

(1) What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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, 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. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

(7) For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions! Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

(14) For sin will have NO dominion over you, since you are not under Law but under grace!

Think on These Things:

- 1) Do you see the “logic” being applied in verse 1? How would you paraphrase the suggestion being made?

The suggestion is that we SHOULD sin more and more so that in “forgiving us” God’s wonderful grace is magnified to all. His grace is amazing, so let’s ‘showcase’ it for the world. Paul’s response? “Rubbish! Nonsense! You died to sinful behavior...you can’t continue in it!”

- 2) Verse 4 says Christ was raised from the dead to glorify the Father. If sin within us is crucified by Christ’s death when we take a step of faith to believe, how do we glorify the Father? Is this consistent with living the same way as we always did before believing?

“The old has passed away; all things have become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17) So, NO, we are not expected to continue living the same way we always have AFTER we come to Jesus by faith. We are expected to walk in “newness of life” (v. 4); this transformation will glorify the Father!

- 3) Do you find putting sin “to death” in your life easy? What is the trade-off according to vs. 5, 8?

1st question is a personal response. Most people find it hard to make changes in their lives...! The trade-off cited in vs. 5 and 8 is that IF we unite with Christ through his death, then we will begin “living” with Him, both now and into eternity. We make an exchange: life for death.

- 4) Verse 6 says that our “old self” was being crucified with Christ. What are the two purposes for this? What do we learn from Jesus on this subject in Luke 9:23?

Purpose #1 – That my body of sin should be brought to nothing (i.e., sinful instincts broken)!

Purpose #2 – **That we should no longer be enslaved to sin (i.e., sin's control overcome)!**

Luke text? – **Jesus told us that anyone who follows Him must take up his own personal cross DAILY. Saying “no” to sin doesn’t happen just one time, such as when we first receive Jesus by faith. While the Holy Spirit comes into our life at that time, a new “war” for bodily control begins between God’s influence and our own flesh’s influence --- it is a daily battle!**

- 5) Can you sin after you die (v. 7)? **No. Once we die, sinning is no longer possible.**
- 6) Verses 9-11 build on this same idea in Q5. What “visual aid” is given to Christians about yielding to the pull of sin? It has to do with the “old man”, the old you before faith.

The visual aid is that of a corpse. Our responsiveness to sinful temptations and impulses should be as “likely” as that of any dead person --- none! Essentially, Paul’s teaching here is that the “old me” needs to fully die to sin’s magnetism, and that the new me in the Holy Spirit should begin living in a newness of life that glorifies God as its goal and objective (v. 4).

- 7) Write down the opening phrase of v. 12. This is the goal of today’s lesson. The second half of v. 12 and v. 13 speak about a choice we have to make. That is, we are to offer our body in service (see also Romans 12:1). What two categories of living today are presented to offer our bodies in service to (v. 12b-13)? Please notice that this is described as weapons and warfare. Don’t forget that we become participants in an eternal war.

“Let not sin reign in YOUR mortal body!” The choice to be made is: “Will I live for God?” or “Will I live for myself?”. With my choice, my body becomes involved in various actions. With my body I can serve God in righteousness or myself in unrighteousness. The decisions I make each and every day reveal who is winning the war for control of my life!

- 8) Why is sin NOT to be the lord of our lives (v. 14)?

When by faith I come to Jesus for salvation, I start life anew under ‘grace’. This is described as a sort of freedom when contrasted with the Law of God (delivered through Moses). The Law sets forth God’s standards and is holy --- but the Law’s affect upon me is to reveal how sinful I am and fall short of God’s standards. Grace, however, brings mercy and forgiveness; sins are washed away and forgotten.

Once I make the transition by faith to live under the grace of God, I am no longer to allow sin to have dominion over me! God will help me...I need only rely on Him for strength.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: