

Prayer:

Slide # 1
Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39

God's holiness – man's sinfulness – 1:18-3:20

Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21

Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39

- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Paul very methodically presents the gospel of God and how we are made righteous before God in the book of Romans, and then building on that – how we should then live. After the prologue here is the general flow of thought in Romans.

Slide # 2

Flow of thought in Romans 1-6...

Universal Sin Problem

Justification by Faith Alone in Christ

Results in...

Solidarity/Union/Identification with Christ

Implications of the Believer's Solidarity with Christ

- Dead to Sin
- Alive to God

In terms of the believer's union with Christ Paul begins by emphasizing that the believer needs to **KNOW** this. We need to know of our solidarity with Christ in His death and in His resurrection. We need to **KNOW** that in His death we died with Him to sin; we need to **KNOW** that we now share in His resurrection life.

Three times in Romans 6:1-10 Paul emphasizes **KNOWING** of our union with Christ and how this reality impacts our life as a believer.

Slide # 3

Romans 6:3 (NKJV)

3 Or do you not **know** that as many of us as were baptized [*spiritually identified*] into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Romans 6:6 (NKJV)

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.

Romans 6:9 (NKJV)

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

We need to **KNOW** of our spiritual **UNION** with Christ. Note the emphasis on “***into Christ***” (v. 3) and “***with Him***” (v. 6). Forever Christ is done with sin and death. He has dealt with it once and forever and now lives forever to God. And we now share in this position via our union with Him.

But it is not enough to **KNOW** of our spiritual solidarity/union/identification with Christ – we also need to **COUNT** it to be so and then **PRESENT** ourselves to God accordingly which is the emphasis Paul now carries through with in Romans 6:11-14.

This discussion regarding being dead to sin and alive to God is **DEEP** and, at some points, goes beyond what we can fully comprehend.

I will say at the outset that this is not an easy text to grasp. The difficulty of Romans 6 & 7 was the major reason that I held off from preaching through Romans for 33 years of ministry. I wish I could say that I've had a breakthrough! I've been struggling with what Paul says here for about 45 years now, but I'm still not sure that I get it.

– **Pastor Steven Cole**

Here is the difficulty. We are plainly said to be dead to sin and yet the battle with sin rages. How is that? We know that we are a new creation in Christ and yet we continue to wrestle with old realities. We know that we are now partakers of the divine nature and yet we still have the flesh (cf. 2 Pet. 1:4). The reality is that YOU in the fullest sense of the word now have the Holy Spirit in union with a new nature, and yet you also still have indwelling sin (Rom. 7:17).

In this whole mix is the reality of personal responsibility related to the full YOU!

Slide # 4

1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV)

11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts** which **war against the soul**,

There is a spiritual war that goes on inside every believer. There is the soul and there is the spirit. We are alive in our spirit and our spirit is now wed with God's Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). At the same time fleshly lusts war against the soul (1 Pet. 2:11). And here is the deal – the spirit and the soul are so closely interconnected that we really can't fully define where one leaves off and the other begins.

Slide # 5

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, **piercing even to the division of soul and spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The soul and the spirit are so interrelated that even theologians argue about what the distinction is between them. Where does one leave off and the other begin? Paul indicates in 1 Thess. 5:23 that we are made up of spirit, soul, and body. That would make man a trichotomy (a 3-part being). But some theologians think man is only a dichotomy (a 2-part being) consisting of the non-material part and the material part.

The point is these distinctions are so DEEP and OBSCURE that it is difficult to sort out what is soulish and what is of the spirit. These are the kinds of things that Romans 6-7 is interacting with in terms of being dead to sin and yet wrestling with the reality of it. This is why pastor Steven Cole said what he did and I can appreciate his humility.

Suffice it to say that Paul has clearly said Christ has once for all died to sin and that He now lives to God (v. 10). And he has clearly shown in Romans 6:1-10 that believers need to KNOW they are now in union with Christ and share in these spiritual realities. Paul, now in verses 11-14, moves from merely KNOWING the truth of these spiritual realities to commanding that we as believers make APPLICATION to our life.

Romans 6:11–14 (NKJV)

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Our union with Christ has severed us from our old life of sin and death in Adam and transitioned us into a whole new life of righteousness and life in Christ.

FAITH stands between the two like a DOOR between two rooms. Faith is the transition point where we close the door on one room (Adam's room) and enter into another room (Christ's room). The door has forever been shut on Adam. Our relationship with Adam has forever been closed. We have died to sin and are now alive to God. This is a spiritual FACT!

