

Romans 6:1-7 (NKJV)

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

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

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

4 Therefore 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.

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

6 knowing 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.

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

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Rom 6:1a What shall we say then?

Wm. Barclay: The use of this phrase points to Paul's training in the Rabbinical schools, where questions were propounded and the students encouraged to debate, objections being suddenly interposed and answered.

- Paul anticipates questions arising from the believers at Rome, so he proactively squelches them before they can ever be asked

3

6:1b Shall we continue [literally, persist] in sin that grace may abound?

- Why would Paul ask this?
- Remember how he ended the previous chapter

5:20b-21 Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Grace abounds much more than sin!

4

- Despite man's overwhelming sins, grace always triumphs – literally SUPERABOUNDS – when man accepts it from God
- Just because God's grace always abounds and wins the victory over sin does not give children of God license to sin
- Some might tend to think, "Well, I can just keep on sinning then, since God's grace is going to cover it."
- That's a terrible conclusion! The objective in the Christian life is to stop sinning so that we might live in holiness, pleasing God

5

The purpose of the Christian life summed up:

2 Cor. 5:15 He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

2 Cor. 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- The goal of the Christian life is living righteously, victorious over sin, living as Jesus lived!
- That should drive our daily decisions and thoughts and emotions (aspects of the soul)

6

- Starting in ch. 6, Paul begins a detailed discussion of soul-salvation (i.e., the process of sanctification)
- *Sanctification* – from the Greek word *hagiasmos*, which is from *hagios* = *holy*

6:19b Just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness ... so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

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.

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- Those who are living in holiness, finding victory over sin as a general rule of life, are on the pathway of soul-salvation
- If they continue on that narrow way throughout life, they will be rewarded when they meet Jesus in judgment
- A word of warning: you can't produce holy living of yourself – multitudes of Christians TRY, but it merely becomes an effort of one's own strength and flesh

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- Paul has already dealt with the first century Jewish error of attempting to keep the Mosaic rituals for holiness
- It won't work, Paul says, you need Jesus, and you must depend on Him by faith
- The 21st century version of the first century Jewish error is the mindset of many evangelical Christians that "If I keep a list of rules or standards, I will be spiritual."
- You need Jesus, and you must depend on Him by faith

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- To live a holy life that will result in hearing "well done" at the Bema Seat, we need Jesus, HIS life being lived through ours
- Often called the Christ-life – or the abundant life or the deeper life or the exchanged life or the Spirit-filled life
- This happens when believers appropriate the provision of Jesus within to live victoriously over sin

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- Paul's answer to their question, "Shall we continue [literally, *persist*] in sin that grace may abound?" ...

6:2a Certainly not! (KJV: *God forbid!*)

- The word *God* is not in the Greek text, so other translations include:
 - (NKJV) Certainly not!
 - (NASB) May it never be!
 - (HCSB) Absolutely not!
 - (ESV) By no means!
- Paul is horrified by the thought

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

- "We" are those who have believed Jesus for eternal life (life for the age), children of God
- Believers should not persist in sinning, thinking that God's grace will abound and cover our sins, because *we died to sin*
- The KJV says "are dead to sin," but Wm. Newell points out that is "wrong, for the tense of the Greek verb is the aorist, which denotes not a state but a past act or fact."

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Bible Knowledge Commen. (Walvoord & Zuck):

Death to sin is separation from sin's power, not the extinction of sin.

It is being set free from sin (vv. 18, 22).

Clarification:

When Jesus says ...

John 12:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

- And when Paul says, "I die daily" (1 Cor. 15:31) ...

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- They are not talking about dying to sin

- That already happened when we were regenerated

- We are never commanded to die to sin – we are merely told to reckon the fact that we died to sin (when we were initially saved)

- What, then, are Jesus and Paul talking about?

- Dying to self – choosing to humble ourselves and subject ourselves to the will of Christ every day of our lives

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What All Believers Need to KNOW to Live Victoriously

1. You have been immersed in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection

6:3 Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

What is this baptism?

- Some assume (e.g., Newell) it is referring to water baptism as identifying the new believer in Christ, picturing His death and resurrection

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- The problem with this understanding is that, based on the wording of v. 3, it then sounds as if water baptism is part of salvation (and we know that is not the case)

- More likely, it is a metaphor for what happens at the point of regeneration in a spiritual sense

- *baptism* = "immersion," but it also can mean "placed into" (Rene Lopez, Grace NT Comm.)

- At the point of initial salvation, believers are baptized [i.e., placed into] the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, becoming united with Him

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1 Cor. 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Gal. 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Col. 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- Water baptism is a vivid picture of this spiritual transaction, but it does not contribute in any way to our salvation

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Paul adds more detail:

6:4 Therefore 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.

6:5 For if [since] we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

- At the point of being baptized into Christ, we were spiritually immersed in His death, buried with Him, and raised with Him, the result being that we now walk in newness of life

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Bible Knowledge Commentary:

The Greek word [translated] “newness” ... speaks of life that has a new or fresh quality. The resurrection of Jesus was not just a resuscitation; it was a new form of life. In the same way the spiritual lives of believers in Jesus have a new, fresh quality. Also, a believer’s identification with Jesus Christ in His resurrection, besides being the start of new spiritual life now, is also the guarantee of physical resurrection.

