

## Dead to Self, Dead to Sin

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

What does it mean to be dead to sin, dead to self?

It is only when empty of **self**, that we begin to be filled of **Christ**.

A young minister in training came to his teacher and asked "What is it to be dead to self?" The teacher told him that he could not explain it to him, but that he had a duty for him to perform. Brother Stephen died last week and is buried in the church cemetery. Go to his grave, standing close beside it, repeat in a loud voice all the good things you ever heard of him. Next say all the flattering things you can invent; and attribute to him every grace and virtue, without regard to truth; and report the results to me."

The young minister went to do his bidding, wondering what all this could mean. Soon he returned and the minister asked him what had transpired. "Nothing," replied the young man. "I did as you told me and that was all." Did Brother Stephen make no reply?" asked the teacher. "Of course he did not, for he was dead," said the student. The teacher shook his head thoughtfully, saying: "That is very strange. Go again tomorrow at the same hour, and repeat at the graveside all the evil you ever heard concerning Brother Stephen. Add to that the worst slander and calumny your mind can imagine, and report that results to me."

Again the young man obeyed, and brought back the same report as before. He had heaped unlimited abuse on the head of Brother Stephen and yet had receive no reply from Brother Stephen.

The teacher said to the young man "From Brother Stephen you may learn what it is to be dead to self. Neither flattery nor abuse has moved him, for he is dead. *The disciple who is dead to self will be insensible to these things, hearing neither voice of praise nor retaliation but **all personal feeling will be lost in the service of Christ.***"

This is where every follower of Christ should be.

Galatians 2:20 says "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."

Is it Christ that is living in you now or does flesh still reign?