Paul now exhorts us to ACT on the FACTS of the matter. Here in Romans, we have the very FIRST command given to believers. Everything up to this point has been the laying out of FACTS, the FACTS of our position of union with Christ on the basis of FAITH. But now we come to personal responsibility related to sanctification – how we should then live as a result of our union with Christ.

Paul says believers are to RECKON themselves to be DEAD to sin and alive to God. The word “reckon” (Gk. *logizomai*) is a mathematical or calculating term. It means to count something to be so, to consider, to calculate, to regard, or to recognize something as reality. It is the very same word used in Romans 4:3 where it is translated as “accounted” when it says that Abraham’s faith was “accounted to him for righteousness”.

It is often said that while KNOWING is a matter of the mind, to reckon is more a matter of the HEART. It takes to heart what the mind already knows.

Slide # 6

This [reckon] means “calculate,” i.e., by adding up the facts presented in verses 1-10 and then acting accordingly. – **Charles Ryrie**

Reckon here in Romans 6:11 is in the present tense. We are to habitually keep on reckoning day by day, moment by moment, as a way of life. Reckon is a FAITH word. By faith, the believer needs to KNOW the facts and then claim them as his very own. It's not enough to just know the facts; we need to personally appropriate them – we need to own them for ourselves by faith. Faith is taking God at His Word.

Slide # 7

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

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.

In Romans 6:2, Paul, as a matter of fact, said that the believer is dead to sin. Now if this meant we no longer have to deal with indwelling sin then there would be no need for the exhortation in verse 11 to “*reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin*”. But in truth sin is still a present reality.

The word “reckon” requires FAITH in the face of the reality of persistent sin. Just as in the matter of justification – faith is required, so also in the matter of practical sanctification. Christ is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 Jn. 2:2). However, it is FAITH that personally appropriates it.

Slide # 8

Romans 3:25 (NKJV)

25 whom God set forth as **a propitiation by His blood, through faith**, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

In like manner, in Romans 6:2, we “died to sin,” but at the same time, Romans 6:11 says, “***reckon yourselves to be dead to sin***.” This too is a matter of faith. Reckoning is really an act of faith. It is living by faith as Paul said in Gal. 2:20.

The reckoning does not make the fact, but is commanded in view of the fact. It has pleased God to call for our faith, both in connection with salvation and with deliverance. Therefore, if we would obey and please God, let us follow His method! – ***William Newell***

Slide # 9

Colossians 2:6 (NKJV)

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord [by faith], so walk in Him [by faith],

In Romans 3, Paul spoke of the law of faith (3:17). Just like Abraham who acted in faith instead of just going by the outward appearances of his reproductively DEAD body, so we too are to go by the FACTS of God's Word (cf. Rom. 4).

Appearances, or "feelings," are a wholly different thing from facts! God says, "You died to sin: reckon yourself dead!" – ***William Newell***

It is important to note that Paul does not tell us to reckon sin dead to us, but rather ourselves as dead to it.

The story is told of a ship that sailed into black clouds and then came the pitch-black darkness of night. This went on for days. The captain shared that all they had to go by was the compass. But then he said, "***We shall sail on by 'dead reckoning.'***" Sometimes, everything around us, in terms of appearances, feelings, and experiences, feels spiritually murky. But as believers, we are called to follow God's Word (our spiritual compass) with "dead reckoning," and God will see us through.

Not only are we to reckon ourselves dead to sin, but also alive to God. Whereas we are to be unresponsive to sin, we are to be lively responsive to God. We are now to live as though we share in Christ's resurrection life – which, of course, we do.

Slide # 10

Romans 14:17–18 (NKJV)

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

We, as God's people, are not in the kingdom yet, but as Paul says in 1 Thess. 2:12 we are to walk worthy of the kingdom. The spiritual realities that will define kingdom living are right now to be on display in our lives. This is what it means to be alive to God. It is living with God as the orientation of our life.

The Lord may ask some of us to die for Him, but He asks all of us to live for Him. – **Warren Wiersbe**

And note that he says, ***“in Christ Jesus our Lord”***. This reminds us that God now sees us, not as we are in and of ourselves, but rather as we now are in Christ.

