

The Proper Way to Deal with Sin

Romans 6:1–14 (NKJV)

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

- *Paul poses a very important question “shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”*
- *His question is in response to the prior statement he had just made in Romans 5:20 “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.”*
- *The Law and specifically the Mosaic Law came into the picture not to bring a remedy for sin but to reveal and expose sin for what it really is, hideous and destructive.*
- *The Law exposes the full extent of how completely evil and rebellious sin really is and it removes any of the “candy coating” that carnal man would try cover it with.*
- *The final destination, the last stop on the train ride that sin takes us on is eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire.*
- *However, even though the Law could not save us nor even lessen the destructive effects of sin in our lives it did perform a second important function, it pointed to Jesus Christ who came to set us free.*
- *Once we began to realize our lost and hopeless state, God did not leave us in that condition of shame and condemnation but revealed His grace to us through the sacrificial suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- *One definition of grace is unmerited favour because “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” (Romans 5:8-9)*
- *At the moment that the eyes of our understanding were opened and we realized that we were both sinners and transgressors of the Law and that all that we deserved was eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire, God revealed His great love for us through His Son Jesus Christ and that is grace.*

- *The moment that we responded to the grace of God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice at Calvary, grace was released in our lives, we were born again, we were saved from the penalty of sin and He “delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” (Colossians 1: 13)*
- *In fact Romans 5:20 goes even further and says, “But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” signifying that not only is God’s grace able to come down to whatever level of sin we have been ensnared with, but that even in the greatest depth and darkness that sin can drag a soul down to, God’s grace goes down to their level and over flows to deliver and save that lost soul.*
- *However, some may twist this truth of God’s grace abounding in the midst of our unrighteousness and say “let us continue to sin that God’s grace will abound even more.” Thus Paul addresses this question in the following verse, “Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Romans 6:2)*

³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- *In verses 3 and 4 of Romans 6 Paul introduces another definition or characteristic of God’s grace, “the power of God working in us and through us to accomplish His purposes” so that even as Jesus walked righteously before the Father “even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*
- *God’s grace does not only save us from the penalty of sin, justification, but then empowers us by the life of Christ in our reborn spirit and through the Holy Spirit to live a life free from the bondages and destructive consequences of sin.*
- *Christ came not only that we might have life but also that we might have it more abundantly (John 10:10). In other words He didn’t just die for our sins so we could go to Heaven but continue to live defeated and miserable lives for the rest of our time on earth, but He saved us so that we could experience the overflowing abundant victorious joyful life now.*

⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

- *The Greek word that is translated “united together” means, “pertaining to being closely associated in a similar experience” thus we are to fully identify with His death so that we can also identify with His resurrection and experience the newness of His life daily through us.*

⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

- *“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him” – there is something we must be convinced of if we are to walk in freedom and victory. We need to grasp with both our minds and hearts that through Jesus Christ sacrificial death at Calvary, our old sinful nature was crucified with Him and it no longer has either the legal right or the power to enslave us.*
- *The Greek word for “knowing” is γινώσκω (ginōskō) and means a knowledge that is derived by becoming acquainted with something or someone thus knowledge through experience and proximity and not just simply abstract knowledge.*
- *The verb “knowing” in this verse is in the present tense signifying an ongoing action not only in terms of continuing to know something but even possibly continuing to grow in a deeper and more intimate knowledge.*
- *The power of believing the truth is equaled by the power of believing a lie.*
- *The devil is described by Jesus as the “father of lies”, (John 8:44) and thus one of the great weapons that God gives us is the truth because “you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)*
- *When Jesus said, “you shall know the truth” the Greek word γινώσκω (ginōskō) is also employed speaking about a knowledge that is acquired by experience and not simply intellectual study.*
- *If someone believes a lie then that lie has power over that person.*
- *If a Christian believes God does not love him or her even though it is not true that lie will hinder them from experiencing the reality of God’s love.*

- *If a Christian is confident in God's love and faithfulness, even when faced with difficult or painful circumstances, His love and faithfulness will sustain him and give him peace.*
- *It is so important that we study and meditate upon God's Word because our beliefs will either produce fruitfulness in our hearts or hopelessness and pain.*
- *Through studying and meditating upon God's Word we acquire knowledge and through prayer and fellowship with God that knowledge becomes real and alive to us so that it can transform our lives.*
- *One definition of faith is truth trusted therefore we need to first know the truth and then we need to learn to trust the truth and lean upon it.*
- *Paul continues on in the following verses of Romans 6 driving home the truth that will empower us to overcome sin and live victorious lives*

⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin.

