

Do Not Let Sin Reign in You

Romans 6:1-23 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? ...

11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ...

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. 22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

❖ 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?

- **There is a lot to do here... like preach 10 sermons as one preacher I researched did...**
- **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?
- **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 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...
- **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 are 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...
 - **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... 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
- **What Paul tells us what to do in verses 11-15:**
 - 1) We must consider ourselves dead to sin
 - 2) We must not let sin reign in our bodies
 - 3) We must not present the members of our bodies to sin as weapons of unrighteousness
 - 4) Rather we must present them as righteous weapons to God

❖ II) We Must Not Let Sin Reign

- **Romans 6:11-15** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!
- **1) We must consider ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus**
 - **Consider:** Reckon, to keep mental record
 - To put together with one's mind
 - **You see what he is saying here?**
 - This is a mental exercise...
 - **Let me Give you an Example: When a Person Goes into the Military**
 - ◆ Before going in they are a civilian... and they think like a civilian
 - ◆ They go where they want to go and do what they want to do... for the most part...
 - ◆ Usually they do not have heavy matters on their minds and hearts...
 - ◆ When they enter the Military things change drastically for them...
 - ◆ **They begin to be trained to think and live a different way.**
 - They are taught to take orders
 - They are trained in combat and mechanics and many other areas.
 - They are trained in who the enemy is, who their allies are...
 - ◆ **Their mind must begin to focus in a completely different way**
 - No longer are they concerned with civilian minded things...
 - They are concerned with their mission...

- ◆ **These things start in the mind...**
 - The body will be unable to do what the mind does not allow
 - They have to be mentally strong... they have to know their cause
 - they have to have confidence in their cause
 - They need to know their strategies and orders...
- ◆ **If they fail mentally, they will assuredly fail physically...**
 - They have put together their cause in their minds...
 - They now reckon themselves, or consider themselves to be a military man
- **What is it that you should be putting together in your mind?**
 - That you are dead to sin, but alive to God
 - ◆ **Dead to Sin:** When a person dies physically... this world and its cares no longer has control of the person.
 - They do not pay bills, or go to work, or play or worry about relationships...
 - They have died...
 - Being dead to sin is similar... sin has no more power or control over the person...
 - This does not mean we do not give it control...
 - But it has no actual claim on us anymore...
 - And this being dead to sin is done through your union with Jesus... **Which is done by faith**
 - **So... Practically...**
 - You put in you heart and mind scripture verses that remind you of this truth
 - You think of the great doctrines of justification... that Jesus has made you right with God
 - You remember that you are unified with Jesus
 - You remember that Jesus has defeated the power of sin... therefore you are joined in that
 - You remember you are a new person...
 - **Walking in sin is not who you are... you do not have to give in to sin..**
 - ◆ You can now see sin as it is, and flee from it
 - ◆ You know it only satisfies for a short season...
 - **You remember you are alive to God...**
 - ◆ You are to be living for God...
 - **When we put these things together in our minds...**
 - *It shapes the way we live...*
 - **Another Example:**
 - **People that have very low self esteem sometimes go to a psychologist...**
 - ◆ And they will be taught to say certain things to themselves...
 - ◆ I stood behind a man at wendy's doing this very thing.
 - ◆ He had notecards that said positive things about himself...
 - ◆ And he was repeating them aloud under his breath...
 - **This man was reminding himself that he had self worth...**
 - ◆ And this does seem to help some people...
 - **I am not here to support the benefits of positive thinking...**
 - ◆ Because void of Jesus they are of very little worth in my opinion...
 - ◆ But... notice that it reminds the man of who He is... Or who he wants to think himself to be
- **2) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts**
 - Paul moves from telling us to consider ourselves... to get things straight in our minds...
 - **He says... therefore... Therefore... since you have put this together in your mind...**
 - Since you consider yourselves dead to sin...
 - Now... do not let sin reign...

- **You now have the mental reminder and knowledge of this truth...**
 - Now it is time to go to war against sin...
 - Do not let it reign
- **What is at stake? What or Who Reigns over your Body:**
 - **Reign:** is simply the verb form of king...
 - So, Paul is saying... lets not let sin be the king of your body
 - Because it will give us orders... That is what kings do
 - ◆ And those orders are: **that we would:**
 - Obey its lusts
- **Its lusts: Is in reference to the Body...**
 - **It is not sin's lusts...**
 - ◆ Sin is trying to be the king... and Sin is giving your body orders to lust
 - ◆ So now, if sin is reigning over the body... Your body has lusts...
 - **Lust here means desires... or passions...**
 - ◆ But the sense of the word here is more than just a desire or passion...
 - ◆ Because we all know that desires and passions are not always bad...
 - ◆ *Here the sense is: An evil craving... an inordinate self indulgent craving (that displaces proper affections for God*
 - **Remember This...** Coming back to it in just a minute... as we look at our greatest weapon
- **Summary: Paul says... Get it straight in your mind what is true of you...**
 - And now... Do not let sin win... do not let it reign...
 - Now He gives you some practical ways to keep this from happening...
- **3) We must not present the members of our bodies to sin as weapons of unrighteousness**
 - **You know who you are... and what Christ has done...**
 - Now, do not use your body parts for sin.
 - You have all you need to keep this from happening...
 - **We have been granted all we need to live godly**
 - ◆ **2 Peter 1:3³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,**
 - God is at work in you, living within you, He has accomplished victory for you...
 - **Therefore... do not use your body for sin...**
 - **Paul, I believe, has in mind a number of things here...**
 - ◆ Do not use your hands to bring harm to someone else
 - ◆ Do not let your stomach control you into gluttony or drunkenness
 - ◆ Do not let your sexual organs control you toward evil cravings
 - ◆ Do not let your tongue have its way in how you speak to people...
 - Or about people
 - So, that is the negative... look at the positive...
- **4) Rather we must present them as righteous weapons to God**
 - Instead... lets use our body as weapons for God...
 - **Weapons are very interesting things...**
 - They can be used to senselessly take life
 - They can be used to save life
 - **This word is translated often times as instruments...**
 - Because it means a piece of equipment... but the word is usually translated as weapons
 - **Our body is a tool... it is a piece of equipment that should be used in the proper way...**
 - Men can use their hands to feed the hungry and help the needy
 - ◆ Or use their hands to take life from another person