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Bible Knowledge Commentary:

This work of God at salvation in identifying a believer with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection—thus separating him from sin’s power and giving him a new quality of life—is the basis of the Holy Spirit’s continuing work in sanctification.

Sanctification is God’s progressively separating a believer from sin to Himself and transforming his total life experience toward holiness and purity.

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What All Believers Need to KNOW to Live Victoriously

2. The glorious benefits of being crucified with Christ

6:6 Knowing 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.

6:7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

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What are the benefits of having died with Christ in His crucifixion?

a. Your *old man* was put to death

- *old man* = a metaphor for your former, unregenerated spirit, which was crucified when you were regenerated
- God gave you a new, regenerated spirit

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

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Col. 3:9b-10 You have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

- The old nature no longer exists, for it was crucified, put to death
- Granted, you continue to sin, but that is not because of the old nature, for it is gone

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What are the benefits of having died with Christ in His crucifixion?

b. Your body of sin MIGHT BE “done away with”

Bible Knowledge Commentary:

The phrase “the body of sin” does not mean that a human body is sinful in itself. It means that one’s physical body is controlled or ruled by sin.

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Alva McClain (Romans: The Gospel of God's Grace):

"The body of sin" ... is the body we have, in which sin finds an instrument: the tongue, the hands, the mind. Sin does not find its source in the body. Sin finds its source in the will, but uses the body as an instrument."

Zane Hodges (Romans: Deliverance from Wrath):

By the term *body of sin* Paul evidently means the aggregate total of all the sins committed through our physical bodies.

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"that the body of sin might be done away with"

- "might be" – Greek subjunctive mood, which is the mood of potential
- In other words, this COULD happen, but it's not guaranteed – just as in 2 Cor. 5:21, "we MIGHT BECOME the righteousness of God in Him." (also the subjunctive mood)
- It is possible, if certain conditions are met
- The power of sin in your life *can be* "done away with" (NKJV); "destroyed" (KJV); "brought to nothing" (ESV); "abolished" (HCSB); "made useless" (Young's)

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- Best translation = "rendered powerless"

Alvan McClain: The Greek word here gives the idea of sin being annulled, or rendered inoperative.

- Your body does NOT have to remain under sin's power, for sin can be rendered powerless in your life
- The tiger of sin can become toothless and declawed

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What are the benefits of having died with Christ in His crucifixion?

c. You no longer have to be enslaved to sin

- When you were saved, you died with Christ and rose with Him in a spiritual sense
- Your former, unregenerated spirit was crucified, and you were given a new regenerated spirit, so that you can now walk in newness of life
- You are no longer under sin's dominion – sin is no longer your master

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- As a result, sin has been rendered powerless in your life, and you have been freed from sin
- The Gr. word translated FREED is most often translated JUSTIFIED in the book of Romans
- It's the idea that when you were regenerated, God forgave all your past sins and declared you righteous – you were acquitted, not in a positional sense, as the Reformers taught, but *at that point in time*
- In that sense, you were freed from sin, and sin was rendered powerless because of your death, burial and resurrection with Christ

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- To the extent you live righteously by appropriating the grace of God, by faith, you will remain righteous
- Going forward, sin's dominance in your life CAN BE rendered powerless or inoperative, but you have to make that decision
- You have the PROVISION to live righteously, and His name is Jesus

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What All Believers Need to KNOW to Live Victoriously

3. The glorious benefits of being resurrected with Christ

6:8 Now if [since] we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

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What are the benefits of having risen with Christ in His resurrection?

a. You are ALIVE with Jesus

- Not merely in the future, but here and now
- You are ALIVE because He lives!

Vincent: This life is participation of the believer's sanctified life with the life of Christ rather than participation in future glory, which is not the point emphasized.

- You have new LIFE in Christ now!

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2 Tim. 1:9-10 [God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus ... who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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What are the benefits of having risen with Christ in His resurrection?

b. You are no longer under death's dominion

- Those who do NOT believe on Jesus for eternal life have NEVER been crucified with Him, or buried with Him, or resurrected with Him
- That being the case, they can never rule with Him, but will remain in the grave during the Millennium
- But because you have RISEN with Him, you will be resurrected before the Millennium

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- Furthermore, you can live righteously through Jesus and thereby qualify to rule with Him in His kingdom

Jesus said to Martha at the gravesite of Lazarus: John 11:25-26 (Young's Literal Translation) I am the rising again, and the life; he who is believing in me, even if he may die, shall live; and every one who is living and believing in me shall not die — to the age;

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What are the benefits of having risen with Christ in His resurrection?

c. You can live unto God

- You have the provision to live the Christ-life of victory, for the resurrected Jesus lives within
- He died to sin once (i.e., once-for-all), but He LIVES unto GOD — so can you!

Gal. 2:20 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.