- *An immutable spiritual law is "for he who has died has been freed from sin"*
- *When Adam and Eve sinned and the sin nature was implanted into their flesh through their rebellious choices, God decreed that death would result.*
- *In one way that decree was the judgment and consequence of sin but in another way it was the doorway of God's mercy to bring deliverance and salvation.*
- *To those who reject God's mercy and continue in rebellion, death leads to eternal damnation but to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrificial and vicarious death on the cross it produces both salvation and freedom.*
- *For those who do not know Christ, death is one of the most terrifying prospects but to those who have put their faith in Christ, God has "released those who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:15) with the result that we look forward to being in Heaven with God in our glorified eternal resurrected bodies.*

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

- *One of the truths and pillars of our faith that produces freedom and victory in our lives is “if we died with Christ we shall also live with Him”*

⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

¹⁰For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

- *“knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more” - As believers our focus is not just on Jesus’ sacrificial death but His glorious and triumphant resurrection.*
- *Just as Jesus overcame death through His resurrection so that He lives forever more unto the Father, we too can live that same way.*

¹¹Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin” – Paul now instructs us on the way that we should think in order to appropriate the grace of God in order to walk in freedom and victory.*
- *“Likewise” – In the same way or following the same example of Jesus we can live lives of freedom and victory by walking in the truth of what He has done for us.*
- *“reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin” – The Greek word for reckon can be used as an accounting term “to keep records of accounts, to put into one’s account” and thus it means to count, credit or consider that we are dead indeed to sin.*
- *But reckoning ourselves dead unto sin is not where the process stops because it continues on and we are to reckon ourselves alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- *Some believers only see the reckoning ourselves dead to sin but fail to embrace the joy of reckoning ourselves alive to God thus making them think that the*

Christian life is just filled with sacrifices and hardships but miss out on the unspeakable joy and glory of walking with the Lord.

- *The “reckoning” speaks about a walk of faith not based on how we feel or how things look but based on the truth of God’s Word and Christ’s redemptive sacrifice that leads to freedom and victory.*

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

¹³And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

- *Verses 12 and 13 employ the imperative mood when it says, “therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies”, “do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin”, and “but present yourselves to God as instruments of righteousness.”*
- *The imperative mood normally expresses a command, exhortation or polite request. The imperative mood is therefore not an expression of reality but possibility and volition.*
- *If we choose to obey we will then experience the benefits but if we choose not to believe and obey we will not realize those things that Christ has purchased for us.*
- *The key for us to walk in victory and appropriate the promises of God for our lives is to understand the truth and then trust the truth by acting on the truth in faith even as the Scriptures say, “The just shall live by faith.” (Habakuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38)*
- *In Galatians 2:20 Paul summarizes the life of faith “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

- *Paul then makes a bold statement to every born again believer, “sin shall not have dominion or be master over your life.”*
- *Paul is not saying that we will never sin and fail but that we do not have to be controlled, dominated and ruled by sin.*
- *The reason Paul states that we can overcome sin is because those who have put their faith in Christ are no longer under the Law, the Mosaic Law, and thus do not overcome sin through their own self-effort or strength by trying to fulfill the Law, but by the grace of God, through the power of our resurrected Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Job 1:1 (NKJV)

¹There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

- *The Hebrew word for “blameless” is תָּם (tam) and it means “blameless, perfect, complete, wholesome, morally innocent, having integrity.”*
- *The Hebrew word for “upright” is יָשָׁר (yāšār) and it means “straight, level, right, pleasing in the eyes of, agreeable to.”*
- *When the Bible describes Job as blameless, perfect, morally innocent, and upright it does not mean that Job never sinned, because we know we all sin, but what it does mean is that Job knew how to deal with sin.*
- *The Bible gives us some insights into what enabled Job to be blameless and upright in God’s eyes.*
- *First it says that Job “feared God.” Job not only believed in God but also truly was conscious of the reality of God and loved God.*
- *We as believers must daily cultivate our relationship with God as we learn to continually abide in His presence and enjoy His love.*
- *Second it says that Job “shunned evil.” The Hebrew word for “shunned” means, “to change direction, to turn aside, to stand aloof from, to remove something.”*
- *Another word to describe “shunning evil” is repentance.*

