LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
"OVERCOMING OUR SINS"
ROMANS 7:1-8:13

Introduction:

- When we have habitually struggled with a particular sin for years, it is difficult to imagine _____ being connected to that sin.

- As Christians, we truly desire victory, but many times we are confused as to how to gain that victory.

- Let's study God's Word and see how we can overcome our sins.

First, let's examine some misconceptions.

Misconception #1 - I need to focus more on God's law concerning my sin.

- The law *cannot* help you overcome your sin. 7:4-6

Misconception #2 - I need to have more determination and self-discipline.

- *Trying* harder didn't work for Paul, and it won't work for you. 7:18-19

Misconception #3 - I need to really focus my mind on overcoming this sin.

- God never intended for you to *dwell* on the sins of the flesh, even in an attempt to overcome them. 8:5-6

Second, we must understand the Christian's true identity.

- According to the Bible, when you trusted Christ as your Savior, you were placed *in Christ*. 8:1 What does this mean? Read 8:9-11, 15-16.

- Your complete identity has changed.

- The Spirit of Christ dwells in you and you are a child of the living God! Your identity is now characterized by *life* and righteousness. 8:10

- Who you were *before* you were in Christ is dead. 6:6, 7, 8; 7:4; 8:10

- Your sin does not reflect who you are. Paul made a distinction between his new identity in Christ and the *power* of sin dwelling in his fleshly body. 7:17, 20

- This power of sin is *in* you, but it is *not* you!

Third, victory is found in a *person* - Jesus Christ.

- In 7:24, Paul cries out, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

- God's provision for our sins is not a *plan* or program, but the person of Jesus Christ.

- As we rest in Christ and trust Him, Jesus will never *fail* to overcome the law of sin and death. 8:2

- Christians will never be free from the *presence* of sin as long as we are in this fleshly body, but as we trust Christ each moment, we find freedom from the *power* of sin.