

Grace Does Not Lead to Sin

Rom 6:1-3

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? NKJV

As Paul has finished chapter 5 he knows that there will be strong objections to the idea of salvation by grace through faith.

The idea of salvation by grace without works runs contrary to both Jews and Gentiles. As a matter of fact the fastest growing religions in the world are those that base salvation on works and not on grace. If we make a list of the 200 things you must do to get to heaven we could have a large following. Man does not want to admit that he is not capable of meeting God's requirements.

Then there are those who error on the other side. The best word to describe them is antinomianism. It is the idea that there is no sin for the Christian. That once you are saved you have no rules, so you can live like the world and God will smile upon you. I think I can sum up the modern idea of this in a simple quote. "God will always forgive, that's His job."

There are several things to know about this passage.

- I. Grace is scandalous
 - A. Grace that provides salvation for a dying thief is scandalous.
 1. The idea that convicted murderers would end up in heaven while a lot of good moral people would still not make it is scandalous.
 - B. Grace that provides salvation to a woman with a shady reputation is scandalous.
 1. Matt 21:31 Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you . 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. NKJV
 - C. This is what Paul has been laying out for us in the last two chapters.
 1. Abraham was justified by faith without works.
 2. David said that God did not count some people's sin against them.
 3. Our good deeds, our moral life, our baptism and church membership, none of that does anything toward getting us to heaven.
- II. Christians cannot continue sinning as they did before they were saved.
 - A. The reason
 1. When they were born again, God gave them His Holy Spirit to live in them

and guide and direct them for the rest of their lives.

2. 1 John 3:3 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself , just as He is pure. NKJV
3. 1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin , because he has been born of God. NKJV
4. 1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. NKJV
5. 1 John 5:18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. NKJV

B. The practical side.

1. You are dead to sin.
 - a. To be dead to sin means we have no more to do with it.
 - b. We now live to God.
 - c. 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. NKJV
2. How could you continue to live in it.
3. This does not mean we become perfectly sinless.
4. Why else would John say then that if we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us.
5. If the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts how could we offend the God we love.

III. God deals with Christians who become stubborn in their sin.

- A. Heb 12:7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. NKJV
- B. Acts 5:1-11

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a

certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?"

She said, "Yes, for so much."

9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. 11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. NKJV

C. 1 Cor 11:27-32 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. NKJV

D. Heb 10:23-31

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of

grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. NKJV

What has your faith done for you?

Has it lifted you up from the sinful life you were once involved in?

Do you have a sense of the love of God shed abroad in you heart that controls all that you do?

If your faith has not done that for you then maybe your faith is in vain, and you have never been born again.

Sweep aside the barriers that have kept you from the Savior all these years. Come to Him right now.