The most common designation for NT believers, as used by Paul, is the description of being ***“in Christ”***. Paul used it a total of 164 times. Interestingly, Paul nowhere directly explains what this expression means, but the sense of it here in Romans 6 is clearly that of being in intimate union with Christ. It is the strong sense of complete solidarity with Christ that the whole surrounding context so strongly brings out.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

In light of our spiritual position in Christ – namely that of being dead to sin and alive to God -in light of this reality, Paul says, ***“Do not let sin reign in your mortal body”***.

This is another COMMAND! You are in charge – you are responsible for what you do with sin. Sin is no longer your master. Clearly, this shows that sin can still operate as your master – if you allow it to do so. And that is the point – as a believer you must not allow this.

When sin reigns it has its way with you. And it wants to reign in the context of your mortal body to where you obey its lusts. Lusts simply means “desires” or “longings”. It can refer to either good or bad desires. Clearly, in view here are sinful desires. Again, this is proof that sin has not yet been eradicated.

Our bodies, at this point, are still MORTAL – that is, they are subject to sin and death. Our bodies, at this point, are unredeemed, and in this context, sin looks to have a base of operations (cf. Rom. 8:23).

For the Christian, life is a paradox and I often say we are conflicted. We are dead to sin and yet we very much feel the pull of sin. We are alive with Christ and yet we live in a mortal body still subject to sin and death.

The Christian lives between two ages. We live in the old age but are called upon to live as though we are in the new age. And as we will see when we finally get to Romans 8 this is only possible by the power of the Spirit.

Our mortal body is so wired that it is still susceptible to sin. But we are called to be what I call “***holy rebels***”. We are to rebel against sin and not allow it to reign. Instead, grace is now to reign in our lives through righteousness, as Paul said in Rom. 5:21.

When sin reigns in our body is when we obey it in its lusts. The cravings of the flesh cry out for gratification. And we feel those longs. But we must not act on them. We must not obey them. But note these flesh desires are very much real and alive.

And the thing about the flesh is that it never gets any better.

Slide # 11

Romans 13:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Let us **walk properly**, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

We must always be on guard and make no provision for the flesh lest it suddenly have its way with us. We are always vulnerable. We are always a step away from falling. That’s why Paul in 1 Cor. 10:12 says, “let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

Some time back the news showed a fisherman holding a small shark that he had caught. It was still alive and squirming in his hand. Suddenly, it turned, lurched, and took a chunk out of his shoulder. This is how sin is! As long as it’s still alive in you, you are vulnerable and you must be very careful lest it take advantage of you.

Again, we note the paradox: As believers, we are “in Christ,” but we also still have the “flesh” that is subject to sin’s reigning power in our body if we allow it to have free reign.

Paul is not arguing that the body is the cause of sin but rather that it is the organ through which sin manifests itself, and when believers yield to the lusts of sin, they thus allow sin to reign.

The implication is that sin has been reigning. The believer must do his part by refusing obedience any longer to sin’s enticements. The word “obey” has its root idea “listening” or “heeding”. - ***Expositors***

Many of you have seen the hilarious Bob Newhart routine where he is a psychologist and a woman comes for counsel because she is afraid of being buried alive in a box. Newhart's counsel for her phobia, plus several other problems, consists of two words: **"Stop it!"** He screams it at her over and over, **"Just stop it!"** She tries to bring up how her mother treated her as a child, but Newhart says, **"No, we don't go there. Just stop it!"**

In some ways, Paul's command to those who are struggling with life-dominating sins sounds kind of like Bob Newhart's counsel:

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts" (6:12). In other words, "Stop it!" Then after telling us to obey God, he gives a blanket promise (6:14a): "For sin shall not be master over you" It's pretty clear: "Stop sinning and obey God because sin shall not be master over you." **Got it? – Steven Cole**

And the point is, now in Christ, we don't have to sin. Sin no longer has ruling power over us. We can indeed just say NO to sin. We don't have to obey it. We can just "STOP IT!"

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Here we have yet another command. We have three successive commands in verses 11-13.

- v. 11 Reckon yourselves dead to sin and alive to God.
- v. 12 Do not allow sin to reign in your body.
- v. 13 Do not present your members for sins use but rather present yourselves to God for His service.

To present means to make yourself available – to be at their disposal. To **"present"** literally means **"to stand beside"**. In the context of Romans 6:13, it has the nuance of a slave standing beside his master, ready to do whatever the master says he wants done. To present is to, in effect, say, **"At your service!"**

The word "instruments" often has a warfare connotation as in the sense of weapons or instruments of war (cf. Rom. 13:12; 2 Cor. 6:7; 10:4; Eph. 6:10-20). Paul is saying don't present the members of your body as weapons that can be used by sin for unrighteousness.

