

Should We Continue in Sin?

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ...

❖ Intro:

- **What we teach about Jesus and Justification? (Essentially Romans 1-5)**
 - We are made right with God separate from any good thing we can do.
 - Our rightness with God is totally dependent on the work of Jesus
 - **This is assuming we have met the required standards for receiving this grace**
 - ◆ 1) **Faith** in who Jesus is, what He did and what He said
 - ◆ 2) **Repentance from sins:** An admitting of our rebellion against God with a heart felt desire to turn from it.
 - **So, we say... We are saved by faith, we are being saved by faith and we will be saved by faith**
 - And there are no good works we can do to earn it...
 - And there are no bad things we can do to lose it...
- **Sounds like a pretty sweet deal, right?**
 - This is a Radical View of Grace!
 - Yet, this can quickly run off into the wrong direction

❖ What do we want to do with Romans 6?

- **I want to focus on this big problem.**
 - The question posed by Paul... Should we sin so grace will abound?
 - As He repeats it, Should we sin since we are under grace? (vs 15)
- **These are big questions**
 - **And, they are fair questions... because in reality... if God has placed us under grace...**
 - Our sin is covered and we are right with God
- **But... the question I would like to ask this morning...**
 - **Is it proper for someone living under grace... someone who has been made right with God**
 - To think like this...
 - **Let me restate that...**
 - To **live** like this...
- **The Answer: You will see in this chapter that Paul answers this question with a resounding No...**
 - And, essentially what he says is: You can't!
 - It is contrary to the **nature** of a person who has been made right with God through faith
 - It is contrary for them to live this way...
 - They will be unable to "live" this way...
- **What if we think we have done this?**
 - **So, the question we must ask ourselves...**
 - If we cannot do this... if it is against the nature of who we now are...
 - What if I think I have done this...?
 - ◆ Sinning haphazardly thinking it is ok cause God has it covered
 - **For many of us... we have not done this consciously, but subconsciously**
 - Either way... we have thought like this...
 - I think it is likely that all Christians have treated the grace of God disgracefully...
 - **The Key is... Do we live this way...**
 - Is this our philosophy of salvation...?
 - Is this what we see as truth?

- Is this who we are?
- **Or are we like Paul?**
 - With a resounding No!
 - No! I can not continue in sin so grace abounds...
 - No! I do not have a license to sin just because I am under grace

➤ **A Very Fine Line**

- **Between falling on the grace of God when we stumble**
 - And treading disgracefully on the grace of God...
- **How will we know?**
 - Because honestly... I feel like I have tread on the grace of God before...
- **We must rely on the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God...**
 - When we sin... it should always lead to sorrow...
 - It should lead to a desire not to return to mud with the pigs...
 - It should draw us back to the Lord in repentance and prayer and seeking out God

➤ **We Must Never Think**

- **God is ok with our sin.... Heck... Jesus died so we are good**
 - We must never think God is giving us a time in sin because of past faithfulness
 - We must never think God is not concerned with our personal daily Holiness...
- **Jesus did not die, just to justify us... to make us right with God...**
 - He also died to sanctify us... To present us as Holy before the father...
 - **Meaning** we would be progressing in our walk with God...
 - ◆ Not necessarily in a straight line forward... but progressing...
 - ◆ That is the Work of the Holy Spirit...

➤ **What do you Do? Repent:** If this is where you are...

- **If you find yourselves ok with this... I pray mercy for your soul...**
 - You are in a very dangerous place... And you may be blind to it
 - In danger of the fires of hell
 - In danger of separation from God
 - In danger of being one of those that went out from us because they never were of us...
 - ◆ 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
 - **Paul says it clearly in verse 16:**
 - ◆ 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

➤ **Let's Look at the Text this morning...**

- Let's see Paul's Words of encouragement to us to battle this type of thinking... LIVING

❖ **I) We Can't Because We Have Died to Sin**

- **Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?**

➤ **So Here is His Question... Continue in sin so grace may increase?**

- Here is his Answer: **May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?**

