

## “The Life Changing Power of Living Under Grace” • Romans 6:5-11, 14

1. **If you missed** last week’s message, it is online (iTunes/website)
2. **In Romans 6**, Paul is transitioning from describing what God does for us to what God does in us.
  - **Rom. 1-5** → **Justification** is the one time legal declaration of what God has done **for us through the cross**
  - **Rom. 6-8** → **Sanctification** is the ongoing personal transformation of what God does **in us by the Holy Spirit**
3. **I have several weather apps on my phone...** forecasts are illustrated with icons -- clouds/rain or a bright sun → *affect my attitude*
  - *Last Sunday as I looked ahead at this week - all clouds with rain – blah and depressing*
  - I check several other cities - one is Dubai - always clear and sunny
4. **It is the same way with law and grace — v. 14**
5. **When I am living under the law...**
  - I despair when I fail and get proud when I achieve success
  - God is more of my judge than my Father
  - I often feel condemned, not loved
  - I often am filled with anxiety
  - I am often critical; always looking for what is wrong in others
  - Harbor grudges; refuse to forgive
  - Don’t repent - make excuses, shift blame
  - Very opinionated -- I need to be right; need to look good
  - My need to impress reveals my insecurity
  - I work hard to protect myself from embarrassment
  - I am defensive and demanding
  - Those closest to me feel the law from me, not grace
6. **When I am living under grace**
  - I neither despair of failures nor grow proud w/success— humble, but secure
  - I live as if God really is my Father; no need to worry
  - Feel loved, not condemned
  - I don’t need to be right or look good
  - I am approachable and repentant/willing to own up to my sin
  - I am gracious when others fail or disappoint me
  - Those closest to me feel loved, appreciated - grace
7. **So, we discover there are two ways to live...** *I tend to live under law.*
8. **THE BIG QUESTION: How can I live under the life-changing influence and power of God’s grace to me in Jesus?**
9. **We begin with v. 5** — Paul re-states the significance of the inseparable connection btwn justification and sanctification
  - United in death – justification (free from the *penalty* of sin)
  - United in resurrection
    - Future - glorification (free from the *presence* of sin)
    - Present - sanctification (free from the *power* of sin)
10. He goes on to explain that in order **to experience power over sin**, I must be **convinced** that I am free from the **penalty** of that sin— **vv. 6-10**
  - **Sanctification happens** in my life the more I am **convinced** of my justification — *union w/Jesus, exp. power of the HS*
  - **v. 7** - “set free” is a form of Gk. *dikaioō* -- literally, “justified”
  - Our sins reckoned to Jesus and his rtns reckoned to us (15x in Rom)
  - *dedikaiōtai* - “perfect, indicative, passive”- *eph. lingering effect of an objective action that something receives!*
  - **Can you see how this applies to issues like besetting sin— power over besetting sin?**
11. **This helps us understand the meaning and weight of v. 11** — **THE FIRST COMMAND IN THE LETTER!!!**
  - **Consider** or **reckon** yourself — Gk, *logizomai*
    - A book-keeping word for commercial dealings
      - We get *log, logistics, logarithm*
      - In philosophy it meant the *objective* or *logical*
    - The common denominator of these meanings has to do with what is REAL -- OBJECTIVE REALITY (*Not what I feel, but what is*)
  - **“Dead to sin”** — no more condemnation / Jesus’ death was mine / no more charges -- buried at the cross
  - **“Alive to God”**— to have the spiritual senses to apprehend the wonder of God’s love and grace
  - **Creekstone’s mission statement:** “to glorify God by helping people come ALIVE to the wonder of the gospel” :)
12. **A Question:** Why has it taken Paul so long to get around to **imperatives** (*a command- make up your bed vs. you are my son/ daughter; the sun is yellow, indicatives/statements of fact*)?
13. **JAMES BOICE**, in his commentary on **Romans**, “[Paul] knew that there was no use rushing ahead to tell [us] how to live the Christian life until he had fully instructed [us] on what God [has] done for [us] in Jesus.”
  - Before we can be given gospel **imperatives**

- We must have a rock solid foundation of gospel **indicatives**
- After all, notice what the first imperative is - a call to embrace the indicative of the gospel!
- Notice, **he is writing to Christians** - he's not speaking at an evangelistic meeting!

14. **MARTIN LUTHER** said that we must continually be repeating the indicative of justification, because we tend to forget it so easily and live under law — **law puts the imperatives before the indicatives**

*“I myself have been preaching [grace] through reading and writing for almost twenty years and still... I cannot get it into my head that I should surrender myself completely to sheer grace, yet I know that this is what I should do.” ~ Luther*

15. **TULLIAN TCHIVIDJIAN** wrote an article recently w/ a title taken from a song by Robert Plant, “You might as well face it, you’re addicted to law” –

- **I know I am addicted to law when I ask the wrong question:**  
“Am I doing the right things?”
- The primary question to ask, “Am I believing the right things?”
- Gospel-ctrd. faith → gospel-driven change/fruit/“newness of life”
- *If I am not changing, the problem may be where I am focusing my efforts → on what I can do vs. what **God** has done and is able to do*
- **MOTIVES:** why do I want to change? to be better, not need grace? or to love well as a response to being loved well?

16. **I attended a conference about ten years ago in Virginia** — the theme was “Celebrating the Glorious Gospel” — no messages on identity, marriage, parenting or evangelism — just the doctrine of grace and the cross— they poured it out, and I drank it up/thirsty — I had a 12 hour drive home to MS... during that drive, two things happened...

- **I was freshly convicted:** angry husband, impatient father, defensive, self-protective, generally selfish
- **Also convinced of grace** → the cross was for me! a **new motivation** began bubbling up in my heart — felt so secure, had a renewed desire to love and nurture my family and to share the gospel w/others— didn’t attend one sem on any of these topics!
- The HS was at work in my heart b/c I was living under grace

17. Sadly, I don’t always live there. I **forget & get disconnected** — this is why we need SUNDAYS: to be reminded, reconnected and revitalized

- **A personal question/CHALLENGE — to be honest:** do you feel disconnected from Jesus/grace?
- If you are a Christian, **you ARE under grace- just need to reckon it!**
- **My prayer is** for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to convince us of his great love demonstrated in the cross so that we will live under grace and experience the life changing power of the gospel
- **Let’s make that OUR prayer -- right now!**