- Men can use their tongues to praise and bring to God and encourage other people
 - ◆ Or use their tongues to bring men down and as a result dishonor God
- Men can use their body in a loving relationship with their mate
 - ◆ Or pervert God's plan for intimacy with pornography or sexual immorality

▪ **Paul encourages us to use our bodies as Righteous weapons...**

- To do things that are right before God...

➤ **Overarching Amazing Truth Statement:**

- **Sin Shall not be master over you because you are not under law but under grace**

▪ **Do all these things because Sin will not master you**

- What is he saying here...? He is saying that we do not have to present our bodies to sin
- Because God is Sovereign... Not sin...

▪ **He says here: Sin shall not be master over you!**

- If you are a believer this morning... that is God's promise to you...
- Sin will not master you... Why?
- Because God is sovereign... He is ultimately in control...

▪ **Furthermore: He explains why it will not master you...**

- Because you are not under its control... you are not under the law...
- Being under the law means that you must do the deeds of the law...
 - ◆ To be made right with God...

- **Rather: You are under grace**

- ◆ Meaning that you depend on how Jesus obeyed the law perfectly
- ◆ You depend on the perfect law obedient Son, Jesus Christ
- ◆ And you are protected from the mastery of sin...

▪ **Meaning: 1) Sin can not master you in death... you have victory**

- 2) Sin can not hold guilt over your head... Jesus took the guilt
- 3) You are now being Sanctified by the power of God
 - ◆ because you have been obedient to the gospel... you believed... you had faith

- **17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed**

❖ **III) Our Greatest Weapon: Treasuring God**

➤ **Let me step aside for just a minute... yet, not exactly aside...**

- This parallels what we see here in the text...

➤ **In verse 12 Paul writes do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,**

- We said that lusts are cravings that displace proper affections for God

➤ **Our Greatest Active Weapon in our fight against sin**

- Is that we treasure God...
- That we are able to say with the Psalmist:
 - **Psalm 16:11 in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

➤ **We Must Set God and His Ways before us as more preferable...**

- Like the man in **Matt 13:44** "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
- God is worthy of our desires and affections:
 - **Romans 11:33,36³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!...³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.**

➤ **How do we do this?**

- Same way you would find the worthiness of anyone or anything
- By spending time with that person or thing... Learning of it and experiencing it
- **We must spend quality time with God...**
 - Not distracted time... We must get to know Him through His word
 - We must experience praise and adoration of God by singing to him with our voices and hearts
 - We must serve Him and see Him work in others
 - We must watch as He uses us to change peoples lives and give them eternal life

❖ IV) The Prize: Eternal Life is the Free Gift of God Through Faith in Jesus

- **Romans 6:20-23** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. 22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Paul Ends the Chapter With A Very Common Sense Argument..**
 - Essentially He is saying... why would you want to go back?
 - Why would you want to be who you used to be?
- **Your Former Ways were leading to death...**
 - You were slaves of sin... and He said previously, this just led you into more sin
 - He also says... As He is addressing believers here...
 - Those things are things you are ashamed of now... they were of no benefit
- **Not only are you ashamed of your former ways...**
 - But those things lead to death...
 - See 21b **“for the outcome of those things** (things of which you are now ashamed) **is death”**
- **Now that you been freed from sin and enslaved to God...**
 - How did that happen?
 - By union with Christ... And that happened by Faith...
 - Faith is the only thing we “do” to attain union with Christ...
 - Our Faith turns from sin and believes in Jesus
- **Now that you been freed from sin and enslaved to God...**
 - Now there is great benefit...
 - By being freed from sin... we now have the result of Sanctification...
 - Don’t run from this word... It is the process we are in now of growing in Holiness
 - The Outcome of growing in Holiness...
 - Is Eternal Life...
- **He then ends so powerfully and succinctly... and it really sums up the entire chapter...**
 - Why shouldn’t we sin so grace would abound... why don’t we think this way?
 - **Because the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

❖ Invitation: Remember the Danger:

- **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?
- **If you indeed present yourself to sin as a slave to be obedient to it...**
 - The result is death...
 - Paul is not speaking of just a physical death...
 - He is warning his hearers lest they too comfortably think they can continue on in sin...
 - He reminds them, that leads to death...