



Sermon – June 2, 2019  
Chris Osborne

**Verses Covered**

*Romans 6:6 – 7*

*Ephesians 1:7*

*Romans 8:9, 12 - 16*

*Galatians 5:16*

*John 10:10*

So Christ was precise. He said do this to remember Me. So I want us to understand and remind ourselves what this actually means. When you go to the book of Genesis and you have Adam and Eve, pristine community, great relationship with each other, everything's good. God has told them that they can have anything they want except one tree. Now if you're Adam and Eve and He tells you that if you eat from that tree, the day you eat from that tree, you will die. It's got to be; I don't know that I'd walk by it much. I wouldn't glance at it. I'd steer clear of it. I would feel an aversion to the tree. That would be my emotional response. I'd go around it. I wouldn't look at it; I wouldn't pay attention to it. I would be averse to it. But when Satan comes in and we obviously have a microcosm of the conversation, but when he comes in and he says, "Hey, did God tell you you can have anything you want?" "Well we can do anything but we can't eat from this tree." "Why not?" "Well if we eat from that tree, we'll die." And so somehow, and this is how good he is, I mean, they not only have this wonderful community with each other in this world, they sense, every single day the Bible says God came down and walked with them. So they sense His love, His warmth, His compassion, what we just sang about. His love for them. They've got to feel that. And so somehow Satan says, "You know, He's really not being truthful with you. If you eat from this tree, you're not going to die. As a matter of fact, you're going to be just like He is." So then the Bible says that there is right at that moment, and this is what I want you to pay attention to because we're going to come back to this at the end. Right at that moment, there's an emotional change in what they feel about this tree. They haven't sinned yet. But the Bible says that she saw it as a delight to the eyes and all of a sudden there's this emotional change where this tree that a few days ago is really a little bit terrifying Eve wouldn't even walk by. Now she looks at it and goes, "Wow. That looks really good." At which point she follows that desire, eats it, and plunges themselves into a horrible abyss. They lose Him. They lose each other. The world's broken. They're feeling guilt and a shame they've never felt before. And it won't go away. And then when they leave, they make a really horrifying discovery that this part of them now that is broken and that is struggling because they know who He is. They're struggling now to do what they ought

to do. But now it's a struggle where before it was easy delight. Now it's this incredible struggle to be obedient to Him. And the horrifying thing for them is, not only is this true anymore, but they've put it in their children. Because one of their sons will kill the other one. And the other one wasn't perfectly holy because he's brought a sacrifice for his own failure. So now they watch, not only did what they do absolutely wreck them, now it's critically wounded their own children. And they live long enough to watch this go down generation to generation until today.

There's none of us in this room that don't have that same nature. A nature that is driven and committed to disobey the Creator of the universe. That's why you don't make mistakes. Your sin is an active choice of rebellion against the Creator. So that's where you and I are. As a result of that, we struggle and we cannot stop our sin. That's why the Bible wrote 2,000 years ago all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. It's still true. It is going to be true tomorrow until the day Jesus comes back. We are broken. We've inherited from them a nature that's horrific.

So Jesus comes and He dies on the cross. And on Thursday night before He goes to the cross on Friday, He's in there with 12 disciples. Kicks Judas out after the Passover meal. They go straight from the Passover meal into the Lord's Supper. He runs Judas out. And then He sits down with the guys and He says, "This is my body which is broken for you." Now there's His first statement. So when we come to the table, that's why it's the first element we take, His body. Now without beating this to death, it's a symbol. It doesn't become his body. How do we know that? Because He said, "This is My body." Before His body was ever broken. So either we have the right Lord's Supper or they didn't. But it's a symbol. But the symbol's unique. Now I want you to look, turn over to Romans 6. We're going to look at Romans 6 and Romans 8 as we walk through this. But I want you to listen to what Romans 6 says. We're going to look at 6:6. He makes some statements before that, but I want turn in on here because the Bible's going to talk about an old man and an old nature. That part of you that is literally in rebellion against the Creator and it pulls you away from Him. Now listen to what he says. Romans 6:6 and we're going to stay in the book of Romans and we won't be long. We've got the table.

<sup>6</sup>Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Christ, so that the body of sin might be nullified that we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For the One who has died has been set free from sin.

