

Romans

Chapter 6

Romans 6:1-2

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”

Grace is Dangerous

- The gospel message that Paul has been declaring is the good news of **received righteousness** as opposed to a righteousness that is **earned** as a reward.
- Paul made a radical claim in Romans 5:20, **where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.**
- If this radical claim is true then believers should not worry about practicing sin since it results in the working of more of God's grace and to His greater glory. **By no means!**
- Looking at it from a human perspective grace is extremely dangerous. This is one of the reasons so many churches choose to emphasize living by legal standards instead of emphasizing grace.

- There is deep seated fear by some who think that if you tell people that God forgives and accepts them by grace then people will have **no motive** to be obedient.
- If a person really believes that their position in Jesus is settled and secured because of what Jesus has done then the motivation of holy living is gone.
- Without the threat of hell hanging over their heads people will run amuck into all sorts of sin and destruction believing like the atheist Voltaire: "God will forgive; that is his business."
- Paul's answer to that way of living is short and concise: **By no means!**

- The false notion that anyone might **continue in sin that grace may abound** is inconceivable.
- For a person to even say such a thing means that they do not understand the teaching of the Scripture about the gospel and would not draw a conclusion so unimaginable.
- Paul uses Romans chapters 6-8 to discuss how our **union with Christ** creates holy living and a transformed life.
- “Union with Christ is the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation not only in its application but also in its once-for-all accomplishment in the finished work of Christ”-Murray, John

Died to Sin

- Paul concludes that the believer has **died to sin** (Vs. 2).
- Our relationship **to sin** has changed dramatically.
- Something has changed within the believer that I no longer desire to walk according to the flesh and follow the general course of this world.
- The truth that the believer has **died to sin** does not mean that **sin is dead** in the believer and sin no longer appeals to him.
- **Died to sin** means we no longer want to sin, we enjoy God, and we delight in His way of living.

- Paul makes an historical changing truth claim that believer's were actually with Jesus in the past in the critical events of redemption and that we were in Jesus when He died and rose again.
- “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death...We know that our old self was crucified with him... “you also must consider yourselves dead to sin”.-**Romans 6:4,6,11**
- “I have been crucified with Christ.”-**Galatians 2:20**
- If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world...”-**Colossians 2:20**

- “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God”-**Colossians 3:3**
- “But God... made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”-**Ephesians 2:4-6**
- “ having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith...”-**Colossians 2:12**
- “If then you have been raised with Christ...”-**Colossians 3:1**
- Where were you when they crucified my Lord? If you are a believer you were not only there in the past but you were “in Christ” when **He died** and you were “in Christ” when the Holy Spirit **raised Him** from the dead and you are “in Christ” Who is **seated** at the right hand of God making intercession for you.

- The implication of the believer's union with Jesus is awe-inspiring and miraculous to say the least and we'll see these truths as we move through Romans 6 .
 - We are united to Jesus; thus His atoning death is the believer's atoning death.-**Romans 6:3**
 - We are united to Jesus; thus His burial is the believer's burial.-**Romans 6:4**
 - We are united to Jesus; thus His resurrection is the believer's new life.-**Romans 6:4**

- We are united to Jesus; thus His crucifixion is our death.-**Romans 6:5**
- We are united to Jesus; thus His life is our life.-**Romans 6:8**
- We are united to Jesus; thus death has no dominion over the believer as death has no dominion over Him.-**Romans 6:9**
- We are united to Jesus; thus the believer is alive to God.-**Romans 6:10**

- “For **you have died**, and your life is **hidden with Christ** in God”- **Colossians 3:3**
- The word used for **hidden** is **kripto** and it literally means to **escape notice**. We get our word **crypt** for it which is a vault to hold a dead body.
- Instead of holding our dead body in the crypt; it is our **life** that is escaping notice in Jesus .
- Our union with Jesus means that His life becomes our life. Jesus’ perfect obedience is the believer’s perfect obedience. Jesus’s sinless life becomes the believer’s sinless life. Jesus’s holiness becomes, the believer’s holiness. Jesus’s death, His resurrection, His glorification, His riches, His grace, His mercy, His compassion and His love are all the believer’s in Christ.

