

Parson to Person

ROMANS 6 PART 1

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (Romans 6:1–14 NKJV).

The Laws of Federal Headship, Natural Headship, The Depravity of Man, and Eternal Judgment, demand that all people recognize their sinfulness. As sinners we are in need of redemption, and have no hope of eternal life apart from the world’s only Redeemer and Savior: Jesus Christ.

When Paul explained the good news of redemption to the Romans, he perceived a reactionary question related to his clear and defined message of grace. His properly pre-assumed question forthcoming from the message of grace was, *“Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”* (vs. 1). The answer was a definitive no! He said, *“do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts”* (vs. 12).

For many Christians the question seems irreverent. For others, it is simply foolish. However, before we jump to conclusions and assume the question to be unwarranted, may we all remember that the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to think through and write out the concern. It is indeed valid! Moreover, as I have said many times in the past, “If grace is correctly taught, the natural conclusion is that men may suggest that we might just as well sin that grace might abound.” But no. I have also said many times, “I am motivated to live righteously when considering that my sins have added to the afflictions of Christ...”

We are a people forgiven by grace and, as such, must always look to honor the Lord—never abusing the grace extended toward us. We are called to represent the Lord through the freedom we have been provided.

In the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit, we have been provided power over sin. Therefore, we are called to walk in that power—faithfully representing the Lord. Moreover, as believers identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, we are to “reckon” ourselves dead to sin and alive to God. This suggests two things: a recognition that sin has no power over us, and a mandate that the redeemed give no authority to sin as a result. Why would/should a regenerated man give authority to a power once in control? Why would a believer submit to the power of sin if or when submission defames the Lord and/or ensnares the redeemed?

Here are a few summary points for contemplation:

- 1) The message of grace is not a “license to sin.”
- 2) The spiritual experience of baptism into Christ should be contrasted with the recognized symbolic activity of water baptism.
- 3) Having been crucified with Christ (Romans 6:3–11, Galatians 2:20), neither sin nor death retains dominion or power to reign over us. We are secure in Jesus!
- 4) Although we await the final redemption of our bodies, and although the propensities of our flesh battle against our spiritual condition, we must never fail to see who we are in Christ and what is still ahead for every believer.

I love you all,
Pastor Paul