

Sermon Notes For The Book of Romans 6:1-14

Opening Question: Romans 5:20 says, “But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.”

Romans 6 begins with the natural question that follows: “Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?” Paul’s answer is clear: “By no means!” Paul does not respond by softening grace, replacing the gospel with fear, or calling people into a rules-based Christianity. Instead, he explains what is now true of every Christian because of Jesus Christ.

Key Scripture: Romans 6:1-2 “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”

1. You become a new person.

When someone comes to Jesus Christ, the old is dead and the new is risen in Christ. The Christian is not simply forgiven and left unchanged. In Christ, sin’s power has been broken, and we are set free to serve Jesus. This does not mean sin will never try to creep back in. Sin is not passive. Old patterns, old desires, and old ways may try to rise again in our lives. But the Christian no longer looks at sin as something to miss. We begin to recognize sin as something that was killing us.

Key Scriptures:

- Romans 6:6-7 says our old self was crucified with Christ so that we should no longer be slaves to sin.
- Romans 6:11 says to count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

2. Baptism unites us to Christ’s death and is a picture of new life to the world.

Paul connects the Christian’s new life to baptism. In baptism, the believer publicly confesses faith in Jesus and is immersed in the water. Going under the water pictures being buried with Christ. Coming out of the water pictures being raised to new life in Christ. Baptism does not save us. Jesus saves. But baptism is not just a checkbox on a spiritual form. It is an act of obedience to Christ, and God meets his children when they take acts of faith.

Key Scripture:

- Romans 6:3-4 “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
- Believer’s baptism is for someone who can confess Christ, understand the gospel, and publicly affirm faith in Jesus. It is a step of obedience for those who have been saved.
- If you have not been baptized as a believer, the question to consider is: What is keeping you from being baptized? Baptism opportunity: Tent Worship Service, August 23.

3. Offer no part of yourself to sin.

Paul moves from what is true of us in Christ to how we now live. Because we are dead to sin and alive to God, we no longer offer pieces of ourselves back to the old sinful ways of living. Sin can infect and infiltrate different areas of life. Some offer the tongue to gossip, sarcasm, criticism, or half-truths. Some offer the mind to bitterness, lust, fear, envy, or resentment. Some offer the eyes to things that reshape desire. Some offer the hands to what they do, take, type, or hide. Some offer the feet by walking back into places and patterns where they know they are weak. The Christian response is not, "Grace will meet me here, so this does not matter." The Christian response is, "That belongs to the old me. I am no longer a slave to this."

Key Scripture: Romans 6:12-13

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God."

4. Sin is no longer your master.

The answer to sin is not lawlessness, and it is not legalism. More rules alone cannot set us free. Boundaries are helpful, and wisdom can keep us far from sin, but the grace of the Lord is what sets us free from the old desires and old patterns. Fences can help keep us in the yard. Jesus can transform us so we do not want to run away anymore.

Key Scripture: Romans 6:14

"For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."

Closing Truth

The Christian has one funeral, and it is not at the end of their life. It is when we accept Jesus and the old flesh goes in the grave. When this world gathers for our funeral one day, for us, that will not be the end. That will be a heavenly homecoming. So, Church, do not live like sin is still your master. You are not who you were. You have died with Christ, you have been raised with Christ, and by the grace of God, you are free to offer every part of yourself to him.