

# THE GRACE OF GOD | “Sanctifying Grace”

Romans 6:1–5

Ken Lewis, Senior Pastor

Lord’s Day, September 3, 2017

**Big idea: Understand how our union with Christ leads us to walk in newness of life.**

➤ **Overview:**

- **Romans 1:1-3:20 - The Righteousness of God – Condemnation**  
All are under the wrath of God because none are righteous.
- **Romans 3:21-5:21 - The Grace of God – Justification**  
God has placed his wrath on Jesus so that sinners may be saved through justification by faith alone in Christ alone.
- **Romans 6:1-8:39 - The Grace of God – Sanctification**  
Because God has united us with Christ we have been freed from the penalty and dominion of sin and resurrected to walk in newness of life.

➤ **Justification and Sanctification defined:**

- Justification is a declarative act of God, where He pronounces a guilty sinner as righteous.
- Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives. –Wayne Grudem

<b>Justification</b>	<b>Sanctification</b>
- Judicial: Declared righteous	- Moral: Made righteous
- Done in us	- Done in us
- Past and complete	- Present and progressive
- Righteousness imparted	- Righteousness practiced
- You are justified	- Act like it
- Union with Christ in his past death/resurrection	- Communion with Christ in the present

**1. Those united to Christ have died to sin and can no longer live in sin (6:1-2).**

**A. Question (v. 1)**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

- **Why does the question arise in (v. 1)?**

**Romans 5:20–21**

20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **God’s ultimate purpose in grace is to triumph over the reign of sin and death (Rom. 5:21).**

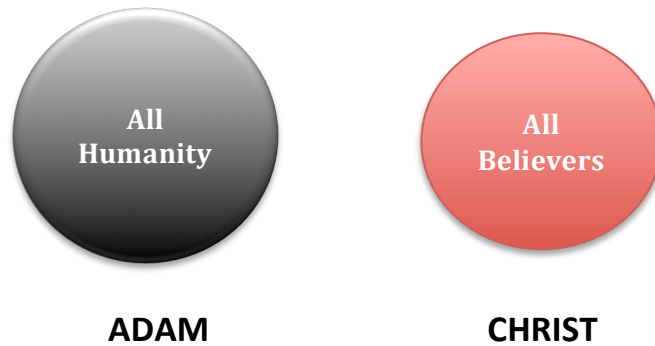
They were implying that Paul’s gospel of free grace actually encouraged lawlessness and up a premium on sin, because it promised sinners the best of both worlds: they could indulge themselves freely in this world, without any fear of forfeiting the next.

–John Stott – *Romans*, p. 167

**B. Answer (v. 2)**

By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- **We have died to sin because we are united to Christ.**
- **Our union with Christ:**
  - Representative Union (Rom. 5:12-21)
  - Spiritual Union (Rom. 6:2-10)



- **Every human being (except Christ) was born into the circle of Adam.**  
All human beings (except Christ) sinned in Adam as their representative. Because of Adam's representative capacity, his sin was as truly our sin as if it had been committed by each one of us.  
Adam was our legal representative in the garden, and when he sinned, his action was as binding on us as if we had sinned personally.
- **Jesus is our federal representative in His sinless life and atoning death.**

**Romans 5:18–19**

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Jesus, as our representative, assumed all the obligation in which Adam failed, and fulfilled them on our behalf. So, just as Adam's sin was as truly our sin as if we had committed it, so Christ's perfect obedience to God's law and His death to pay the penalty of a broken law are just as much our obedience and death as if we had perfectly obeyed God's law and died on the cross.

**Jerry Bridges – *The Discipline of Grace*, p. 68**

- **When did this "death to sin" take place?**  
We died to sin when we were transferred from the realm of Adam (sin & death) to the realm of Christ (life & grace).
  - **What does it mean to die to sin?**
    - (1) **We died to its legal reign.**
- Romans 6:10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.
- (2) **We died to its power over us.**

> Grace cannot possibly lead believers to sin more because, by dying with Christ, the penalty and power of sin has been definitively broken.

▪ **If we died to sin's power, why do we still struggle with sin in our daily lives?**

**1 John 3:9–10**

9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

**2. Those united to Christ have been buried with Him by baptism into his death and raised to walk in newness of life (6:3-4a).**

**A. We have been baptized into Christ (6:3-4a)**

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4a We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,

▪ **What does baptism signify?**

It signifies a believer's union with Christ, by grace through faith, and all the benefits that result from that union.

▪ **Baptism does not save you.**

▪ **Who can be baptized?**

▪ **Baptism itself is a summary of our faith.**

- It is a confession of sin and a picture of repentance.
- It is a profession of faith in Christ.
- It reminds us of Christ's humiliation and death as he identified with sinners and his resurrection from the dead.
- It portrays the radical nature of conversion (v. 4).
- It represents a preview of the bodily resurrection (v. 6:5b).

**B. We have been united in the death and resurrection of Christ (v. 4)**

we too might walk in newness of life. 5 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.

▪ **God's action: We are buried with Christ and we are raised with Christ (v. 4ab)**

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,

▪ **God's intention: We should walk in newness of life (v. 4c)**

we too might walk in newness of life.