

Romans 6

1. Once again Paul anticipates a dangerous line of thought. If God is so loving and His grace abounds, then why should we stop sinning? In other words, if God loves to forgive us, then why should we stop sinning? How would you respond to such arguments?

How does Paul respond?

Have you ever encountered this type of reasoning? If so, how did you respond?

What is the danger of this type of thinking?

2. In verses 3 & 4 what does Paul say happens to us during baptism?

What does it mean to you to be baptized "into Christ"?

During Paul's ministry, the church used immersion as the usual form of baptism. How does this symbolize being buried?

What does the coming out of the water symbolize?

According to Paul, what is the result?

If someone asked you, "Why should I be baptized?" what would you answer?

What did your baptism mean to you?

3. What does it mean to you to be "planted" or "united" with Christ in death?
To what death is Paul referring?

Have you experienced this "death" in your life? If so, what were some of the changes?

Paul presents verse 5 as an if-then statement. If we are united with Christ in death, then what else must be true?

In what way or ways have you experienced a "resurrection" in Christ Jesus?

4. What does verse 6 say has happened to our old man?

How would you explain what Paul means when he talks about the "old man" or the "old self"?

What does it mean to you that this old self or nature was crucified?

What does it mean to you that someone is a slave to sin?

Why did our old nature have to be crucified?

5. According to verse 7, what happened when we died with Christ?

If our old self is dead and we have died to sin, then does this mean we will never sin? Please explain.

Keeping in mind that Paul says we have died with Christ, why then are we instructed to pick up our cross daily (see Luke 9:23)?

Some people, when they encounter sin in the church, are turned off and say Christians are nothing but hypocrites. How would you respond to them using these opening verses in chapter 6?

6. We live in a world that calls sin a "choice" and that believes morals are relative. How do you think these people would respond to Paul's assertion that we are slaves to sin and not truly free?

How can we as the church bring this truth to the world?

Also, we cannot end with the explanation only. We must also include verse 7, which says that we must first die to self before we can ever be free. How do you believe this truth will be received?

What made you believe it to be true?

7. In verse 8, Paul tells us that this death to sin is not the end, but the beginning. In what way is it a new beginning?

What does it mean to you to live with Christ?

Paul gives greater meaning to this truth by pointing out that since Christ died once, He will not die again. What does this mean for those who die to sin and live with Christ?

To help us gain a different perspective on these verses, let us look at the drug campaign started several years ago in schools. Its motto was "Say No! to drugs." After looking closely at the results, some experts voiced concern about its effectiveness. They said the program taught children to say no to drugs, but it did not teach them to say yes to anything else. In other words, it was not enough that they "die" to drugs; they had to "live" to something else. How do these verses address this issue?

Now, how would you respond to someone who feels church is too restrictive to have any fun?

8. In verses 11 & 12, Paul once again makes it clear that all people fall into one of two categories. What are the two categories mentioned in these verses?

What does it mean to you to be dead to sin but alive to Christ?

Would you share an example of this truth operating in your life?

For example, suppose someone in the church offends you...truly offends you. Keeping in mind that you are dead to sin but alive to Christ, how should you respond?

In the NIV version, verse 12 begins with "therefore", signaling Paul is going to conclude an argument. What is Paul's conclusion?

9. Verse 13 is a very interesting verse considering the world in which we live. It begins by saying we are not to yield or offer parts of our body. What does it mean to you to yield?

What evidence do you see around you that people are yielding or offering their bodies as instruments to unrighteousness?

Paul says that we should, instead, offer ourselves to whom? For what purpose?

What does it mean to you to offer your members as instruments of righteousness?

Read Romans 12:1. How does this verse parallel what Paul is writing in this chapter?

What does it mean to you to offer yourself as a living sacrifice?

How can one do this and how often should we do this? (Remember, we are living sacrifices.)

10. According to verse 14, why is sin no longer our master?

Again, Paul reminds Jew and Gentile believers alike that they are not under the law but under grace. What does this mean to you?

11. With verse 15, Paul returns to his previous argument that grace is not an excuse to keep on sinning. Paul does not want anyone to mistake God's grace as an excuse to sin. Grace should never negate one's fear of the Lord. Therefore, Paul again emphatically tells the Romans and us that we are not to continue sinning. Why do you think Paul returns to this issue?

Since Paul is revisiting this issue, then let us. In what areas have Christians used grace as an excuse to continue sinning? For example, consider gossip, unforgiveness, coarse joking, favoritism, etc.

12. Paul argues his point using the institution of slavery, something Paul's readers would immediately understand. What does it mean to you to be a slave?

Paul says that every person is either a slave to sin or a slave to obedience. What makes one a slave to sin?

What makes one a slave to obedience?

What is the difference between being a slave to sin and a slave to obedience to Christ?

13. In verse 17 & 18 Paul reminds us that we owe our freedom from sin to Whom?

What did God do for all of us through His Son Jesus Christ?

In these verses what act on our part sets us free from sin and makes us slaves to righteousness?

14. Why did Paul say he used the previous argument between slaves and masters to explain our relationship with Christ?

Christ often taught using parables and stories to explain the mysteries of God. How have His parables helped you understand these mysteries?

Do you have a "favorite" parable? If so, would you share it and explain why it means so much to you?

Have you ever been asked a difficult question about the Bible only to find yourself at a loss as to how to explain it? Has the Holy Spirit ever given you a "human" explanation that helped the other person understand?

Paul uses the analogy of slavery because he knows his listeners know what that entails. Therefore, Paul again reminds us that we all know what it was like to offer the parts of our body to sin. Therefore, we should know what it means to offer ourselves to Christ. Do you agree with this analogy? Please explain.

15. In verse 20 Paul asks us what we gained by serving sin. How would you answer this question?

According to Paul, what do we gain from being slaves to sin?

What do you think Paul means when he says that the result is death?

But now that we are slaves to God, what will we reap?

16. This chapter ends with one of the most often quoted verses. How does this last verse summarize Paul's argument in this chapter?

Why does sin result in death?

Because this is a truth that cannot be ignored, then the wages of our sin had to result in death. Who paid this price for you?

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