

# Why Christians Should Keep the Law (Part 20)—Shall We Sin Under Grace? – Part 1

February 7, 2024

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/ght7rz2/pt-20-shall-we-sin-under-grace-pt-1>

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We will continue to look at the nature that exists between the Law and grace. Of course, we will do this explicitly from the Bible which give us a scriptural testimony. We will allow Scripture to develop our understanding.

In Romans 6:1, Paul said—<sup>1</sup> **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?** (Emphasis added).

Notice, the terminology **“shall we continue in sin.”** What do we know about sin? How would we define sin? Sin is lawlessness. Paul was saying, “Would you continue to turn your back on the Law? Would you continue to break the commandments of God that grace may abound?”

Romans 6:2—Paul answered—<sup>2</sup> **Certainly not! . . .** (emphasis added).

That was Paul’s anchor statement, lest you think he was condoning lawlessness. He didn’t condone the idea that Christians should walk away from the Law. Paul doesn’t allow you to think such a thing. He threw a huge anchor overboard with this statement:

Romans 6:2—<sup>2</sup> **Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?** (Emphasis added).

We are to die to sin. We are to turn our back on lawlessness. We are to turn to the light and the truth. We are to walk in His righteousness, in His commandments. It is our calling as believers.

Jumping to Romans 6:14—<sup>14</sup> **For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace** (emphasis added).

Sin is not to have dominion over us. In Romans 8:1, Paul said—<sup>1</sup> **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit** (emphasis added). That’s the power of Jesus. There’s no confusion on the work of Christ. The work of Jesus was to destroy sin and death which had power over us. We were condemned to death, but Jesus set us free from that.

Romans 6:15—Paul asked—<sup>15</sup> **What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?**—Here comes the anchor statement—**Certainly not!** (Emphasis added).

The believer is not called to turn their back on the Law. When a Christian receives Jesus into their heart and receives the grace of God, they should do the exact opposite; they should turn to the Law.

There is a book called the book of Sirach. It is tucked away in the Apocrypha and the Septuagint. If you are familiar with the early church, the Bible the early church had was the Septuagint. The book of Sirach is included in the Septuagint. For generations, Christians were reading the book of Sirach.

Proof of this is that two of the most important documents in Christian history known as Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus (I think we could add Codex Alexandrinus to that) contain the book of Sirach. These documents were understood to be the Christian Bible. And Sinaiticus is this rare moment where you have all these books in the New Testament included. So, we have a good idea what Christians were reading in the 4th century. We know they were reading this even back in the 1st century. I kind of went down a rabbit trail here on the book of Sirach, but I want to share some sentiment from this book that reads like Proverbs. It's a book of wisdom and very poetic. I want to share something it says that is of great value to this discussion.

Sirach 5:5—<sup>5</sup> **Do not be so confident of forgiveness that you add sin to sin**—that you add lawlessness to lawlessness (emphasis added).

What an incredible reminder! This coincides with what Paul taught in Romans 6. It's interesting that you find Paul using this very statement in the sense of adding lawlessness to lawlessness. As you look at the broader context of chapter 6, you see what he was talking about. We are not called to lawlessness because of grace; we are called to reject that.

Sirach 5:6—<sup>6</sup> **Do not say, "His mercy is great. He will forgive the multitude of my sins." For both mercy and wrath are with Him, and His anger will rest on the sinners** (emphasis added).

This is the heart of Romans 6. This is the heartbeat of where Paul was taking this discussion. To prove this, I want to jump back into chapter 6, starting at verse 16:

Romans 6:16-19—<sup>16</sup> **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin—lawlessness—leading to death—**When a Christian turns their back on God's holy Law, it is death—**or of obedience leading to righteousness?** <sup>17</sup> **But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.** <sup>18</sup> **And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.** <sup>19</sup> **I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness—**because God is Holy, we are called to be holy (emphasis added).

Don't be confused or shocked when you look at the state of the church today where you see sin running rampant and being glorified as a thing of Jesus because that is to be expected when you have a body of Christians that reject God's Law. That can only go in one direction; lawlessness will lead to more lawlessness. When you reject God's Law, you will see abortion being promoted from the pulpit, same-

sex marriages being ordained and blessed, and people given to the alternative lifestyle preaching from the pulpit. That's exactly what happens to a church that rejects God's Law.

Proverbs 11:19—<sup>19</sup> **As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death** (emphasis added).

This is the governing principle all throughout scripture, whether I'm reading the New Testament or the Old Testament. <sup>7</sup> **For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap** (Galatians 6:7).

I want to close with this thought from Irenaeus of Smyrna—**Those persons prove themselves senseless who exaggerate the mercy of Christ, but are silent as to the judgment and look only at the more abundant grace of the New Testament; but, forgetful of the greater degree of perfection which it demands from us** (emphasis added). These are incredible words of wisdom.

Satan gets into the details and wants to hit us with a pendulum effect. We are supposed to recognize the powerful grace of God and its profound work, but we're not supposed to take it to the degree where we continue to live in sin and say, "Well we are under grace." That's a horrifying mistake to make.

In Matthew 7, we read about Christians that made this mistake. They were crying out, "Lord, Lord let us in." Then Jesus declared to them, **"I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"** (Matthew 7:23).

The Lord bless you and keep you.