

New Life – Rom 6:1-14

Thanks you guys; Well let me start by saying that we're going to do something a bit different this weekend

Instead of preaching *live* here on our *main* campus all 3 services, and showing the video at our *West* Davenport campus – we're going to switch it this week
We're going to show the video *here* on Sunday morning, and I'm going to preach *live* over there; In fact, it's going to be a different message over there as well

It's not something I plan on doing very often, but when the opportunity presents itself, I want to take advantage of it (**Intro**)

- That said, a total of 19 people are getting baptized this weekend, to proclaim their *new life* in Christ; Hence the shirts that you'll see . . .
And the passage I want to look at (Rom 6:1-14)

The Apostle Paul is writing here, and he just said in 5:20, that – *where sin increased* [in God's plan of redemption that is], *grace abounded all the more*
And then he says in 6:1 – *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?* Should we keep on sinning after being saved . . .
Just to show the surpassing riches of God's grace to forgive us?

[2] *By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it* [still frolic in it]?
IOW how can we who have been released from the bondage of sin – including its overwhelming power and unavoidable consequences, *continue* in it?
The answer is, we can't; Not b/c we're *unable*, but b/c it's unthinkable
That's the point

It's unthinkable to abuse God's grace (v1-7)

That would be like a sick husband who berates his wife, just to experience her forgiveness; It's abusive, and unthinkable
And the same is true when it comes to God's grace

- And then, to support that thought, he cites 3 foundational truths of our salvation, using *baptism* to illustrate them; Saying in v3 . . .
Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (3)

IOW do you not know that those who have been *saved* – those who have been *baptized* into Christ, as in brought under his influence . . .
Just like we're brought under the influence of water . . .
Do you not know that they have also been brought under the influence of his sin-defeating death? It's true Paul says
And the first supporting thought as to why it's unthinkable to abuse God's grace; B/c . .

- **We're under Christ's influence (v3)**

Loving and tender and merciful and holy as he is, how could you possibly take advantage of him by continuing in that which grieves him?

- And then, in v4 he cites a *second* core truth to support his thought

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. (4)

We were buried with him by baptism into death means that as believers, Christ's death was our death; When he died *for* sin, physically, we died *to* sin, spiritually
In order that, just as Christ was raised [to life] *by the glory* [or power] *of the Father* – we too might be raised to life; Raised from our *spiritual* deadness, to live a new life

The 2nd reason as to why it's unthinkable to abuse God's grace by continuing in sin . . .

- **We've been given new life (v4)**

Through faith, we died *to* sin, we were released from its power – when he died *for* sin . . .
So that just as *he* was raised to new life, we would be too; Just like he says in v5
5 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.
If his *death* was our death, then his *life* is as well – now *and* later; It's ours

- And then 3rd, from v6-7, he says – *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin* [our sin nature] *might be brought to nothing* [as in, have no more power over us], *so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin* [no longer held by its death-grip]. *7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.*

IOW it's unthinkable to *continue* in sin, b/c . . .

- **We're free from sin's power (v5-7)**

Not sin's *presence*, but its power; We have the means within us, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, to say *no* to sin
Making it even more unthinkable to abuse God's grace
That's the first principle Paul wants us to get (**Summary**)

The second, comes from v8-11

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him [he reiterates what he just said]. *9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.* *10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all* [meaning that his freedom from sin's power, is forever and final; he's dead to it], *but the life he lives he lives to God* [for his glory and purposes, forever and ever]. *11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin* [free of its power and bondage] *and alive to God* [as in, connected to him] *in Christ Jesus* [in relationship with him].

Paul's saying that if *Jesus* is dead to sin – then as a believer, so are you
And by the same token, if *he's* alive to God, filled with his glory and fueled by his power – then you are too
If he's free of sin, you're free of sin; If he's alive to God, you're alive to God

Which means, that . . .

In Christ, we're alive and free (v8-11)

Look at v11 again – *Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God*; As in, think and act as if you're alive and free; B/c you are; You *have* new life
Free from the constraints and consequences of *sin*, and *alive* with the power and presence of *God*

- And notice, Paul says – we *must* consider ourselves in that boat
Why? B/c anything else is sinking sand; Anything else is dabbling; Anything else is missing out; Anything else is anything *but* the life God has for us
In Christ, we’re alive and free, and should fully embrace it
- Now, does that mean we can do anything we want? If I’m *free* in Christ, does that mean I can do whatever I please? Sin or otherwise? No
We’re not free to do whatever we *want*, we’re free from the bondage of doing what’s wrong; That’s what it means to be free in Christ
We have the ability to say no to sin, and yes to God; Making us alive and free

Then, he supports *that*, with the thought in v8, that . . .

- **Our hope is sure (v8)**
In Christ, we’re alive and free, and our hope is sure; It’s certain
V8 says – *If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him*
If A is true, then so is B; That’s Paul’s line of thinking
Giving us assurance of our salvation; Assurance that the *goal* of our faith, our hope, is certain; And not just our hope of *eternal* life, but our hope of life to the full, now

2nd, we’re alive and free b/c . . .

- **Jesus himself is alive and free (v9-10)**
We’re alive and free in Jesus, b/c Jesus himself is alive and free
He beat death, v9, never to die again; He conquered sin, v10, once for all; And he now lives, also v10

Put all that together, and Christ’s death to sin was fatal, but not final; While our death to sin is final, but not fatal
His death was *fatal*, in that it killed him, but it wasn’t *final*, that wasn’t it; He rose again
While *our* death to sin is *final*, once and for all, but not *fatal*; It doesn’t kill us
Which means, that in Christ, we’re alive and free (**Summary**)

-
- And then Paul finishes his thought in v12-14, saying – *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.*
You don’t *have* to sin, so don’t; You’ve *been* set free, so act like it

13 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. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you [no ultimate power over you], since you are not under law but under grace.

The OT Law not only did nothing to *kill* the sin nature of those who lived under it, it magnified it; Giving it even more power in their lives
But under grace, or *in Christ*, we’re not only *freed* from the dominion and power of sin, and its consequences of death – we’re given new *life*
And Paul’s basically saying in these last few verses – live like it! You’re alive/free . . .

So live like it! (v12-14)

You’ve been brought from death to life, so stop living like you’re still dead; Stop obeying the impulses of *sin*, and start obeying the impulses of *God*
Stop *squandering* the life you’ve been given, and start *living* it

Stop presenting yourself to *yourself*, and start presenting yourself to God

- Which is exactly what each and every person is doing through baptism (**Summary**)
Having *been baptized into Christ Jesus*, through faith in who he is and what he’s done, and the repentance of their sins – they’re now getting baptized in *water*, to show it
To present themselves to God as instruments of righteousness, alive and free by his grace, and committed to live like it; That’s what they’re doing

And it’s ours to witness, rejoice in, and do the same

To present *our*-selves to God as instruments of righteousness, *throughout* our lives . . .
And live the new life to which he’s has called *us* (pray)

- God would you do just that with these baptisms? Would you encourage the saints to further embrace what they already have
And challenge those who are still dead in their trespasses and sins – to repent and believe? To trust you by faith, and walk in *newness of life*?
Do that Lord, I pray