- “See how rich believers are, they are matched into the crown of heaven, and by virtue of the conjugal union all Christ’s riches go to believers, communion is found in union. Christ communicates his graces...as long as Christ hath it, believers shall not want...By virtue of the marriage –union, the saints are interested in Christ’s riches”.- **Watson, Thomas**
- Paul uses marriage as an illustration. Two people merge together to form a union in the bonds of marriage and they are no longer two but one. The couple has left the headship of their respected households to be united under a new authority and are no longer bound to the old but are united to the new.

- When a believer by faith accepts Jesus he becomes united to Jesus in a new household under Jesus as the new head.
- The believer has died to his marriage **to sin** in Jesus because the death Jesus died He **died to sin** (**Rom. 6:10**).
- The old marriage to sin has no power over the believer since we have died in Jesus and are united to Him.
- “Or do you not know, brothers for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage...likewise, my brothers, you also have **died to the law** through the body of Christ, so that you may **belong to another**, to him who has been raised from the dead”- **Romans 7:1-2,4**

Four Key Truths

- There are four key truths that flow through Romans chapter 6 and these ideas provide the foundation which Paul builds on in chapters 7-8.
 1. The first key truth is that the believer is to **know** the truth of our **union** with Christ in His **death** and **resurrection** (**Verses 3-9**).
 2. The second key truth is that the believer is to **consider** or **count** these truths to be true for himself and his life (**verse 11**).

3. The third key truth is the believer is to **present** himself or **stand as alive from the dead** for God's purpose and usefulness (**verses 13-14**).
4. The fourth key truth is the believer is to be **obedient** to the new order of living presented in God's word (**verse 16-18**).
 - The “Father’s holiness...in the work of sanctification, though he favors his work in us, yet he does not favor sin in us; for he will never take away his hand from his work, until he has taken away sin...God’s children never sin with full will, because there is a contrary law in their minds [The Holy Spirit] by which the dominion of sin is broken and which always has some secret working against the law of sin.”-Sibbes, Richard

Romans 6:3-4

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

Baptized

- Paul asks, **Do you not know**...? The word for **know** means **to be ignorant**.
- Paul does not want any believer to be **ignorant** concerning these fundamental truths taught in the Bible.
- Christian living depends on Christian learning; duty is always founded on doctrine. If Satan can keep a Christian ignorant, he can keep him impotent.”-Wiersbe, Warren
- “For, being **ignorant** of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their **own**, they did not submit to God’s righteousness.”-**Romans 10:3**

- The idea behind the ancient Greek word for **baptized** is “to immerse or overwhelm something.”
- The baptism that Paul is using is not the baptism that takes place when a believer testifies to what Jesus has done in his life and is plunged into the water to represent death to the old life and alive to the new.
- The baptism that Paul is referencing directs us beyond what happens within us to what **happened to Jesus**. The central focus is upon **His death** in which the believer has been immersed **into Christ Jesus**.

- Paul gives a significant clue to what he may be saying here in Romans 6, in 1 Corinthians 10:2, where says the Israelites were baptized **into Moses**.
- “For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and **all** were **baptized into Moses** in the cloud and in the sea...”-**1 Corinthians 10:1-2**
- When the Israelites followed Moses as the new head of their nation they were delivered from their bondage to Egypt with its power to enslave them. They came alive to God to serve Him. They died with Moses to the old regime under Egypt and came alive with Moses to the new way of walking in partnership with God.
- The Israelites baptism sealed and initiated them into the new life. All of Israel was and is identified **with Moses**, just as all believers are baptized and identified **with Jesus Christ** (**Romans 6:3-4**).

