

As we have been working through this journey of Holy Transformation, we have realized how abundant and wonderful the grace of God is toward us.

Sin causes all kinds of problems in our lives. That’s why God had to establish laws that would expose sin, but offers us an abundance of grace when we ask for forgiveness of our sins.

We could conclude, “Grace! That’s great news! Now I can continue in sin so that grace will increase! This grace is a good thing!” We would never think that would we? The early church did.

Paul taught in *Romans 5:20-21* that increased sin brings increased **grace**. Some people concluded that if by sinning they were providing God an opportunity to display the greatness of His grace then they should just keep on sinning. But Paul explains...

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

The idea of a Christian continuing in **sin** is entirely contrary to the gospel.

Sin is hateful and destructive, and those who have **died to** the love of **sin** and the ruling power of sin should never want to live in it any longer.¹

Sloppy Grace

Can Grace be abused? Is there such a thing as “Sloppy Grace”?

Can we take something as wonderful as God’s grace, His favor and enabling power and misuse it?

- Christians who profess Jesus as Lord, yet live for themselves.
- Believers who walk according to the flesh, not according to the Spirit.
- Free people who willfully choose to walk again in the bondage of sin.
- The attitude that “I can do anything I want because Jesus will forgive me anyway.”
- Sin now – pray later. Do penitence for your sins ahead of time, so that you can sin freely later.

NEXT LIFE TRANSFORMATION STEP: I will make sure I’m not living in “Sloppy Grace”.

Dying to Live

We could, and we have, taken advantage of the wonderful thing called grace. But we are not called to live that way. We are called to die to sin and to come alive in Christ Jesus.

We are dead to sin, dead to our old sin nature, and we are alive in Christ Jesus!

Romans 6:2b ...We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

The Beauty of Water Baptism

Therefore, water baptism is so important. Today is water baptism which is a symbol of the believer’s union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

1) Baptism allows you to **identify with death**, that is dying to your old sinful nature.

Romans 6:3-4 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? You’ve got to die first in order to be raised to new life.

It is a watery grave. *Romans 6:4 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.*

2) Baptism unites us with the death of Jesus, but also, we are **united with Jesus in His resurrection!**

Romans 6:4b ...just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Ephesians 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Dead People Don’t Sin *Romans 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.*

- **Our old self or old man** is our pre-conversion life, what we were before coming out from under the unrestrained dominion of the flesh (sin nature).
- **The body ruled by sin** refers to the sinful nature within us, not to the human body.

¹ Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D., *Spirit Filled Life Bible NKJ* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991), p. 1696.

- The Greek verb translated **done away with** implies that sin is not totally extinct, but sin is defeated or deprived of power.
- 3) **Coming up out of the baptism waters declares to all that we are raised alive in Christ!**
Romans 6:8-10 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.
 - 4) **Baptism gives us a new view of ourselves.**
Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
Dead to sin: Not controlled by the love of sin or its ruling power in our lives, dead to its enslaving power (but not dead to all of its influence: see w. 12, 13, 15, 16).²
 - 5) **We walk away from baptism with a new resolve to live holy.**
Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.
Therefore: Understanding what has been taught in verses 2—11 is understanding that we are dead to the ruling power of **sin**, and if sin has destructive effects in our lives, then, we should **not let it reign** in our bodies.
 - 6) **Baptism presents you to the world as an instrument of righteousness.**
Romans 6:13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but Rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.
We have a continual choice day after day whether to yield ourselves to sin or to God.
 - 7) **Baptism declares that sin is not my master!**
Romans 6:14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.
 - We can never say in this life that we are free from all sin, but it doesn't have to be our master.
 - We should never say, "This one sin has defeated me—I give up."

The power of Christ's resurrection at work within us (vv. 4, 5, 11) is greater than the power of any **sin**, no matter how long established in our lives.

- To be **under law** is to be under a system of trying to earn salvation in our own strength by obeying the law.
- To be **under grace** is to be justified and to live by the indwelling resurrection power of Christ.

We can die to sin through all the resources that grace provides.

Some erroneously interpret this verse to mean that it does not matter if Christians sin, because they are no longer "under law." This is contrary to Paul's whole discussion of sin.

Slaves to Sin or Righteousness?

Romans 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

Back to the original question asked in verses 1-2. To answer, Paul uses the analogy of slavery to combat a casual attitude toward sin.

Romans 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

- Obey the commands of sin, then **sin** is your master and you are moving in the direction of **death**.
- If you obey the commands of **righteousness**, then righteousness is your master, and you will experience true life.

Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

You have been set free from sin if you are a believer in Christ Jesus and have received His gift of grace, the gift of righteousness.

This is how we continue to live in holiness.

² Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D., Spirit Filled Life Bible NKJ (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991), p. 1696

NEXT LIFE TRANSFORMATION STEP: I will memorize Romans 6:11.

Memory Verse

Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

If you are not a believer in Christ Jesus you are not free from sin, but you can be.

Today we can all walk out of here dead to sin, and alive in Christ. It's your choice.

Life App Group and Family Devotional Application

1. What was God's purpose in giving us the Law? (Romans 5:20-21)
2. Is sin your master or is righteousness your master? How do you determine which is ruling you?
3. What do you do when you feel like a certain sin is controlling you or trying to enslave you?
4. What do you think the Lord is saying in Romans 6:11 when he tells us to count ourselves dead to sin?
5. What does it mean to live "alive to God in Christ Jesus"?