

## Yield Ourselves to God

**Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present [yield] yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (Romans 6:11-13)**

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the only one to walk this earth without sin. Thankfully for us, He who knew no sin became sin on our behalf in order that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (II Corinthians 5:21). Brethren, sin is a fact of life. Everyone has inherited a sinful nature (Romans 1:18-32; 3:9-18, 23)—the Bible refers to it as the *natural man* (I Corinthians 2:14)—and even in this dispensation of grace we do not lose that old nature when we are saved (Romans 7:14-25). However, upon belief of the gospel of salvation we gain a new nature—the perfect nature of Christ because He is in us and we are in Him (Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 2:4-6; Colossians 1:27). Therefore, we have two opposite natures working against each other within us.

Believers not only have the capacity to sin, but continue to do so throughout life on earth. However, because of the power of God and the nature of Christ within us, we have the ability to choose not to let sin rule our lives (Romans 6:19). Due to our weakness, unfortunately, we tend to forget to reckon ourselves dead to sin and continue to expose ourselves to sin and reap its consequences (Galatians 6:7-8). We know it to be true that bad company corrupts good morals (I Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 13:20), yet some of us are drawn to, or even crave, bad company.

Yielding ourselves to God requires a conscious effort on our part to continually examine our associations, actions, and thoughts. We are exhorted to abhor evil things and avoid even the appearance of evil (Romans 12:9; I Thessalonians 5:21-22) and be sober minded (Ephesians 5:17-18; I Thessalonians 5:4-8; Titus 2:6). Additionally, we are to set our minds on things above, where Christ is, and think pure thoughts (Philippians 4:8). Our desire and efforts should be to pursue righteousness (I Timothy 6:11; II Timothy 2:22) and do all things for God through Christ rather than for ourselves or men (Colossians 3:17, 23).

**Therefore if [because] you [brethren] have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1-3)**