We should never allow our members to be weaponized in the service of sin and unrighteousness. That is to allow yourself to be used by the dark side. Sadly, when Christians walk in sin this is what they are doing.

Your members are your bodily members such as your hands, feet, tongue, etc. James indicates that the most difficult member to control is the tongue. He says, ***“the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity”***. The name devil (Gk. diabolos) means slanderer. It's what he does. He specializes in character assassination. In the New Testament, the Greek word diabolos is sometimes translated impersonally as a "false accuser," "slanderer," or "malicious gossip." (cf. 1 Tim. 3:11; 2 Tim. 3:3). This is the devil's work!

And sadly, way too often, believers present their tongues to carry out sins work in this way. Talk about being activated for the enemy – this is it!

A pastor shared: “Years ago, I read about a young man who professed to be a Christian, but he was enslaved to some sin. He had been to many counselors, and they spent hours trying to help him analyze his past and trying various techniques, but nothing had worked. He shared this tale of woe with a campus worker and finally asked, ***“What do you think I should do?”*** The campus worker replied, “I think you should stop doing it.” The young man was stunned. He said, “In all these years, no one told me to stop sinning.” He didn’t realize that that was an option!

Wow! We have a CHOICE in this matter of presentation. Are we going to present ourselves to sin, or are we going to present ourselves to God? There is a definite choice for believers. We are not in bondage to sin anymore. We have a choice here! And we are responsible for the choices we make.

The moment we come to command and exhortation we are dealing with the will. There is definitely overlap, but knowing emphasizes the MIND; to reckon emphasizes the HEART, and to present emphasizes the WILL.

present. Refers to a decision of the will. Before sin can have power over a believer, it must first pass through his will. – **John MacArthur**

In a real sense, sin doesn’t happen in and through your members without your approval. You sign off on it – so to speak. It is bad theology to say, “I can’t help it.” Paul is teaching us that we can help it. We decide who we are going to present our members to whether it be sin or God.

A definite choice is involved.

In contrast to presenting ourselves to SIN we are to present ourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead and our members as instruments of righteousness to God.

In the Greek the word “present” in the phrase “*do not present your members of instruments of unrighteousness to sin*” is in the present tense. The sense is “Do not keep on doing this”. But then, in the phrase, “*present yourselves to God*,” the word “present” is in the orist tense, which emphasizes the FACT of action in the sense of deliberate and decisive action.

Thomas Constable says, “I find that it is helpful for me to make this conscious presentation of myself to God daily.”

Slide # 12

Problem

The World (1 Jn. 2:15-17)
Lust of the flesh
Pride of Life

The flesh (Rom. 7:18-28)

The devil (1 Pet. 5:8)

Solution

Flee (1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22)

Deny (Rom. 6:12-13; 8:13)

Resist (1 Pet. 5:9)

Paul emphasizes three things in Romans 6:1-13. He emphasizes KNOWING our position in Christ; then we need to RECKON it to be so; and finally, we need to PRESENT ourselves to God.

Slide # 13

KNOW (v. 3, 6, 9)

RECKON (v. 11)

PRESENT (v. 13)

It is this package that is key to having victory over sin. Remember Paul started the chapter by saying, “***Shall we continue in sin?***” And then he answers this question in verses 2-13. His answer is “Certainly not!” And the HOW is found in KNOW, RECKON, and PRESENT.

Paul first shows our POSITION in Christ and then he exhorts us to live accordingly. We need to KNOW our identity/union in Christ and then we need to apply it. Really, Christian maturity is learning to live consistently with who we now are in Christ.

A little girl fell out of bed one night and she cried out. The mother rushed to her bedside, picked her up and put her back into the bed. The mother then asked her, “***Honey what is the problem – why did you fall out of bed.***” The little girl answered, “***I think I stayed to close to where I got in.***”

That, my friends, illustrates why so many Christians fall. Once we are in by FAITH, as seen in Romans 3-5, we then need to progress to the KNOW, RECKON, and PRESENT of Romans 6. This is KEY to Christian living – to progressive sanctification.

The PRESENT of Romans 6:13 prepares the way for a similar emphasis in Romans 12:1-2.

Note the DOUBLE emphasis in Romans 6:13 on presenting yourself to God.

Slide # 14

Romans 6:13....

- ...present yourselves **to God**...
- Instruments of righteousness **to God**.

