

Dead to Sin, Alive to God Romans 6:1-11

God's grace is without limit: where sin abounds, grace super-abounds! But if that's true, then why not let sin reign in our lives so that we can get more of God's grace? After all, sin's easy and pleasurable, at least for a while. So why not let sin reign? Because of Jesus... because the infinite, perfect, innocent Son of God died and rose again for this explicit purpose: to emancipate us once-and-for-all from slavery to sin. Because we've been united to His death and resurrection, we need never serve sin again. Let us know it, believe it, and live it!

Review

God is RIGHTEOUS...

- in JUDGMENT (1:18-3:20)
 - *proving that mankind is not righteous*
- in JUSTIFICATION (3:21-5:21)
 - *declaring believers righteous through Christ*
- in SANCTIFICATION (6:1-8:39)
 - *making believers righteous through the Spirit*

Question (6:1)

- "sin" (singular) not "sins"
- "sin" is an evil master or realm in which people live

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body.... Romans 6:12

- source of question = 5:20

"Why not remain under sin's mastery so that we can receive even more of God's grace?"

"If God's grace is given that freely, people will abuse it. It sounds too good to be true. It sounds like you are promoting sin."

And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), "Let us do evil that good may come"? —Romans 3:8

"I like committing crimes. God likes forgiving them. Really the world is admirably arranged." —W.H. Auden

Answer (6:2)

- May it NEVER be!
- What Paul does not say
 - Abuse grace, lose grace
 - Abuse grace, you never had grace

- We have died to sin
 - Not, “Sin is dead to the Christian”
 - Sin’s domination is unnecessary (6:1-14) and destructive (6:15-23)

Explanation (6:3-10)

- The symbol of baptism

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel.... 1 Corinthians 1:17

Acts 8:35–38

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Acts 10:43–44, 47

“Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message... “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?”

- The significance of baptism
 - “union with,” “identification with”

Two Realms:

<u>Adam</u>	<u>Jesus</u>
Sin	Grace
Death	Life
Slavery	Freedom
Law	Spirit

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.... —Colossians 1:13

- Union with Christ’s death

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. —Galatians 2:20

- Union with Christ’s resurrection life

Application (6:3, 6, 9, 11-14)

- KNOW
- CONSIDER
- REJECT
- PRESENT