- *Repentance is both a change of heart and a change of direction.*
- *Repentance is not just turning away from evil but turning toward God.*
- *True repentance occurs firstly in our heart and our mind.*
- *More specifically repentance refers to a change of understanding or thinking.*
- *For us to shun evil means to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and instantly obedient.*
- *Every time a wrong attitude springs up in our hearts, as soon we recognize it, we judge it as wrong and turn to God to cleanse us.*
- *To shun evil is not to make excuses for wrong attitudes we may have or hurtful words that we may have spoken but instantly turn to God.*
- *Repentance can be described as our journey to freedom and victory.*
- *Faith is also our companion on this path to freedom and victory.*
- *Since repentance is a journey we must have confidence that God will take us all the way to our final destination, total victory and freedom.*

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

- *We see that Job feared God and shunned evil but there is one more important key that allowed Job to deal with sin in an appropriate way.*

Job 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did regularly.

- *“he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings” - Job understood the need for a sacrifice to deal with sin and that forgiveness was not*

based on merit but on the grace of God as the sacrifice paid the price of our sins.

- *These Old Testament sacrifices pointed, by faith, to the One who was going to be the ultimate sacrifice, Jesus Christ.*
- *“Thus Job did regularly” – Job did not neglect to place the sacrifices in the forefront of His relationship with God.*
- *If we as Believers do not fully grasp that our sins are forgiven because of Jesus’ suffering for us at Calvary the devil can cause us to experience shame, guilt and condemnation so that instead of running to God to confess our sins know that Jesus has already paid the price, we flee from Him thinking we have failed Him and He is now angry with us.*

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

- *God does not forgive us because He loves us.*
- *But because God loves us He sent His only begotten Son to die for us so that we can be forgiven.*
- *One of the greatest ways for us to show our appreciation to God for His love, is to confess our sins every time we recognize we have sinned and to receive His forgiveness.*

Galatians 5:1 (TNIV)

¹**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.**

- *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free” therefore we must learn how to experience this freedom, enjoy this freedom and maintain this freedom.*

John 10:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

- *The devil wants to cause us to be bound with sin so that we are not able to either experience God's blessings or we are not able to hold onto them.*

1 John 1:1–10 (NKJV)

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

- *John the apostle begins this epistle by stating the reality of his experience with the Living God.*
- *The difference between dead religion and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that the first is based on rituals and traditions while the second is based on relationship and love.*
- *John said, “that which we heard, and seen with our eyes and touched with our hands” in others the reality of experiencing God.*
- *This reality and relationship is open to everyone who receives Christ as their Lord and Saviour.*
- *The Gospel is that we can know God and grow in an intimate and loving relationship with Him.*

²the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

- *The message that God gave to John and to each believer is that He is real and we can have a relationship with Him.*
- *Sometimes believer when they first receive Jesus don't think they know how to witness but all we have to do is simply “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” (Mark 5:19)*
- *In verses 3 and 4 John states the purpose of this epistle.*

³that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

- *The purpose of this epistle is so that we can be free to have fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ and with one another.*
- *Un-dealt with sin and bondages hinder us from fellowshiping with God and with one another because un-dealt with sin produces conflicts and shame.*

⁴And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

- *The second reason for the epistle is that we are to have fullness of joy.*
- *Joy is not a perk of being a Christian but a necessity. Without joy we are powerless and defeated. God wants us to overflow with joy.*
- *Joy radiates the truth of how the Gospel has impacted us.*
- *We must cultivate joy within our hearts. This is the true prosperity gospel. We are to be full of joy. We may not be rich or successful in the eyes of the world but we are to be rich in joy and this is the greatest success.*
- *The following verses deal with the three ways of being free from bondages.*
- *God wants to use all three methods to set us free and each method has its place in our lives.*
- *Bondages separate us from fellowshiping with God and the rest of the Body of Christ.*
- *Bondages steal our joy.*

⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

- *The First Way we are set free from bondages is through our fellowship with God the Father.*
- *This first principle deals with our will. We must choose to come into fellowship with God.*

Psalm 69:30 (NKJV)

³⁰**I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.**

- *When we spend time praising God and magnifying Him with thanksgiving it is not that God gets bigger but our opinion and appreciation of God gets bigger in our hearts.*
- *In the presence of God, as we spend time with Him, He does marvelous things in our hearts and His presence drives out the darkness and His marvelous light shines in our hearts bringing both freedom and healing.*
- *Freedom in God's presence does not come about through pleading with Him, as if He did not want to free us, but through worship and praise and filling our mouths with thanksgiving.*
- *The marvelous thing about being set free while daily spending time in God's presence is that we may not even be aware that He is changing us because we are so caught up with His beauty and love.*
- *One touch from God will do more than years of striving.*
- *Spending time in God's presence through praise and worship and thanksgiving, strengthens our will and resolve to follow Him.*

⁷**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

- *The Second Way we are set free from bondages is through our fellowship with other Christians.*

James 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶**Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**

- *Fellowship with other believers provides us with accountability, encouragement and people who will love us and pray for us and with us to see God move in our lives.*
- *Through the Body of Christ we are not alone but God has provided the ministries of Christ through each believer.*
- *Accountability and fellowship may not produce instant results but it will enable us and empower us to walk through the process of restoration and freedom.*

Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.

- *Through fellowship God ensures we will never have to walk alone through the difficult times of this life.*
- *This second principle deals with our emotions. As we share our hearts with one another and love and accept one another and pray for one another God uses it to bring healing and freedom.*
- *“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another” - One thing that stops us from having true fellowship is when there are hidden areas of darkness in our hearts and lives.*
- *Guilt or shame will stop us from developing close friendships with fellow Christians and cause us to feel isolated and defeated.*
- *“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have (present active tense) fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (present active tense) us from all sin.” – The key verbs in this verse are in the present active tense speaking about an ongoing process.*
- *As we continue to have fellowship with one another it results in greater freedom and liberty in our lives.*
- *Those believers who do not develop a few meaningful friendships with fellow believers will find that certain bondages in their lives will not be broken off because they require Body ministry.*

- *Fellowship not only brings freedom, but through mutual accountability, it also ensures that we don't fall into a snare of the enemy and lose the freedom we already have achieved.*

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- *The Third Way we are set free from bondages is through our relationship with the Word and the confession of our lips.*
- *This third principle deals with our intellect. As we begin to understand God's Word and come into agreement with His Word, God brings healing and freedom to us.*
- *Confession deals with much more than just confessing our sins, it also deals with the confession of our faith.*
- *The Greek word for confession is "homologeo" which means to say the same thing.*
- *It is when our words line up with our hearts there is power. Sincerity (Romans 10:9)*
- *It is when our words line up with His Word there is power. Truth*
- *It is when our words line up with our actions there is power. Obedience (James 1:23)*

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

²¹Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

- *We can either speak words that agree with God's Word which will build up ourselves and all those that hear them or we can speak words of doubt, complaining and negativity which will tear us down and reinforce lies which we have heard.*

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- *We see that our confession must line up with the truth, which is the Word of God.*

⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- *When we confess our sins it does not result in condemnation but forgiveness and cleansing - freedom.*
- *If we confess our sins we can have full confidence that He not only forgives us but also cleanses us from all unrighteousness.*
- *The reason we can be fully confident of His forgiveness and cleansing is because He is faithful and just and Jesus already has taken all our sins upon Himself and paid the full price.*

¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- *The key for us to experience total freedom is for our confession to consistently line up with His Word and truth.*
- *The first principle for us to experience freedom is to fellowship with God and allow His light to drive out the darkness that is in us.*
- *This is our relationship with the Father.*
- *The second principle for us to experience freedom is to fellowship with one another and allow the blood of Jesus to cleanse us.*
- *This is our relationship with the Son.*
- *The third principle for us to experience freedom is to have the Holy Spirit reveal truth to us so we can have a true confession that produces forgiveness and freedom from all unrighteousness.*
- *This is our relationship with the Holy Spirit as He reveals the Word of God.*