

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Good News > Temporal Blessings > Dead to Sin, Alive to God
Romans 6:1-14

Paul's ending point in chapter five is that our sins are the source of God's grace. Where our trespasses abounded, God's grace abounds even more. The Mosaic Law was given to expose the sinful nature already present—making the invisible sin visible beyond a reasonable doubt—and to cause it to expand more fully. Just as the nature of sin is to respond to law by multiplying, so the nature of God's grace is to respond to sin multiplying to even larger degree so that our sin is overwhelmed by God's power and grace. How true the words of the hymn, "Grace that is greater than all my sin!"

Chapter six begins with a question that Paul knows is arising in our minds at this point, "If my sin is the fuel for God's grace and the more I sin, the more God's grace (another invisible reality) is seen in its glory, then shouldn't I go on sinning so that grace may increase?" His answer begins a short section of practical application for us that centers around the idea from chapter five that where sin and death once reigned, now grace and life reign in us through Jesus Christ. Since we now have a choice, we are to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God. For the first time in our lives, we can choose to offer our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness.

The Question	The Answer	The Application
<i>6:1</i>	<i>6:2-10</i>	<i>6:11-14</i>
Can the Christian continue in sin?	No, because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We died to sin.• We live to Christ.	Do not continue any longer to obey sin as your master.

1. Question: Since the source of God's grace is my sin, wouldn't it follow that I should sin more so God's grace can be seen and glorified even more? (V. 1)
2. Answer: **NO!!** Just as Adam's sin was imputed to us, so Christ's obedience unto death has been counted to us. We died with Him to sin and will be raised with Him to life in God. To drive the point, Paul reiterates this three times:
 - a. Iteration one (vv. 2-4)
 - b. Iteration two (vv. 5-7)
 - c. Iteration three (vv. 8-10)
3. Preview of coming attractions: Paul gives a glimpse of the application section in chapters 12-16.
 - a. The reckoning: dead to sin, alive to God (v. 11)
 - b. Put off principle: Do not let sin reign in your moral body (vv. 12-13a)
 - c. Put on principle: Offer yourself to God (v. 13b)
 - d. Summary: Sin shall not be your master any longer because grace has usurped it (v. 14)