

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation
16 - Do Christians Have a License to Sin? Part 1

Romans 6:1-2

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Justification is being freed from the PENALTY of sin. **Sanctification** is being freed from the POWER of sin. **Glorification** is the ultimate freedom from the very PRESENCE of sin that will happen in heaven!

As Christians we're living in the land of the 'Already' but the 'Not yet.' We've already been set free from the PENALTY of sin, and by God's grace we're more and more being set free from the POWER of sin. But we're NOT YET completely removed from the PRESENCE and temptation of sin that still calls to us.

Three WARNINGS that CORRECT the twisted thinking that because of grace now a Christian can just go out and sin, knowing they will just get more grace!

I. Don't Ever Give Up the Extreme Grace of God in Your Salvation!

Don't back off on full strength grace. And don't let anyone add to it or tack onto it their specific 'list' of do's and don'ts.

Rom. 3:24 "Being justified freely by His grace..."

Rom. 3:28 "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law"

Rom. 5:15 "...much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many."

Rom. 5:17 "... much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."

Rom. 5:20 "... but where sin abounded, grace abounded much more."

So don't let anybody bully you or confuse you into giving up the extreme grace of God in your salvation!

II. You Better Be Alarmed by Any Sinful Abuse of that Same Extreme Grace!

God's grace begins to transform us into a holy people, set apart, peculiar, salty, different, with the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ exuding from us in some of the most difficult places in life.

There's not a single command in God's Word that our deliberate, willful, continuance in sin after He saves us brings Him more glory. It brings shames on the name of Christ, the Bride – His Church – and the hope of the Gospel!

And it brings the discipline of a Holy Father into your life because He's a Father who's committed to conforming you into the image of His Son, Jesus.

Hebrews 12:8 "But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons."

A. Whenever you preach grace – and you really preach it up BIG like Paul's been doing in Romans ch. 4 & 5 – then you take a risk that there'll be somebody out there who'll abuse it and substitute for the word 'grace' a 'license to sin'

Romans 6:1 "... Shall we continue in sin that grace that grace might increase?"

- The Greek word for 'continue' right there is '**Epimeno**' – it carries the idea of habitual persistence. It's a word that was used for when a person makes a certain place his permanent residence.

- Paul's not talking about the Christian who occasionally falls into sin; we all still do that. He's talking about intentional sinning as an established pattern of life.

You bring God glory by pursuing holiness... and living a life that demonstrates in front of a skeptic, hopeless, broken world the POWER of a changed life that's been TRANSFORMED by God's grace.

The Russian monk, Rasputin was one those who twisted the grace of God into a license to sin. Rasputin taught that salvation comes through repeated experiences of sin and repentance, sin and repentance, sin and repentance. So he argued that because those who sin more require more forgiveness, those who sin with reckless abandon will experience even greater joy when they repent; therefore, he concludes... it is the believer's **duty** to sin.

That's an abominable lie, and it's a total misuse of grace that will land you in an eternal hell!

Jude 4 NIV "For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only sovereign and Lord."

B. Paul Fires Back with Some of the Strongest Words in all of Romans!

He literally shouts out in horror in v. 2, "**May it never be!**"

- The Greek phrase is '*Me genoito*', and it was the strongest idiom of repudiation in the New Testament Greek. It's used 14X in Paul's letters alone. He's already used it 3X in chapter 3 of Romans (vv. 4, 6, 31) and he'll use it again 6 more X before he finishes the book of Romans (see 6:15; 7:7, 13; 9:14; 11:1, 11).

The phrase carries with it a SENSE OF OUTRAGE that you would ever come to this kind of conclusion!

C. The Extreme Grace of God that Saves You is the Same Grace that Empowers You to Get Free From Sin and Say 'No' to Sin Now in Your Life

Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."

What Paul is saying is that a Christian who has a new life; has a new power; so he has no EXCUSE and no DESIRE to settle in with sin.

I John 3:2-9 "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God."

Rom. 6:22 "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life."

Romans 6:2 "... How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

III. As a Christian You Have a Brand New Relationship to Sin

We have a new contract with sin. It has not been completely eradicated from our lives but the relationship is completely different. The terms have changed. You no longer HAVE to sin! Satan doesn't own you.