Sometimes, people say, “All you need to do to overcome evil is just resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Actually, that is only half of the answer.

Slide # 15

James 4:7 (NKJV)

7 Therefore **submit to God**. **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

The first thing we need to do is to submit to God and with that in place we can then resist the devil. This combination is the KEY to victory. Having victory over sin begins with PRESENTING ourselves to God. When we wake up in the morning we should say to God, “*I am all yours – at Your service!*” And then we should maintain that perspective all through the day!

If a general gave an order that a regiment of soldiers should present themselves for service, it is expected that they would obediently report for duty. Likewise, believers are to present themselves to God as those risen from the dead and ready to serve in “newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

We now have resurrection life and power because of our union with Christ and it is with this fundamental consciousness that we should present ourselves to God to serve His righteous purposes.

It's not that you make yourself alive by presenting yourself; rather, since you are in Christ, you already share in His life. It is on this basis that you are now to present yourself.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Here Paul is again stating a FACT! For the believer, this is spiritual REALITY. Sin will not have dominion over you because its power has been broken. Here lies the secret to freedom from sin.

The word “dominion” comes from the Greek word “***kurios***” which means Lord or Master. If sin were your MASTER then you would be its slave. But Paul has emphatically shown that because of our union with Christ we are “no longer slaves of sin” (v. 6). We have been freed from sin (v. 7).

All the way through here Paul personifies SIN. For the believer it is seen as a has been ruler. Outside of Christ SIN rules, but now in Christ it has been dethroned. No longer is SIN in the position of MASTER over the believer. This is a spiritual FACT! And this spiritual position for the believer NEVER CHANGES.

Even if you allow sin to reign – it really has no authority to do so. It is totally inconsistent and inappropriate. Why would you allow a defeated foe to rule over you? That is crazy! It makes no sense! Sin is no longer king – Jesus is now Lord and He now reigns in the believer’s life through grace.

Sin shall not have dominion over us and then Paul tells us WHY. Positionally, SIN can never have the upper hand because we are not under law but under grace.

This reality of not being under law but under grace has everything to do with our solidarity relationship with Christ.

Now being in Christ puts us in relationship with everything about Him. His position is now our position in relationship to the law, sin, and grace. Our relationship with Him is now a grace position! We are under grace!

Grace means unmerited favor. We are now in a favored position of being in union with Christ and all the benefits that go with it. Being under grace is to acknowledge our dependence upon Christ for both salvation and sanctification.

We are no longer under a legal system – we are no longer under the Mosaic law. We are now under a whole new system – a grace system that functions completely differently.

Slide # 16

Matthew 5:17 (NKJV)

17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but **to fulfill**.

John 1:17 (NKJV)

17 For the law was given through Moses, but **grace** and truth came through Jesus Christ.

In Christ, the law is fulfilled. All that the law demanded in terms of the penalty of sin has been paid. In Christ, a relationship of GRACE is now ushered in on the basis of FAITH.

Slide # 17

Colossians 2:14 (NKJV)

14 having **wiped out** the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has **taken it out of the way**, having **nailed it to the cross**.

The law no longer has any claim on us. All its demands have been fulfilled in Christ. We are now free to serve God on the basis of GRACE!

Sin had a partner in the law. Christ works through grace. To try and put Christians under the law today is not only heretical it results in nothing but frustration and defeat. Repeatedly the NT emphasizes that the believer is no longer under the legal system of the Mosaic Law (Rom. 6:14, 15; 1 Cor. 9:20; Gal. 5:18).

When a person is under LAW they are under the dominion of sin. The law did two things. It magnified sin and it exacerbated it, but it never gave any liberating power over it (cf. Rom. 5:20; 7:13). That doesn't help a person at all – rather it strengthens the case of sin against us.

Slide # 18

1 Corinthians 15:56 (NKJV)

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

Slide # 19



It is GRACE that breaks the power of sin. In the surrounding context here in Romans, we find that it is GRACE as seen in the Person and Work of Christ that delivers from the penalty of sin (Rom. 5) and grace that delivers from the power of sin (Rom. 6).

The Song ***“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*** has the line: ***“He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free”***. Indeed, it is Christ ALONE WHO defeated SIN! And now, by GRACE, in union with Him, we share in this victory!

As believers, we are now in a whole new realm – the realm of GRACE. In Romans 5:15 Paul spoke of “the gift by the grace” of Jesus Christ. This is the free gift of eternal life. In Romans 5:17 he said those who receive this grace “will reign in life” through Jesus.