Now he says a couple things. My old nature was killed off on the cross with Jesus. It died with Jesus. It's gone. You don't have two natures. When Adam and Eve, prior to their failure, how many natures do they have? They have one. It's just the nature that's sold out to the King. After the fall they have one. It's an old man, a nature they passed down to everybody that is sold out in rebellion to the King. Jesus has come and what He's saying to His disciples is remember we don't do this because we're Baptists and we're quick. We want to make sure we're fast. But when He finished the table and ran Judas off, He took the bread and He broke it. He said, "This is my body for you." What He was saying is that part of you that is in rebellion against God, I am going to break it off. That is what Paul says in Romans 6. That on the cross Jesus died and that my old nature that is committed to rebellion against the King has been crucified, killed off, it's gone. That nature has been obliterated through the act of Jesus dying on the cross. You never have more than one nature. And that nature has been obliterated.

Now I want you to listen to me. I want you to listen to the text. We put the cross up because it's the central component of our faith. It's what allows us to be forgiven and to be changed. But I fear that because of that sometimes we misunderstand the purpose of the cross. The cross had a purpose. Now listen to me. The cross is not an end in and of itself. It has a purpose that it wants to perform in your life. The first purpose is to kill off that part of you that hates God. It's killed that off. But now as He dies there, look at Romans 8 beginning in verse 9. Now you go there. I'm going to read you from the book of Ephesians. We obviously know where that book is, if I can find it. That's going to be embarrassing if I can't find it. Here's what it says in Ephesians. Listen. (Ephesians 1:7)

<sup>7</sup>In whom we have the redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace

Now listen. So my old man's killed off with His, right. Then His blood begins to slide out of His body and the loss of that blood which we take the juice to represent, will create if you believe it a forgiveness in your life. Now here's the problem. And again, I don't know anything about other denominations. I only know us. We're really good with the cross. We are pathetic when it comes to the role of the Holy Spirit in our life. And we don't get grace. Grace is in the cross. It is that God gives me a broken body and gives His Son, but the purpose of grace isn't, let me back up. The purpose of grace is forgiveness. The purpose of forgiveness goes way beyond what most Christians think of. Because I still have people who say to me, "You know I know that I shouldn't do this, but God will forgive me." If that's your mantra in your life, I wouldn't come to this table because you're misusing the element. The purpose of forgiveness is not so you can sin more. The purpose of forgiveness, the actual purpose of the cross, is two-fold. It is to remove from you the nature that is in rebellion against the Creator. And it is to clean you up so well that you're completely forgiven and the righteousness of Jesus is popped into your account. And because of those two truths, you are clean enough, now listen, for the purpose of the cross to occur which is that the Holy Spirit of God, third person of the Trinity, will come and live in your life literally. That's the purpose of the cross. It's not for you to walk around and say, "Wow! I'm forgiven." No. It's to walk around and say, "Wow! The Holy Spirit lives inside me and has altered from inside out who and what I am." Look in Romans 8, verse 9.

<sup>9</sup>You are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God dwell in you. But if you do not have the Spirit of Christ, you don't belong to Him.

There's no such thing, baptism in the Spirit occurs the minute you put your faith in what the Holy Spirit tells you about the blood of Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit baptizes you. He comes in you. He settles in. He's there permanently. So He's locked in and He sits down and now He's in your life. And if He's not there, you're a church member, but you're not a Christian. So He has to be in there. If He's in there, now look at this, verse 11, verse 12.

<sup>12</sup>So therefore, brothers, we are obligated not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

<sup>13</sup>To live according to the flesh are about to die, but if by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you shall live.

So I have this great ability and then listen to Galatians 5:16.

<sup>16</sup>But I'm telling you, you continually walk in the Spirit and it is absolutely impossible for you to complete the lust of the flesh.

The Holy Spirit, I have the power now, I have two things that have happened to me. Number one, that part of me that hates God's gone. So I'm good. I cannot be controlled from the inside anymore by Satan. That part has been broken off so he can't do that anymore. I am, in essence, back to the pre-fall of Adam and Eve. Then I have the Holy Spirit in me who gives me the power to say, no, to whatever Satan might be enticing me to do. Now then look at this. Verse 14.

<sup>14</sup>As many as are led by the Spirit; these are the sons of God.

I have the capacity now as in Acts 8 and Acts 16 for the Holy Spirit to lead me and direct me in my life. And look at this.

<sup>15</sup>but you have received, not received a spirit of slavery again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship, adoption, by which we cry, "Abba! Father!"