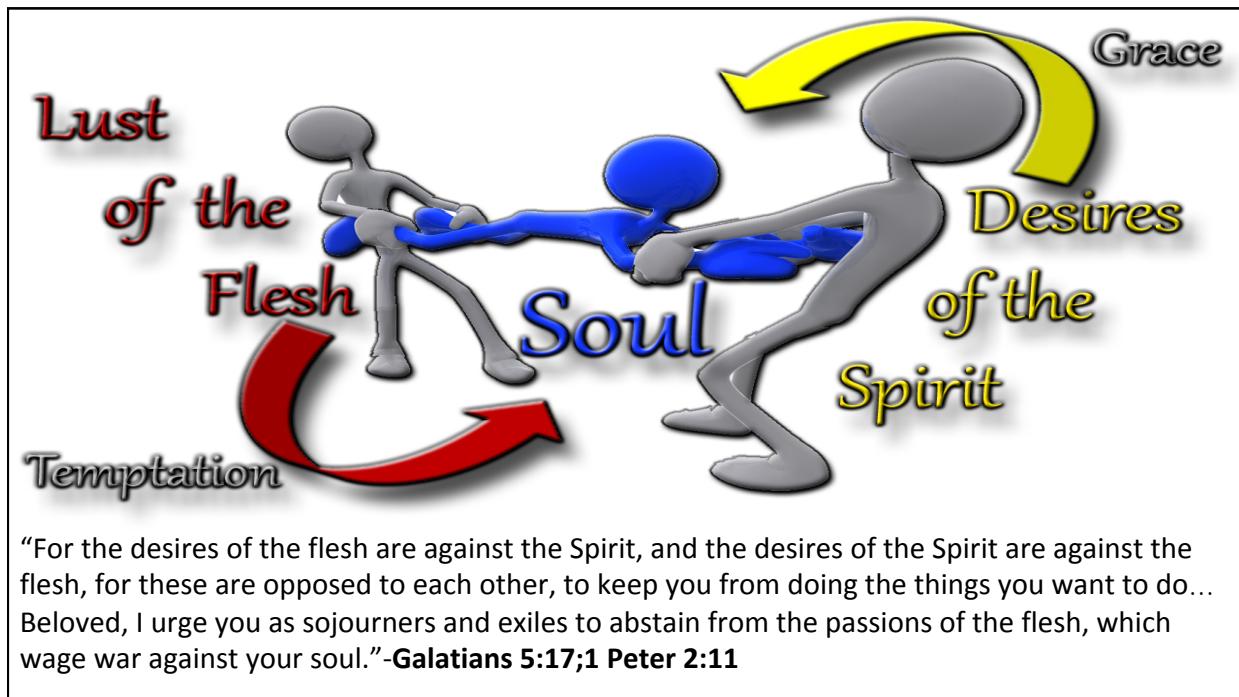
Buried

- Paul states that the believer is so identified with Jesus's death in baptism that we are buried. The past life of living to sin has ended.
- “Burial is the act which consummates the breaking of the last tie between man and his earthly life. This was likewise the meaning of our Lord's entombment. Similarly, by baptism there is publicly consummated the believer's breaking with the life of the present world and with his own natural life.”- Godet, Louis Frederic

- We were buried with Jesus and identified with Him in death **in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**"
- "Walk by new rules. Make a new choice of the way. Choose new paths to walk in, new leaders to walk after, new companions to walk with."-Henry, Matthew
- I do believe with Matthew Henry that it's a new way of walking for the believer but it's more than that according to Paul, it's the very infusion of the life of Jesus by the glory of the Father. It's a walk but it is empowered by the Holy Spirit of God.

- "But I say, walk by **the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."-**Galatians 5:16-17**
- To **walk in the Spirit** is same as to **walk in newness of life**. This means that the Holy Spirit **lives in you**.
- It also means to be **empowered** by the Holy Spirit.
- It also means to **pattern your life** after the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Old Life <u>BEFORE CHRIST</u>	New Life <u>AFTER CHRIST</u>
Separated from Jesus (Eph. 2:12).	United to Jesus (Rom. 6:5)
Dead in Sin (Eph.2:1).	Alive with Jesus (Eph. 2:5;Rom.6:5).
Disobedient (Eph.2:2).	Obedient in Jesus (Rom. 5:19).
Directed by the flesh (Rom. 8:6).	Directed by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:6).
Children of God's wrath (Eph.2:3).	Children of God's affection with Jesus (Eph. 2:4;1 John 3:1).
Walking in sin (Eph. 4:17-19).	Walking in good works created in Jesus (Eph. 2:10).
Destiny is hell (Rom. 3:10)	
Coated with Christ (Eph. 2:6)	



Romans 6:5-10

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.”

