
2. What Jesus did, He did it for everybody and had to do it only once.
3. Jesus has already gone through what every believer will in his/her lifetime.
 - Jesus knows all about every believer.
 - Jesus loves every believer in Him, unconditionally.
 - Jesus will keep every believer in Him throughout all eternity.
 - The believer/Christian's new way of living is not by works but by love and trusting in Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. The way for the Christian to live the new way of life is to:
 - Stay in the Word of God.
 - He/she will therefore learn the will of God.
 - He/she will learn what helps/hurts his/her fellowship with god.
 - Memorize God's Word for daily use.
 - Live only to please the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Do everything out of love, not for any other reason.
2. Christians have two natures, one born to live among others in this world and the other born to live in this world without being a part of the world.
 - The world's way is by works.
 - God's way is by Grace.
3. Jesus has already done all that needs to be done for a person to be born again and be given a new nature which enables one to live forever in Heaven with Him.
4. Christian, quit trying to impress God and others with "religious, pious" things, just let your new nature take over and live your new life by God's grace. Works won't work with God.