➤ **Paul Explains His Answer in the following verses...**

- **He says we have died to sin**
 - Then He explains what this means (let me put it in as easy a way as I can)
- **1) He says Remember your baptism... Remember what it signified**

- Your being baptized was a symbol of your old person dying...
 - ◆ That old person who used to live for self...
 - ◆ That person who lived in sin...
 - ◆ Was put to death... It was a burial...
- **2) He says remember Jesus' Resurrection**
 - Jesus was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father...
 - Therefore, we too might walk in newness of life...
 - **Do you see it?**
 - ◆ If Jesus died... and that death defeated sin...
 - ◆ And His raising from the dead showed victory over sin...
 - **Therefore... your Faith in Jesus has created a similar victory for you...**
 - ◆ **so we too might walk in newness of life.**
 - **Since Jesus was raised from the dead...**
 - ◆ We will walk in newness of life...
 - ◆ That means, we do not continue living and abounding in sin...
- **3) He says We are United with Christ...**
 - Now, this really sums it all up rather nicely...
 - ◆ **5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,**
 - **Notice... we have been united with Christ...**
 - ◆ This is such an important doctrine that we need to understand...
 - **First thing to know is: Union With Christ is Through Faith**
 - ◆ We attain Union with Christ **through Faith**
 - We are like Christ because we have been placed in Christ...
 - ◆ **From the text our union means this:**
 - ◆ **When He died, we died...**
 - In a sense, our old sinful self that was rebellious to God, was punished by God in Christ.
 - So when He dies for our sins... Our old self dies as well.
 - ◆ **Therefore, our faith in Him has joined us to Him in many ways.**
 - One of those ways was that as He paid for sins... Our sinful self was represented...
 - And it received the punishment for our rebellion...
 - Except it was transferred over to Christ so that He was punished...
 - ◆ **Also He was raised from the dead...**
 - And we too will be raised from the dead...
 - Because sin has been dealt with... because Jesus dealt with it on the cross
 - So We will be raised in a similar way as Jesus
- **Summarizing:**
 - Because we are joined with Jesus... We are not the same person anymore.
 - Sin does not have control over us.
 - We are completely and utterly new in Christ
- **Since this is true of us:**
 - **Paul tells us to do something... later on in verse 11**
 - Because... you could look at this and say... well... if I am dead to it... then why do I sin still?
 - **You Need a New Category in your Brain**
 - *The Right now but Not Yet Category*
 - There are things that are true of us right now, but we haven't seen them come to fruition yet
 - There are things that Jesus did for us that are complete, but we have yet to see (experience)

- **Put it this way:**
 - There are things that are true of us in our position with God... Our standing with God
 - But things that we are working on in our practice... in how we live
- **God has ordained that He makes us right with Him through Faith**
 - Justified through Faith
 - But that we are also to spend our time on this earth growing in Him
 - Being progressively made like Jesus
 - It is called **Sanctification**... to be made Holy... We are in that process

❖ **Invitation:**

- **Renew your devotion to Christ...**
- **Renew your devotion to righteous living...**
- **God's grace covers your sins...**
 - But your sin puts a strain on your relationship with God
 - When a saved person sins...
 - They are doing something contrary to their nature...
 - So, there will be a huge war within the person
- **The war:**
 - It will leave you in guilt and shame and confusion
 - Maybe it brings about discipline from God
 - It weakens the fellowship you have with Jesus
 - It harms your prayer life
 - It makes you ineffective in witnessing...
 - Keeps you from sharing your faith
- **God is not glorified in you**
 - And if God is not glorified in you...
 - Then you do not find your satisfaction in Him...
 - And since your whole purpose of being is rooted in your image bearing
 - And in you living for the glory of God...
 - Your world is not settled... it is not as it should be...
- **Don't Settle for a stunted walk with God...**
 - There is so much more joy and victory and peace and love
 - Than you could ever imagine...
 - **Let me give you two sets of verses that show you what things could be like:**
 - **Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**
 - **And Another one to Pray daily:**
 - **Ephesians 3:16-21 ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**
- **Don't Settle... Seek!**