United to Christ

- The believer has been **united with Jesus in a death like his**.
- The word here used by Paul for **united** means to be **fused** together, **born** together like twins or **planted** together with joint origin.
- A miracle occurs when a person comes to faith in Jesus: The fullness of the Godhead plants Himself within our heart which then begins to train the believer according to His Word (Col. 2:9; Titus 2:1-12).

- If we know that we are united with Jesus then we know that we are living a new life no longer under sin's dominance.
- We are empowered and sensitized to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- “For we are **his** workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk **in them**.”—
Ephesians 2:10

- Our partnership in the death of Jesus makes our partnership in His resurrection certain for we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
- Christ's resurrection was the event for Paul where he could rid himself of the “do it yourself” morality from his own frustrated efforts to live the religious life and being united with the risen Christ and all His righteousness.
- “and be found **in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through **faith in Christ**, the righteousness from God that depends on faith, that I may **know him** and the power of his **resurrection**... ”-**Philippians 3:9-10a**

Once begun, **sanctification**
*increases daily, for the **Holy Spirit is**
continually at work in us,
*by means of the Word of God,**

and by **daily bestowing forgiveness** on us,
till we reach that life
where all persons there are pure and holy.

~ Martin Luther



“In our sharing **in Christ** which justifies us,
sanctification is just as much included.” ~ John Calvin

Pendulum Swing

- The fact that **you are in Christ** gives you the assurance of forgiveness and the fact that **Christ lives in you** gives you the power over sin's dominion.
- "Many acknowledge that we are justified by the righteousness of Christ, but seem to think, at least they act as if, they must be **sanctified by a holiness they themselves have acquired.**" - Bavinck, Herman
- "Tis inexpressible and almost inconceivable how strong a self-righteous, self-exalting disposition is **naturally in man**; and what he will do and suffer, to feed and gratify it." - Edwards, Jonathan

- The pursuit of personal-holiness without a heart filled sense of positional-holiness **in union with Jesus** results in legalism.
- If we base our objective union with Jesus upon a subjective experience of day to day performance we have a ripe formula for spiritual depression.
- On days you do well spiritually you are flying high: You prayed and read your Bible to start the day. Your kind and compassionate etc..
- On days you don't do well spiritually you crash and spiritual depression sets in as you feel defeated (I'll never make it), or cynical (no one ever makes it) or resigned to give up (why even try at all to make it).

- Unless we know and live in the reality that our union with Jesus is fixed then our life in and towards holiness will be oppressive and impossible to attain.
- Holiness is not a bunch of rules to follow but is the life of God empowered within us to live out His character through us bringing compassion, kindness, grace and His deep felt affection for the poor, the down trodden, and the broken hearted.
- Although a believer falls into sin and often doing the same sin repeatedly; he **never is satisfied** with sin nor is a believer content to **live** in sin.

Crucified

- Paul introduces another truth that he wants believer's to **know that our old self was crucified with him.**
- The **old self was crucified** with Jesus so that **the body of sin might be brought to nothing.**
- The **old self** is the part of man that is patterned after the **likeness of Adam (Genesis 5:3)** the part of us that is deeply ingrained in rebellion against God and His commands.

- The crucifixion of the **old self** is something that God did for us in Jesus. None of us have nailed the **old self** to the cross.
- “In us there was nothing even to sicken and to weaken our old man, much less to murder him by crucifixion; God had to do this.”-Lenski, Richard C H
- "What we **were** 'in Adam' is no more; but, until heaven, the temptation to **live** in Adam always remains.”-Moo, Douglas

Body of Sin

- Paul says that old self was crucified so that the **body of sin** might be **brought to nothing**.
- The word used for **brought to nothing** means literally to put out of business.
- The **body of sin** refers to our unredeemed soul controlled and ruled by sin before conversion (**Eph. 2:1**).
- “But **if Christ is in you**, although **the body is dead because of sin**, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”-**Romans 8:10**
- When our old self was crucified it died and being dead it put the rule and dominance of sin **out of business for good** so that we are no longer **enslaved to sin**.