I now know because of the Holy Spirit in me that He's my father. Or as the Aramaic says here, He's my Dad. There's this intimacy of relationship now that I know I possess because the Holy Spirit is in me. It's the purpose of the blood of Christ; to restore the relationship we lost in Adam and Eve. Then he says

<sup>16</sup>this same Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are in fact the children of God.

So the Holy Spirit reveals to me as I allow Him to fill me, I really am God's child. So when you come to this table, you're coming to a reverse of Genesis 3. Genesis 3, they lose Him, they step out into a world where now they're fighting their inside, but not you. That part of you that hates God has been killed off. And you have the Holy Spirit in you who leads you, is intimate with you, reminds you who you are, and gives you the power to say, yes, to the Father and, no, to the enemy. You say, "Well how do I sin?" A lost person sins because the enemy controls him from within. You sin because the enemy convinces you from outside. He's not in you anymore. He's on the outside and the way he gets you to sin is he convinces you that what he's arguing with you about is better than what it says in this book. If you can allow this to etch itself on your soul, the Jews had a thing called a phylactery. If you go to Israel, you'll see them with little leather tongs and a box here. That box holds scripture verses. The phylactery was, even without the box, they would etch a life verse on the leather. John 10:10 is the best life verse you can etch on the leather. Listen to this.

<sup>10</sup>The thief doesn't come except that he might steal, kill, and destroy. I have come that men might have life and have it abundantly.

Here! You want an abundant life here? I've got a real simple answer. You do what Jesus says to do. You listen to that jerk, he'll undo and unravel and destroy your life even though you don't have to yield to him. You've got the power not to yield to him. And yet we do it. Why? How? Because he convinces us that God is stupid and he is smart. That is the absolute argument that he

will use. And we buy it. Because he talked Adam and Eve out of a personal relationship with God. He took a third of heaven with him. He probably kept hundreds and thousands in Hell when Jesus came and preached. I'm telling you. He is gifted. And so what you have to do is say to yourself, "I'm going to believe whatever this says and I have the power and the capacity to do that and I'm going to believe whatever this says to protect my own life so that I can give glory to Him and not let the enemy mess me up." I am bone weary with watching people's marriages crumble when they do not have to. Do you know why Christian men have an affair? It's actually embarrassing. You know why you have an affair? I mean, to me a lost guy's got an excuse. He can't control who he is. So I get the affair. But as a brother in Christ, that part of you that's in rebellion against the King is gone. You have inside you the power of the Holy Spirit so you can say no. The only reason you have an affair is because the enemy comes to you and says, "You know what, this woman is better for you than your wife." And when you believe that and you make that is your choice and not Satan's control. He can't control you anymore. So a lost person, I feel some sympathy for because they have an excuse. But gentlemen, you and I don't have any excuse. That part of us that is in rebellion is gone and the Holy Spirit indwells us and fills us. I don't have to disobey my King.

So we come to this table today. I want you to go home today and read Genesis 1, 2, and 3. And understand that what happened in Genesis 3 is no longer true for your life. You're now back in Genesis 1 and 2. You don't have to do what that jerk says. You don't have to listen to him. You don't have to be obedient to him. You can say, no, to him. You experience Christ in your life. You can have a renewed sense of purpose. You can have everything you long for through what Jesus Christ did for you on that cross. We do not yield to him anymore. So I want you to bow your heads, close your eyes for just a second. I want you to pray. I'm going to pray in a moment. We're going to have a quiet moment. I want you to pray about what you believe about who you are. I want you to ask God today as you take this table to remind you of who you are. You don't have to sin. You can be holy and it's the purpose of the forgiveness of Jesus Christ in your life. Do not come to this table if you carry any guilt today because you don't understand the table. You're absolutely forgiven. But I want you to come to this table if you know you are, if you understand who you are. So we're going to take a minute. I'm going to have Steve play a little and then I'll close us in a prayer and then we'll go to the table together.

Father, just remind us today as we come to this table. We don't have to disobey You. We don't have to step away from You. We have the power to absolutely obey You. So that, Father, not only can the enemy not damage us, but we can finish well, meet You, having spent our life offering You glory. Father lock that into us. And as we do this table in a remembrance of Your Son, just remind us what it means, what it meant for them, what it means for us, and let this table be that reminder. We really have been set free from the enemy. Remind us, don't let us fight sin, just let us allow Your Spirit to fill us. Let us focus on that; nothing else. Set us free, even this morning as we come to this table. I do not ask You that lightly. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.