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What All Believers Need to KNOW to Live Victoriously

1. You have been immersed in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (vs. 3-5)
2. The glorious benefits of being crucified with Christ (vs. 6-7)
 - a. Your old man has been put to death and replaced with a new man
 - b. Your body of sin MIGHT BE rendered powerless
 - c. You no longer have to be enslaved to sin

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What All Believers Need to KNOW to Live Victoriously

3. You need to KNOW the glorious benefits of being resurrected with Christ (vs. 8-10)
 - a. You can live with Jesus
 - b. You are no longer under death's dominion
 - c. You can live unto God
- But just knowing something doesn't mean it is benefitting you
- You must believe the truth and put it into action in everyday living, by God's grace

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What All Believers Need to DO to Live Victoriously

1. Reckon it to be so
- 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- *reckon* = do the accounting or take inventory; calculate
 - God wants you to reckon that you are dead to sin and alive to God – think about it and consider it to be so!
 - Don't ever doubt, for the accounting is true

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Alva McClain: Whenever a young man who may be a member of an Orthodox Jewish family becomes a Christian, the father says, "This son is to me dead." He turns him out of his house. He never speaks to him again. If friends come in and ask about his son, he says, "My son is dead." He is not actually dead, but the father considers that boy as dead.

- In like manner, you are dead to sin, even though sin is very much alive

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What All Believers Need to DO to Live Victoriously

2. Don't allow sin to be your master
- 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.
- Sin is very happy to get back up on the throne of your life, if you will let it
 - Sin would love to depose your new Master, Jesus Christ
 - But sin does not have the power or authority to do that, unless you allow it

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- So don't allow sin to rule in your life, because if you do, then you will start submitting to sin as your master
- Remember what James said about the downward spiral of sin:

James 1:15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

- When Sin is once again allowed to become your master, then death follows in its wake

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- God wants you to LIVE the Christ-life now, so that God is glorified and you can receive the inheritance of co-rulership with Jesus when you meet him in judgment
 - Those who submit to sin as their master will self-destruct and wither spiritually
- 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
- 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

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What All Believers Need to DO to Live Victoriously

3. Use your body parts as tools for righteousness
- 6:13 And do not present [KJV: yield] your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present [KJV: yield] yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- The verb translated *present* or *yield* is the same Greek word used in Rom. 12:1 “present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.”

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- The first time the word PRESENT is used in 6:13 it is in the present tense, implying continued action – don’t keep yielding your body parts to sin and unrighteousness
- The second time the word PRESENT is used in 6:13 it is in the aojist tense, implying a once-for-all yielding
- Here’s the idea: Don’t continue yielding your body parts to sin; come to a decisive turning point in your life in which you choose to yield your parts to God going forward

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- God sometimes uses spiritual crisis moments in our lives to bring us to the end of self, so we yield ourselves to God, which generally remains the default going forward
- Sanctification is generally a steady process, if one remains yielded to the Lord, but it will occasionally be punctuated by crises
- These “I surrender all” moments can be very helpful to get us on track spiritually

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- Your hands and feet and mouth and brain and eyes and ears – and even your private parts – can be used to commit sins that lead to spiritual deadness, not only in this life, but also in the next ...
- Or they can be used to do righteous deeds for God that lead to life and vibrancy, not only in this life, but also in the next

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- The Greek word translated INSTRUMENTS is sometimes translated WEAPONS in the NT
- Thus your body – through its various parts – can be used as weapons, metaphorically, for either good or evil
- Vincent speaks of sin and righteousness as “rulers of opposing sovereignties, and enlisting men in their armies.”
- So make choices to present yourself to righteousness rather than to sin
- Live for Jesus!

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6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
Dunn: The reason it is possible for believers to avoid a habitual surrender to sin at one point or other in their lives is that sin shall no longer have the dominant say in their lives, because they are not under the law but under grace ... Grace is the only power which can break the mastery of sin. It is only as believers live their lives "under grace," in dependence on God's gracious power to sustain and restore, that the power of sin can be defeated, that the enticing voice of self-satisfaction ... can be ignored.

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- **The bottom line: Sin is powerless to reign in your life**
- **But you can allow sin to usurp the authority of Christ in your life**
- **Indeed, that happens whenever you choose to ignore the key of FAITH and commit sins, thereby putting sin back on the throne of your life**
- **However, the throne of your life rightfully belongs to Jesus now, for He has redeemed you and regenerated you, by His grace**

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- **Your obligation is to live for HIM, not for the old master of sin**
- **To the Jewish believers at Rome, Paul adds, "for you are not under the law but under grace"**
- **The Mosaic rituals have been abolished**
- **Attempting to keep them will not make you spiritual**
- **The same applies to 21st century Christians with their rituals, rules, lists, and standards**

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William Harrison (Romans: Peace for All Through Christ):

The phrases "sin will not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace," could be put in reverse and read as "sin will have dominion over you if you are under the law and not grace" ... If a believer neglects the grace of God which empowers us to live for Him [and] falls into legalism ... this brings failure. Trying to live the Christian life through your own strength [also] brings failure.

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- **Only Jesus can make you alive and spiritual**
- **You died WITH HIM, you were buried WITH HIM, you were raised to newness of life WITH HIM**
- **So LIVE as if that were the case!**

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