- **For one who has died has been set free from sin.**
- Notice that the believer who has died has been set free **from** sin. We are not free **to** sin nor are we free **of** sin.
- A non-believer thinks he is free **to** sin and actually enjoys it. This is the true essence of sin and this person is **enslaved to sin**.
- Some Christian circles believe we are free **of** sin and that sin no longer distresses the life of the truly sanctified. This is a dangerous deception.
- However, the reality is that the believer who has died has been set free **from** sin and from sin's power.

Died with Christ

- Our old self has **died with Christ**. It is dead and buried in Christ.
- The believer has died with Christ but we also believe **we will live with Him**.
- Jesus died to sin so that death would no longer have dominion over Him nor the believer who is united to Him.
- The old man is crucified to release the believer from the dominion of sin.

- “Jesus Christ will never have to die again, because when He died for sin, He died to sin. This means that when He died, His relationship to sin changed. It was never the same again. Sin now has no power over Him. How could sin have had a claim on Him who knew no sin? **God treated Him as though He were sinful for our sakes.** He bore our sins. After He paid for our sins, He was free to resume His intimate relationship with God forever”.-Constable, Thomas
- When Jesus died upon the cross He died for the forgiveness of our sins but He also changed the dynamic of sin destroying sin’s power by dying to sin.

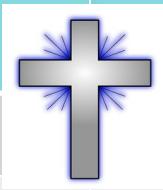
Understanding Sanctification

- Sanctification is not the perfection of behavior as some church traditions claim.
- “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus....And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ **for you are still carnal.** For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”-**1 Corinthians 1:1;3:1,3**
- Jesus in His prayer said, “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that **they also may be sanctified** by the truth.”-**John 17:19**

- Jesus' finished work on the cross is both our **justification** and our **sanctification**.
- “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”-**Hebrews 10:10,14**
- **Justification** deals with our **guilt** for sinful behaviors once and for all time.
- **Sanctification** deals with the **power of sin** in the believer’s life moment-by-moment.

The Internal Work

- As the believer walks with the Lord there is an internal working upon his soul and spirit through the person of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.
- The Word of God is the most important item we have in our relationship with the Lord yet so many neglect it and thus have forgotten the basic principles that it teaches.
- God is instructing us as believers through His Word conforming us into the image of His Son.
- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction in righteousness**,”-**2 Timothy 3:16**

Sins		Sin
Jesus Died For Our Sins		Jesus Died To Sin
Jesus Forgives Our Sins		Jesus Delivers us <u>from</u> Sin
Jesus Died to Pay the Price for Our Sins		Jesus Died to Break the Power <u>of</u> Sin and deliver us <u>from</u> the power of sin
It is by Grace through Faith <u>In</u> <u>Jesus</u> that the believer credits Forgiveness for sins to his account.		It is by Grace through Faith <u>In</u> <u>Jesus</u> that the believer credits Deliverance from Sin to his account.

Romans 6:11

“So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Consider

- The word for **consider** is the same word that Paul has been using throughout Romans meaning to **impute** or to **credit** to one's account.
- Paul tells believers to **impute** or **credit** the death of Jesus to sin as now forever dead to the believer.
- This death to sin is not our work but it His work. When Jesus died to sin His death to sin is credited to the believer's account
- The verb is the present imperative in the Greek relating to us that we should absolutely and continually view ourselves this way.

- “Paul previously stressed the importance of knowing certain facts (vv. 3, 6, 9). Now he said that we should "count on" them being true. We must not only understand them, but believe them. He used the same Greek word (*logisthesetai*) here as he did in his explanation of justification (2:26; 4:3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24). God registers righteousness in the believer's account. Similarly, we should register it as true that our relationship to sin and death has changed.”-Constable, Thomas
- God never calls believers to **crucify** the old man but instead to **consider** or **account** him as already dead because of our **identification with Jesus' death** on the cross.