In Romans 5:20 he said, “where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.” And in 5:21 he said, grace reigns “through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Grace is the realm of UNION with Christ – that is the KEY point in the whole surrounding context of Romans 5-6. The grace realm – the union realm of being united to Christ now governs the life of the believer.

Slide # 20 (George Zeller)

LAW	GRACE
Law is what man must do.	Grace is what God has done.
I do something for God.	God does something for me.
The works of the flesh	The finished work of Christ
Man's works	God's working
Trying and struggling to measure up to God's standards (which sinful man can never do)	God bringing me up to His standards (which God by His grace has done in Christ)
Fosters a spirit of self righteous boasting: "Look what I have done!"	Fosters genuine humility with all boasting excluded: "God gets all the credit!"
Mt. Sinai is central.	Mt. Calvary is central.
Bondage: I CANNOT	Deliverance: GOD CAN!
God demands life and love ("THOU SHALT . . . THOU SHALT NOT").	God provides life and love ("CHRIST LIVETH IN ME").

Slide # 21**Romans 10:4 (NKJV)**

4 For **Christ** is the **end of the law** for righteousness **to everyone who believes.**

This grace relationship we now have with Christ has affected and changed all the relationships of life.

Slide # 22**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)**

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

The old things are the old relationship related to the devil, the world, sin, and death. The new things are the new relationships with God, His people, righteousness, and life. Being "in Christ", being in union with Christ, changes all the relationships of life.

And being in a GRACE relationship with Christ is an educational reality. You don't just get saved by grace and then coast. NO, immediately God in this grace relationship begins to teach you as His child.

Slide # 23**Titus 2:11–12 (NKJV)**

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

And part of the way God teaches us in the sphere of grace is through discipline. You can't just continue on in sin – God won't allow it.

Slide # 24

Hebrews 12:7–8 (NKJV)

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.

God is a loving, responsible Father, and He disciplines ALL His children for their own good.

And WHY does He do this?

Slide # 25

Hebrews 12:10 (NKJV)

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, **that we may be partakers of His holiness**.

God in GRACE deals with us as with sons and daughters, and that involves discipline by which He, for our good, is building holiness into our lives. The school of GRACE involves the school of DISCIPLINE.

The Church at Corinth had all kinds of sin problems. And yet there was consistent divine intervention in the form of discipline.

Slide # 26

1 Corinthians 11:30–32 (NKJV)

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.

Grace does not give a license to sin, but rather puts one into a position of power over sin. And God expects us to live according to this newfound GRACE position. And in discipline, He trains us to that end.

The first half of Romans 6 has two book ends that deal with the issue of sin and grace. In verse 1 the question is asked whether grace encourages sin. And then, in verse 14, the answer given is that grace means sin shall not have dominion (mastery) over you. Not only does grace not encourage sin, properly understood, it is the KEY to mastery over it.

Grace is all about what Jesus did for us on the cross. Grace is all about our life-changing relationship with Jesus. It has forever affected our relationship with sin. We just need to KNOW this, RECKON it so, and apply it by PRESENTING ourselves to God for His service.

I don't know if this is a true story or not but it makes the point.

A professing Christian was in court before a Judge trying to explain why he had broken the law. He said to the Judge, *"Your Honor, as a believer in Christ, I am a new man, and I have a new nature, but I still have the old nature too. It was the old nature that committed the crime."* The Judge replied, "Okay, since it was the "old man" that broke the law, I will sentence him to 30 days in prison, and since the "new man" was an accomplice, I will give him 30 days as well. Therefore, I sentence you to a total of 60 days in prison.

For us as Christians, there is no excuse for sin. We are now dead to sin and alive to God and we are called to live accordingly.

Queen Victoria (1819 – 1901) was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. She reigned for 63 years which is known as the Victorian era. Warren Wiersbe tells this story about queen.

When she was young, Victoria, the future queen of England, was shielded from that fact so that the knowledge of it would not spoil her. When her teacher finally did let her discover for herself that she would one day rule as queen, Victoria's response was, ***"Then I will be good!"*** Her life from that point was controlled by her future position. She would be the queen, so she acted as a queen should act. – Told by **Steven Cole** (Adapted from Warren Wiersbe, *Be Rich* [Victor Books], pp. 13-14.)

As God's children we are to live according to who we are. And grace makes this possible. Are you a Christian? – then live out who you are!