

I. Introduction

A. "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more"

1. As much sin and darkness we experience in this world it is never so much that it swallows us up. (Kyle)
2. The point: There is nothing that, when humbly surrendered to King Jesus, cannot be covered by grace.

B. The concerning question: what about people who choose to abuse grace and live how they want?

1. Romans 6 speaks to that very concern
2. Our gospel tends to miss something that is foundational to the reality of following Jesus. At least how the traditional American evangelical gospel has been communicated, there is a lack of understanding of our new nature and what God expects with a good motivation to get people saved (Romans 1:1-6):
"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ."
*Not new, just often ignored. So, let's jump in...

II. Death and rebirth

A. Two kingdoms

1. Kingdom language - sin reigned; grace reign (v21)
Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:20-21)
2. Kingdom of sin and death vs. the kingdom of grace and life
 - a. Belonging and loyalty can only be to one of these two kingdoms
 - b. There is no such thing as a dual kingdom citizen (carnal, second string, backsliding Christian)
3. So, do we possibly think that Paul is saying that we should sin (kingdom of sin and death) so that grace may abound (Kingdom of grace and life)? *By no means

B. The Facts (vs 1-10) Fact or opinion?

*Facts are things that just are. Whether we like them or not. No one has to agree with facts for them to be accurate. This is unfortunately confusing in our culture.

1. In Christ, we are dead to sin
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. (Romans 6:1-4)

- a. We who died; baptized into His death
 - b. We no longer belong to or have loyalty toward the kingdom of sin and death.
2. The body of sin has been brought to nothing and we are no longer slaves to sin. 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. 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. (Romans 6:5-10)
- a. One who died to sin is free from sin's demands
 - b. Christ and those who follow Him live their lives belonging and loyal to God alone.
- C. The Commands (v11-14) Command or request?
- So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 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. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:11-14)
- *Commands are what we do (obedience) as we recognize who we are in light of the facts. This requires our participation so that we actually live out what is true of us.
1. Consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God (v11)
Recognize these facts as my facts.
 2. Don't let sin reign in your body. (v12)
 - a. Kingdom language: which kingdom do you look like?
 - b. We now have a choice to obey or reject sin's demands.
 3. Don't present yourself to sin for its purposes. (v13)
 - a. Mind, heart, hands, feet, mouth, etc. are now used for God's purpose.
 - b. Unrighteousness
And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:28-32)

- c. *See message from February 9, 2025, Romans 1:24-32
*We no longer do these things because that is no longer who we are.

D. The dilemma

1. Now that you are a child of God, a citizen of His kingdom, a royal priesthood, live like it!
2. But we are not yet perfect, just no longer slaves to sin
 - a. You have died to sin. Fact.
 - b. But, sin is not yet dead – defeated is different than dead.
3. We need to do things differently to nullify sin's reign over our lives and bodies. We can't go on as normal and just add Jesus.
 - a. How much of me, my time, my body, my relationships, my money, my desires, my fun, my choices, my children, do I offer to God?
 - 1) *When we offer all of ourselves, we will finally be living under grace and there will be no abuse of grace because we finally understand.
 - 2) *Gender identity and alive to sin...
 - b. A follower of Jesus not living dead to sin is just as offensive to God as a man born biologically male but claiming to be a woman.

III. Summary and what's next

- A. Our lives as Jesus followers are a combination of facts and obedience
 1. Once in Christ, you have died to the power and authority of sin
 2. You and I must adopt this fact and bring out lives into alignment
 3. The struggle is that while you and I have died to sin, sin is not dead and still pursuing you and me
- B. What about people who choose to abuse grace and live how they want?
 1. Humility problem. Intimacy problem. Obedience problem. Holiness problem.
 2. This should cause reflection because there is a teaching by Jesus where people argue their morality and membership in Christianity and they are not known as children by God.