- Sin's marriage partner, the old man/inherited Adamic nature, is crucified and dead.
- The new man is married and partnered to Jesus taking sin's place in us and so sin's power is broken since now we count ourselves **dead to sin and alive** (married) **to God in Christ Jesus.**
- "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives **in me**. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."-**Galatians 2:20**

- "**Put** to death therefore what is earthly in you...Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **put** off the old self with its practices and have **put** on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."-**Colossians 3:5a,9-10**
- The word **put** is in the middle voice in the Greek which means that something has happened to me that produces a response on my part.
- When Jesus died on the Cross the believer died in union with Him. Now in our present experience based on that fact the believer can choose to live in the truth of that revelation or choose to live and continue to listen to the voice of the old self.

Romans 6:12-14

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”

Sin Should Not Reign

- **Let not sin reign** (basileuetō): have authority, rule, control, occupy, hold sway, prevail over. The present tense is used so the idea is a continuous attitude and behavior.
- As believers we **know** that we are no longer subject to sin's domination and we **count** that as true for our life.
- **Therefore**, we should not **let sin reign** in our mortal bodies any longer.
- Sin is no longer our master so we can and should stop listening to its voice and carrying out its **passions**.

- True saints are unfortunately prone to various degrees of backsliding into sin but sin has lost its authority in the life of the believer.
- In the heart of a true believer sin is convicted, our heart does not remain in a hardened state, and sin is mourned, hated, and despised because of the Holy Spirit living in us.
- “God’s children never sin with full will, because there is a contrary law in their minds [The Holy Spirit] by which the dominion of sin is broken and which always has some secret working against the law of sin.”-Sibbes, Richard

- “God has so changed your nature by his grace that when you sin you shall be like a fish on dry land, you shall be out of your element, and long to get into a right state again. You cannot sin, for you love God. The sinner may drink sin down as the ox drinketh down water, but to you it shall be as the brine of the sea. You may become so foolish as to try the pleasures of the world, but they shall be no pleasures to you.”-Spurgeon, Charles
- “We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. But God, who is rich in **mercy**, because of his **great love** that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!”- **Ephesians 2:3-5**
- Our Father hates what sin does to humanity. He hates sin so much that out of His amazing love He gave His only Son as a perfect sacrifice in order that sinful man might be made alive by His Spirit that now dwells within the believer producing a hatred of sin within us as well.

Present

- Paul now urges believers by calling on them to **present** themselves to God in a decisive act of self-dedication.
- The surest evidence of our spiritual life is the dedication of ourselves to God."-Henry, Matthew
- The believer is to use his life in the service of God as **instruments for righteousness**.
- At different times and places we **presented** our life for **instruments for unrighteousness**. We were self loving, self-serving , it was all about our needs, and our passions.
- Now the believer is exhorted to do the things that agree with the work of God through Jesus.

Sin's Lost Dominion

- **Sin will not have dominion** over the believer's life and that truth factor as a believer I **count** as true for my life.
- The victory over sin's dominion has nothing to do with the believer but it has everything to do with what Jesus did and our union to Him.
- **The power of sin is the law (1 Cor. 15:56)** but we are not **under law but under grace**.
- "**For God has done what the law**, weakened by the flesh, **could not do**. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and **for sin, he condemned sin** in the flesh, in order that **the righteous requirement of the law** might be fulfilled **in us...**"-Romans 8:3-4a

Under the Law

- Every believer is constantly aware that he fails and comes short of the law.
- It is a constant struggle and striving, as we grapple, and labor to obey; but our experience in Jesus becomes full of tension and pressure, disappointment, and discouragement when **under law**.
- The person **under law** never lives a victorious life for he is constantly coming short of God's glory and perfection.
- The defeated believer is relying upon his **flesh** and **self-will** to overcome **sin**.

