

Read Romans 6:1-14

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We 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. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We 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. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³Do 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. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Background

When we turn from sin and trust in Jesus as the only hope for salvation, we are “justified” (made righteous) in an instant. We no longer need to worry about the penalty of sin over our lives. We have been redeemed and forgiven by grace through faith in Christ alone. This is the beautiful message of God’s saving grace Pastor David explained from Romans chapter 3 last week. But as Paul writes to the church at Rome, he anticipates the next logical question: If God’s grace is freely given and Jesus took my punishment, can I live however I feel like living? His emphatic response and explanation in Romans 6 serve to remind us that God’s grace does not just save us, but God’s grace frees us from the power of sin so we can be who God created us to be.

Service Notes

What is your biggest takeaway from today’s message?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The "Getting Started" section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the "Talk it Over" section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the "Live it Out" section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What is one thing that stood out the most to you in this week's message? What has God been teaching you lately? How can we pray for you this week?

Talk it Over

- ▼ **Read Romans 6:1-11.** What do you remember most about your baptism experience? What part of this passage speaks to you the most? Why do you believe baptism is such a vivid picture of God's grace at work in our lives? What does it mean for my "old" life to "die" with Christ? How should this shape the way we see ourselves? What does it mean to be "alive to God in Christ?" How does that practically apply to your life today?
- ▼ **Read Romans 6:12-18.** In what ways does Paul give practical instructions for the believers at Rome to live as though they are "alive to God?" What does it mean for us to be "under grace" and not "under law?" Why is this important for living out my new life in Christ? What are some of the ways we can misunderstand or misuse God's grace in how we live? What role does obedience to God play in this whole process?
- ▼ **Read Galatians 2:15-21.** What can we learn from this passage? In what ways does this passage help us understand Romans 6?
- ▼ If you were to confront a Christian friend living in obvious sinful ways and they say, "It's okay, God forgives me. It's all about God's grace not God's law, I'm good!" how should we lovingly respond? How does Paul's instruction in Romans 6 help us?

Live it Out

- ▼ In what area of your "old" life are you still struggling to put under God's grace? What steps can you take this week to "consider" that area "dead," and walk in the freedom of God's grace?