

## Romans 6:1-14 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

<sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Here is a big issue. Do we just keep sinning so that people will see how good God is? Or how amazing is God's grace, or how much God can forgive.

A couple of things here.

1. Sure we want to see people understand God's grace

BUT

Does that mean we can use any tactic to tell people about God even if it involves sin?

Eg. To get a point across not tell the full story.

To raise money for a good cause do it unethically.

Does the end justify the means?

NO

Sin is what we no longer want anything to do with. How can we think about doing wrong and justifying it?

Notice it says we have died to sin. That doesn't mean we won't sin any more but that we don't like sinning any more.

That is hugely important. Before we became Jesus people, sin was just what happened now, if we sin we feel bad about it. We don't want it to be part of our life.

The extension to this is in the following verses.

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

<sup>4</sup> We 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.

Hang on hang on, not all of us have been baptised into Jesus Christ.

And I suppose that it depends on your idea of baptism, your concept of the terminology used here. How are we to interpret it? (Come tonight for a bit more about baptism and how it fits into Baptist thought process.)

Another couple of things here:

1. The imagery here is that baptism symbolises death and new life in Christ.

2. It is an outward symbol of an inward situation. That is why we do it. It is symbolic of someone's continued spiritual relationship with God.

3. Baptism means to be fully immersed.

Question: Is this passage talking about being immersed or baptised as a ritual  
Or  
Immersed in who God is?

Well this passage is probably talking about being baptised as a ritual. Remember adult immersion baptism was the only form of baptism at this stage that we are biblically aware of.

The debate of paedobaptism verses adult baptism was not an issue.

In many passages I think we need to work out if the word translated baptised is talking about being physically or spiritually immersed.

Repent and be baptised in mentioned through Acts.

IS it saying to get fully wet

or

Is it saying to immersed spiritually in God?

Or is as we as Baptists believe is one an indication of the other. The physical immersion is a symbol of active obedience to what is spiritually happening in a person's life?

I know there are people who have differing view points. I find it funny that the questions have been asked over the last few weeks and God provides us this passage to bring it up. (If you have more questions come tonight I will answer a few more or raise a few more and then you can catch up with me during the week to discuss it further if you wish)

And notice what it says we too might walk in newness of life.

We have a new attitude here, this newness is a different way of looking at sin.

We no longer revel in sin, but try to avoid it. Why?

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

<sup>6</sup> We 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.

<sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Get all that. United with Jesus. Remember God doesn't like sin, Jesus is God, so Jesus doesn't like sin, we now being united to Jesus we try to avoid sin.

IN fact it says we have been set free from sin. Not just the consequences of sin but in many ways also the desire to keep sinning. We want to stay away from it.

<sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

This is huge, we believe that what Jesus has done has truly affected our lifestyle as well as our spiritual state. The concept of living with Christ is a whole existence experience. Being a Christian is not only a spiritual thought process but a way of physical living. Your Christianity or your relationship to Jesus affects every aspect of your life. Or it should.

I have a friend who became interested in looking after the planet by reading scripture. Yep

How we look after ourselves physically should be a stewardship of our physicality.

Our education is similar, a stewardship of our intellect.

Even what we eat should be moulded by our concept of faith.

I was once asked a question by a young person: Would Jesus eat MacDonalds? My answer was I don't know but he probably would have said a parable about it.

<sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

This is a huge statement. Jesus will not die again, it's done. Notice it says death has no dominion over him.

The consequences of that statement are huge. Not only does death have no power but that also means satan has no power over of Him. Jesus can not be thwarted by satan. God's will can not be stopped.

<sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Here is an amazing statement but also one for us to take on board. If we have been raised with Christ we too live the life he lives to God.

Do we get that? Do we get the privilege of living our life to God. We would probably say it: Live our life for God. Let's put a bit of this together.

Jesus has fixed our sin issue once and for all.

We have a newness in life.

We have an attitude of staying away from sin.

We have died to sin – it has no dominion over us.

We get to live for Jesus.

Now Paul gives us some practical advice.

<sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Consider yourself dead to sin. IN other words live like sin has no part of your life!!!

This has a number of consequences.

- a. WE live with no sin shame
- b. WE live with a freedom of lifestyle
- c. We live with God's purpose and to His agenda.
- d. We live under Jesus protection / blessing

Paul goes on and gives us this instruction.

<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

Don't let sin have any part of your life. Don't let sin get in. IN other words stay away from it.

Remember I talked about holiness a few months back.

To be holy means to be set apart.

Holiness is not be perfect but set apart.

This verse gives us the idea of holiness. Stay away from sin. Be set apart from sin. You get the idea.

Paul carries the idea further forward.

<sup>13</sup> Do 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.

He says don't put yourself in a position that sin can get in. Stay away from it. I told you a couple of months ago of a guy that had a problem with porn magazines. And got distracted by them whenever he went into the newsagent. My advice to him: Go the other side of the aisle. Don't walk past them. It worked.

Another story of a young couple tempted sexually whenever they were alone in the car together. I told them to park in front of her place so her father could come out and check on them. It worked.

Don't put yourself in positions to be sinful.

<sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>This</sup> verse has been taken out of context so much. Let's remember the context. It is about staying away from sin. It is about being free to be in relationship with Jesus. It is not about changing standards of behaviour to fit our lifestyle.

What are we under grace to do? Serve God.