- “**If you have died with Christ** to the elementary principles of the world, **why**, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, ‘Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!’ (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of man? These are matters which do have the **appearance** of wisdom in **self-made** religion and humility and severe treatment of the body, but are of **no value against fleshly indulgence.**”- **Colossians 2: 20-23**
- A religion built around self coddles and strokes the ego of the flesh which gives man a false sense of victory over the sinful indulgences of the flesh.
- Sin uses the law to keep man in constant failure under the law.

- The law says “don’t do that” and the moment I do what I’m told not to do I feel frustration about my lack of ability to perform which is often transferred back to God (**Why did you make me this way?**) but God transfers the question back to the believer (**Why...do you submit yourself to decrees if you have died with Christ to them?**).
- David understood this truth of disappointment and discouragement in the face of God’s holy law.
- “For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a **heavy burden**, they are too **heavy** for me.”-**Psalm 38:4**

- “For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my **heart fails** me.”-**Psalm 40:12**
- David also understood the truth of living under God’s grace, love, and compassion.
- “He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. **As a father shows compassion to his children**, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”-**Psalm 103:10-14**

Under Grace

- What does it mean to be **under grace**?
- It means the believer accepts all of the Father's work accomplished in the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- It means to **know**, to convince our minds and to **count** all of the work of Jesus: His perfect obedience, His sinless life, His holiness, His death, His resurrection, His glorification, His riches, His grace, His mercy, His compassion and His love are all the believer's in Christ **under grace**.
- "And because of him you are **in Christ** Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."-**1 Corinthians 1:31-32**

- When a person lives his life **under grace** it leads that person to live righteously not to indulge into sin. Wherever grace has dominion God's righteous standard of living will be taught.
- "For **the grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training** us to **renounce** ungodliness and worldly passions, and to **live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, "-**Titus 2:11-12**
- Sin and law go together: "The sting of death is the law; and the **strength of the law is sin**.(1 Cor.15:56).
- However, since we are not **under law** but **under grace** sin has lost its dominion and power.

Romans 6:15-16

“What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ”

Slaves to Whom

- Paul's question here is not a same as in of verse Romans 6:1.
- In 6:1, Paul asked the question should a person "**continue in sin**" or "go on with a sinning lifestyle" so that **grace may abound**.
- The answer is no: The believer was with Jesus in His death and resurrection and now should walk in the newness of life empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Here in verse 15, the question is dealing with **act of sin**. Should a believer who has died to sin dabble with it on occasion?
- If we are now married to Jesus should we spend time with our old partner sin?

- In this world a person becomes a servant/slave to whatever or whomever we worship or submit ourselves to.
- “Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a **slave** to sin.”-**John 8:34**
- “They promise them freedom, but they themselves are **slaves** of corruption. For whatever **overcomes a person**, to that he is enslaved.”-2 Peter 2:19
- The word for **overcome** means to lower, submit, or yield oneself to something or someone.

