

For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

- (Romans 14:7-12)

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Randy Peterman – Romans 14:8-12

## No One Lives for Himself... If We Live We Live for the Lord

This concept relies on the foundation of our identification with Christ. We don't do it alone. Our life is in, through and by Him.



August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Randy Peterman – Romans 14:8-12

## No One Dies for Himself...If We Die, We Die for the Lord

Because the life of the believer is in and through Christ, the death of a believer, having a position in the heavenlies, is also rooted in the Lord.

See also: Philippians 1:21

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## What About Carnal Christians?

- Why does Paul ignore the carnal Christian in this argument?
  - He is dealing with the carnal believer who is going to be judgmental in the passage prior.
  - That carnal believer could be the strong or weak believer – the carnality of judgment could effect both, exposing the strong believer to be weak at least in this area!

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## ...We Are the Lord's

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

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## ...We Are the Lord's

The logical conclusion of Romans 12:1-3

- By the mercies of God
  - Your life is a living sacrifice
  - Proving the will of God
- is that we could be no one else's!

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## Why Christ Died

- Beyond the fulfillment of God's demands for righteousness Christ died for two reasons
    - He could be Lord of the Dead
    - He could be Lord of the Living
- Which one are you?

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## Lord of the Dead

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

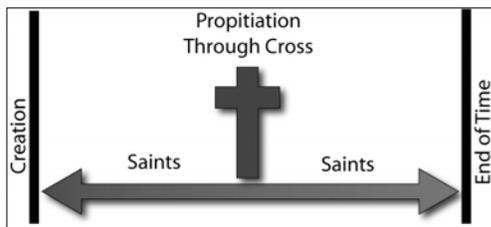
(Colossians 1:17-20)

See also: Matthew 8:11, 22:32

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## Lord of Eternity

Christ paid the price for saints of history past and on into the future



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## Lord of the Living

Given that He's the Lord of the living, and that you're one of the living, what does that look like?

- Grace
- Liberty
- Righteousness
- Compassion
- Love
- Faith
- Hope
- What else?

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## The Polarization

Paul writes the extremely polarized examples of life & death. Why?

**Christian Liberty is in the details. He's not trying to give another Law!**

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## Judgment

Here comes the judge, and its not you!

- Contempt for our brothers & sisters in Christ is inherently short sighted!
- Which sin or lifestyle choice didn't Christ pay for?
- There is nothing in your position in Christ that is not in another believer's position in Christ – how can you be seated in the heavenlies more than the next believer?

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## Every Knee

- Furthermore, beyond being identified with Christ and being alive in Him, all people will give an account before the Lord – its just that ours will be for heavenly rewards and you will not be judge of another believer there either!

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## Every Tongue Shall Agree With God

- Not that as humans we can disagree with God, but the Greek word here clearly identifies that all those that bend a knee before the Lord will do so in *agreement* with God's righteous judgment!

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## Judge Yourself

As a believer you should consider your life as you abide, you have been given a Holy Spirit directed conscience – you can check it at any time, there are no...

- Delays
- Server outages
- Power outages
- Blue Screens of Death
- Traffic Jams getting to it
- Elvis Impersonators to distract you from it

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## Give an Account

- Since you will give an account to God, what should your worries be?
- How can you improve your account before God?
- Under what name will your accounting reservation be held?

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## So What?

Or more practically

- Remember that your life and death are in Christ
- You have been bought with a price
- Your brothers and sisters in Christ have also been bought with a price
- Evaluate your life to determine whether or not you're living a life of Christian liberty

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