

Shall We Continue in Sin?

Romans 5:20-21 ²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: ²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:1-7 ¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Thank God for amazing grace, His unmerited favor! We did NOTHING to deserve salvation! **Grace is “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense”**

Isaiah 43:25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions **for mine own sake**, and will not remember thy sins.

Micah 7:18-19 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because **he delighteth in mercy**. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and **thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea**.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you:** but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, **Not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being **justified** by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. **When the enemy shall come in like a flood**, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

When SIN reaches the high water mark, GRACE overflows its banks!

The question asked in many “Christian” circles in our day was obviously asked in Paul’s day: “If God’s grace abounds to forgive every sin, then why can’t we simply continue in our old lifestyle?” Paul’s question in 6:1 is probably prompted by such a statement still resounding in his memory! He is offended on behalf of his gracious God, and uses the strongest Greek idiom for repudiating a statement. It contains a sense of outrage that anyone would ever think the statement was true!

Within a single breath of having uttered the immortal truth that where there was an abundance of guilt there was a superabundance of grace in store for it ... when met by the question “Shall we do more sin that we may draw more grace?” ... Paul begins his most forceful condemnation of the continuance of sin in the life of the Christian.

As lavish as the gospel is of its forgiveness for the PAST, it has no toleration for the practice of sin in the FUTURE! No sin is beyond the reach of the atonement, but the same gospel which sheds oblivion over all the sinfulness of the past enters upon a war of extermination against future sinfulness.

The free acquittal of a penitent believer is not the END of the gospel, only the MEANS of the gospel – repentance is where it STARTS, not where it ENDS! We need to get past that “baby stage” ...

Hebrews 6:1-9 ¹ Therefore **leaving the principles** of the doctrine of Christ, let us **go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation** of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ² Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this will we do, if God permit. ⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. ⁷ For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: ⁸ But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. ⁹ But, beloved, **we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation**, though we thus speak.

If you’re repenting, you can’t be witnessing, worshipping, working or warring – you’re occupied with another activity. Yet, the cycle of repentance is where many Christians live their lives!

The early Christians looked back to their baptism whenever any question arose as to what their conversion really meant – DEATH! **Baptism is the “last rites” for the “old” (“worn out”) man!**

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

This is why Paul turns so sharply on the immoral suggestion of continuing in sin! He knows that anyone who is REALLY SAVED would not even entertain such corruption! Paul knew that his doctrine of “salvation by grace” did not contain such nonsense, but he also knew that a corrupt human heart and a perverted understanding could read into it. When you find “unconverted Christians” today, the fault and the failure is not in the beautiful doctrines of the Bible, but in those who profess such doctrines while only half-perceiving them.

Grace is not only a gracious pardon for sin, but an active principle that empowers a godly life!

Grace is the enemy of sin, not its covering! He who is saved by grace is not a leper clad in white garments, but a leper healed! Grace is not beauty thrown over the deformity of some foul sickness, it is health! **No man can continue in sin and yet be saved by grace!** There can be no shelter in Christ’s blood from the CONSEQUENCES of your sins while you REMAIN in your sins!

REAL CHRISTIANS ARE “**DEAD TO SIN**” AND “**ALIVE UNTO CHRIST.**”

Many only THINK they are dead to sin, but the reality of their life indicates otherwise. Multiplied thousands are deceived, entering God’s presence supposedly to worship, while lifting up hands STAINED BY SIN!

1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up **holy hands**, without wrath and doubting.

It is absurd to suppose that a medicine (grace) should aggravate the very disease (sin) it cures! Yet, this is how many see living for God ... “It doesn’t matter how I live, God will forgive me.” We have made the phrase “living in sin” a cliché for sexual sin, but the ravages of sin are far more extensive than this.

A person is “living in sin” if he ...

- sins without remorse
- finds pleasure in committing sin
- craves things that God’s Word has forbidden
- does what he knows to be wrong, but excuses it by blaming his circumstances
- neglects to do what God continually calls him to do

SUCH A PERSON HAS NEVER DIED TO SIN! They are still “alive to sin” and “dead to Christ” instead of the opposite. You cannot be alive – or dead – to BOTH at the same time! If sin is delighted in, God is dreaded. If God is delighted in, sin is dreaded.

Suppose a wife should say to her husband, “I love you some, but you know I love many other men too.” How horrible! And yet this is not nearly as bad as the Christian who says, “I expect to sin some every day.” You expect to be a traitor to Jesus, to crucify Him afresh every day?!

GOD CANNOT LIVE IN YOU UNLESS SIN DIES IN YOU!

You might sin, but you can’t live in sin.

Dying to sin is not merely ...

- fear of the consequences of sin (fear may hold you back temporarily, but doesn’t slay desire)
- respect for the opinions of others (when circumstances change, your virtue will change)
- self-respect (the proud independence of man quickly becomes independence of God)
- religious zeal (this may temporarily arrest sin, but it is compatible with a hidden life of sin)
- resistance to temptation (we must become desensitized to sin by dying to it!)

Rather, we are dead to sin when ...

- we have ceased to be under its influence
- we have renounced its practices
- we have become indifferent to its pleasures
- we remain unresponsive to its appeals
- we stand unmoved in the presence of opportunity to sin

HOW CAN I LIVE THIS WAY? We don’t need to struggle to force ourselves to do what we are too weak to do, but rather yield ourselves to God’s power which enables us to accomplish what is otherwise impossible. The question is: **ARE YOU CONNECTED TO CHRIST?**

We must die daily to sin! **Shall we continue in sin? GOD FORBID!**

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

A dead man cannot be hurt, offended, angered, embittered, enticed, tempted or led astray – **HE IS DEAD!** *Is your experience like this?*