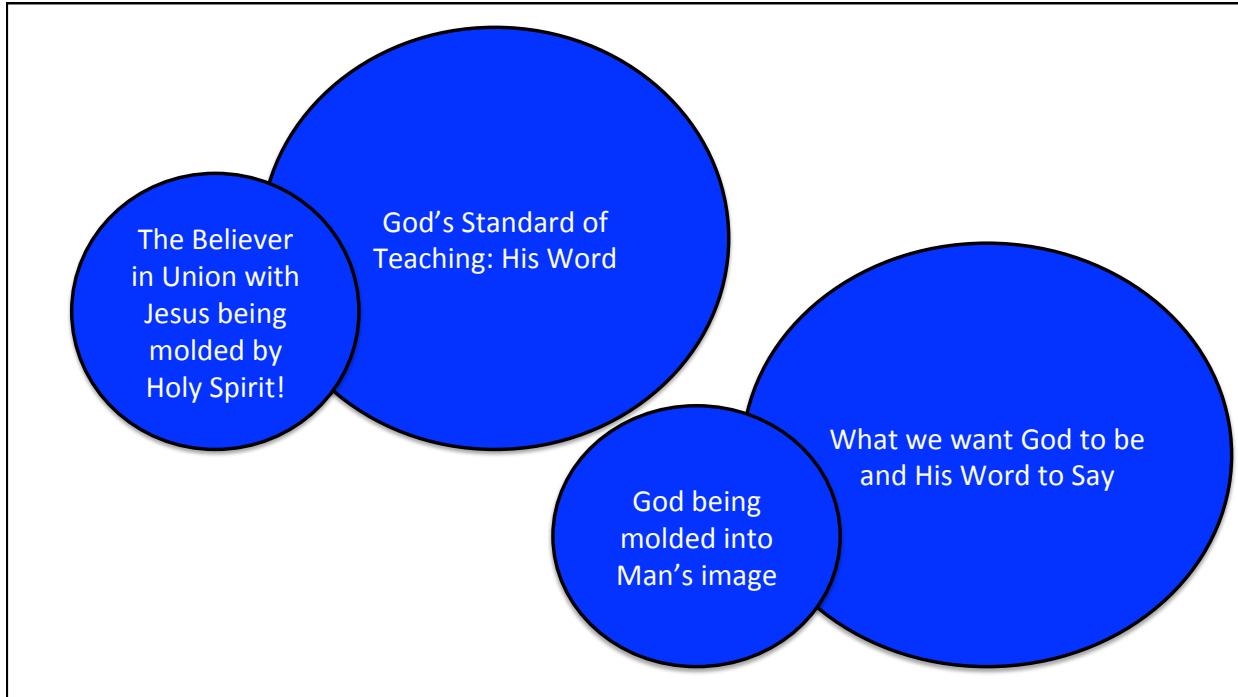
- “Whatever controls us is our lord. The person who seeks power is controlled by power. The person who seeks acceptance is controlled by acceptance. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the lord of our lives.”— **Rebecca Pippert, Out of the Saltshaker and Into the World**
- The truth that we are saved doesn’t mean we are free from having a master. The question is who will be your master: Sin or Obedience
- The parable of the Prodigal Son is a good example. When he was home in the father’s house he wanted freedom so he left the father’s house to enjoy the pleasures of life only to find that his rebellion didn’t lead to freedom but enslavement.
- Only after returning home did he find his true joy and freedom of living in relationship with and in obedience to the father.

Romans 6:17-18

“But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness”

Obedience From the Heart

- Paul thanks God for the believer who has been delivered from sin and now has committed himself to be **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching**.
- The word for standard in the original means to conform or mold.
- The believer has committed his whole self to be molded by the Holy Spirit in conformity to the teaching in the Word of God: Jesus.
- The believer is to offer up himself to be molded by the word of God and through God's grace we embrace the truth of the gospel in obedience for the heart changing the way in which a believer thinks and acts.



Romans 6:19-23

“I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Human Terms

- Paul stated he was speaking to the Roman church in **human terms** because of their **natural limitations** to understand spiritual truths.
- He was using a **human** illustration to describe what happens in the life of believer **before** conversion and then **after** the person has been born again.
- When a person was a none believer he was **free** to the things leading to **righteousness** but upon being born again the believer not only has **righteousness** through his union with Jesus but **sanctification** as well.
- The **wages of sin is death** but **eternal life** to those **in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Make Jesus Alive In Your Heart

- James teaches, “But the one who **looks intently** into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does.”-**James 1:25**
- As a person who looks carefully into Who God is in His revealed Word the character of God is embraced through His grace, His compassion, His mercy, and His love bringing about a freedom and a transformation of the heart (our true self) as that person looks to Jesus (**2 Cor. 3:17-18**).
- “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and **manifest myself to him**.”-**John 14:21**

- John Owen stated, “Labor, therefore, to **fill your hearts** with the cross of Christ.”
- It’s not labor for **salvation** but for **revelation** of a deeper knowledge of God and His heart.
- As the believer **engages** in Bible reading, prayer, worship, and fellowship the Lord is **actively engaged**, through grace, in drawing each person closer by “**manifesting Himself**” to the believer.
- “for it is God who **works** in you, both **to will** and **to work** for **his good** pleasure.”-**Philippians 2:13**